

Lend - International Summer School

21st - 24th July 2025

Salerno (Italy)

Anthony Green

Workshop

Encouraging creative listening in the classroom

Listening in the classroom is often a source of frustration for both learners and teachers. Traditional, test-based approaches—largely unchanged since the early days of ELT—fail to meet the fundamental needs of language learners. This is especially true for Italian learners, who often struggle to decode spoken English due to its phonetic complexity, stress-timed rhythm, and frequent dropped sounds and elisions. As a result, many feel overwhelmed by the challenge of understanding real-world English.

In this workshop, we will put the fun—and the success—back into L2 listening, looking at a number of ways of making listening far more learner-centred, empowering the teacher to become a facilitator. We will also be looking at ways of enabling the teacher to read the minds of their learners as they listen and make hypotheses in their Zone of Proximal Development. Learners will begin to use listening as a source of new vocabulary, while improving their pronunciation, syntax and spelling, as well as negotiating meaning and using metalinguistic discussion to resolve issues surrounding the listening process, with a good dose of healthy gamification.

Biodata

Anthony Green is an English language teacher and trainer, international conference speaker and publisher. His special interests include the psychology of L2 listening and the natural world. He graduated in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford and now teaches at the University of Bari Veterinary Medicine department. He is the co-founder of the interactive listening platform at voicebook.cloud which has transformed the listening competencies of several thousand learners around Italy and elsewhere. He is particularly interested in supporting teachers in developing their learners' listening skills.