



2026



TITLE:
BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS:
CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN

SPEAKER: THOM JONES

PRESENTATION TYPE: PLENARY

Abstract

Learning is a journey. Teaching is being a guide. Learning a language is a mountain to climb.

As teachers, like a good mountain guide, we need to know the route, the equipment we need, when to stop, relax, refuel, hydrate and when, if ever, to turn back. We want to nurture and challenge our learners, but we also want them to be safe.

We will look at teaching as a journey, the scholastic voyage as a whole and what our role should be. Who do students really need? We'll look at tech as necessity and pleasure. Life through the lens.

Where do we fit in this new day? Teach or tech? What will our students need to know tomorrow, and how can we teach them any of it? For teachers of anything!

Bring your own clever, let's find some answers!

Biography

Thom Jones has lived in more than a dozen countries and delivered training in over 70. Having been a truly useless student (and proving it frequently by failing all the exams he was set) he started his professional life as a waiter before going into teaching, then management, before going freelance. Formerly part of the senior executive at Embassy CES before becoming Director of Operations USA for Studygroup he returned to the UK to work with Trinity College London and now works with a range of organisations on a wide variety of projects. He is College Principal for an international summer programme in Cambridge each summer. He presents regularly at conferences around the world on a range of topics and is a guest lecturer at four universities. He is also a freelance trainer in business and management. Ten years ago he cycled from the UK to Turkey, travelling through 11 countries. He is Ambassador of Buzz for Express publishing.

He is rubbish at maths. His mother thinks he is great.