

Extensive Reading Marathon

Overview of the course

By Lisa Paremuzova

What is a 'marathon'

- An intensive one-month teacher-training course
- Includes input sessions, reflective tasks, group discussions

What are the aims of this marathon?

- To provide opportunities for
 - better understanding of the concept of extensive reading in the EL classroom;
 - considering the peculiarities of extensive reading based on literary texts
 - learning about the psychology behind extensive reading
 - considering the use of literary texts in the EL classroom
 - considering certain teaching techniques and activities

What are the possible outcomes?

- Hopefully, the participants will be able
 - to distinguish between extensive reading and extensive reading based on literary texts;
 - to demonstrate awareness of the learning happening (and not happening) through ER;
 - to make informed decisions about the use of literary texts in their classrooms.

What are the methods?

Input from Lisa in the form of

- audio files
- PPTs (pdf format)

Reflective tasks

Group discussions (in chats)

Feedback

What is the workload?

- Approximately 2-4 hours a week (this maybe changed after I get the results of the survey).
- 1-2 units (input sessions) a week.

What are the means of communication?

- Whole group chat: the place where only Lisa uploads materials.
- Chatrooms: where participants discuss questions, share experiences (Lisa provides the questions).
- Individual chat with Lisa: here you send your answers and get your feedback.

More about communication

- Chatrooms

These are WhatsApp chats where participants of the marathon discuss the questions.

Before each new unit, Lisa regroups the participants: adds them to chats, deletes from the previous chats.

More about communication

Note: Even when your work in a group finishes, you will still be able to see the discussion.

The regrouping is done to enable the participants to talk with as many people as possible in manageable chats.

More about communication

- Chats with Lisa

In this individual chats you

- send your answers;
- ask your questions;
- get my feedback.

Feedback

- Feedback (in this marathon) is my meaningful reaction to your message.
- The aim of the feedback is to provide you with some information on your performance so that you can move on.
- Feedback is NOT a lengthy reflective letter.
- Feedback is NOT an individual consultation.
- Feedback may appear within 48 hours after you sent your message. Please don't panic :)

Tasks

In each unit you will get some tasks from me.

I will explain the tasks in the audio.

I will send a doc or a pdf in the chat with instructions that will include:

- the task;
- an explanation of the procedure;
- an explanation where to send your answers.

Why do we need tasks at all?

- A good question :)
- The rationale is rather simple: if you read or listen about something, you get a lot. If you try something out, you get even more.
- Thinking takes time. Writing helps thinking.

What will happen if I don't do the tasks?

- Nothing.
- It's you who decides what to take from the course, not me. I'm only providing some opportunities.

What's next?

- In the next four weeks we will talk about
 - the notion of extensive reading;
 - extensive reading based on literary texts;
 - the views of learning (behind extensive reading);
 - the use of literary texts in the language classroom (this might be the lengthiest part of the marathon);
 - the views of teaching.

FAQs

Question: Does the order in which I do the tasks matter?

Answer: Yes, it does. Try to do the tasks in the order they appear.

FAQs

Question: What if I'm shy and don't think that my ideas are worth sharing?

Answer: Relax. And start with simply smiling/reacting to the other's ideas.
Don't push yourself.

FAQs

Question: What if I'm not confident enough about my written English to communicate?

Answer: We're here for sharing ideas and learning. Not for assessing each other's language proficiency.

By the way, I'm personally dyslexic) so, if you notice some unusual grammar or lexical combinations in my speech, don't get shocked.

Any more questions?

- Ask them directly in the individual chat with me.

Let's get started!

- Have a look at the next part of the Introductory unit.