



TITLE:

**Inside the Mental Lexicon: Coaching the Brain
Toward Language Autonomy**

SPEAKER: Alona Kornirko

PRESENTATION TYPE: WORKSHOP

Abstract:

What happens in the brain when learners suddenly “forget” a word and how can we help them retrieve it?

This session steps inside the mental lexicon - the brain’s living network where words, meanings, and experiences connect - to explore how language moves from input to activation. Drawing on applied linguistics, neuroscience, and language coaching, we’ll uncover how to awaken neural pathways to recall.

Participants will experience practical language coaching strategies to help learners self-retrieve words, regulate recall, and build language autonomy.

Bio:

Ms. Alona Kornirko specializes in brain-based learning and personalized accredited NeuroLanguage Coach® (ELC & ICF) and the founder of the Language Coaching Center. For the past 15+ years, I’ve been helping professionals and organizations transform the way they approach English - not as a subject to study, but as a tool for leadership, growth, and meaningful connection.

My background includes leading the English Project for the Military as a project manager, training teachers on the Teachers’ Upgrade platform, and working as

an interpreter at international events such as maritime navigation, UN negotiations, the Columbia Business Summit in Dubai, marketing & tourism negotiations in Romania and Ukraine.

At the Language Coaching Center, my team and I support entrepreneurs, managers, and freelancers in building confidence with English-speaking clients. We also help companies strengthen business communication by integrating NeuroLanguage Coaching® into their strategy.

I specialize in brain-based learning and personalized language coaching for English learners.