

ENGLISH FOR THE REAL WORLD?

SPEAKER:
SIMON PARKER

Abstract

As teachers of English, one of our goals is often to prepare our students to reach a level of fluency that will enable them to operate in an English-speaking environment. Some will work in multi-national companies where English is the lingua franca while others will live, study and work in countries such as the UK, USA, or Ireland.

The vast majority of my clients experience culture shock during their first year of studying in the UK. Different social norms become apparent to them through the language that native speakers use. For example, most of us are familiar with the 'what the British say and what the British mean' meme.

This workshop will explore the challenges that young people face when living in the UK as well as more amusing faux pas and misunderstandings. It will be delivered by myself and some of my Romanian students who will share specific examples ranging from youth drinking culture to how Britain's class structure manifests itself.

There will also be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the UK university application process, study opportunities and student finance.

Biography

Simon started his teaching career in the UK in 1992, as a sixth-form business and economics teacher before progressing to management roles in further and adult education. He moved to Romania in 2003 to teach English in a state high school in Bucharest followed by similar positions in Făgăraş and Cluj. During this time, he became increasingly involved in teacher training, working in the UK and Russia as well as Romania.

In 2011 he started his own company, Albion International Study, which helps students from around the world apply to UK universities. The company has successfully supported over 900 applications and currently works with 11 UK-based teachers and advisors.

As a first step towards semi-retirement, he bought a house in a village on the Danube in 2021 and has spent the last two and a half years learning the ways of the river in preparation for his next career as kayaking guide for his neighbour's rural tourism project.

2024

ROMANIA

BUCHAREST, 19 AUGUST

@11.45 – 12.30 ROOM 4