

# Spotlight

## IN THE CLASSROOM

Ideen und Konzepte für den Englischunterricht

7 | 2015



### Going places

*Dear Colleagues*

In this summer issue of "Spotlight in the classroom", we take students to a bakery (see page 2), a restaurant where they can practise how to order, and then to an amusement park for some thrills and fun (see page 3).

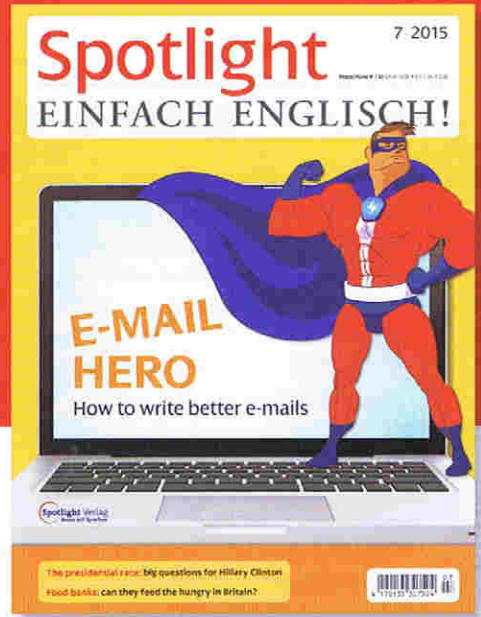
In our "Reviews" section, we strongly recommend two books: one containing practical information for students who are already working in a competitive global workplace; the other offering "an innovative and

playful approach for improving communication and writing skills".

Finally, we are delighted to introduce Tobias Himmerich of Lingua Projects. He told us that last year, class 9b of Lessing Gymnasium in Plauen won a free inSchool Project Week run by Lingua Projects with a quiz on [www.spotlight-verlag.de](http://www.spotlight-verlag.de). Tobias enthusiastically explained that these projects are an "interactive linguistic cultural journey around the English-speaking world". Turn to page 5 to learn more. As usual, we'd be happy to hear your feedback.

*Cheryl Khan-Stock*

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**Spotlight in the classroom** ist ein kostenloser Service für *Spotlight*-Abonnenten in Lehrberufen. Er erscheint monatlich und bezieht sich auf die jeweils aktuelle Heft-Ausgabe.

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- Short warm-up activity
- Spotlight Audio
- [www.spotlight-online.de](http://www.spotlight-online.de)
- Spotlight plus*
- Green Light*

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Fast mail	Writing, reading, speaking	Language (pp. 30–35)	Hw, 45–60	medium
A "push-button affair"	Synonyms, reading, speaking	World View (p. 12)	45	advanced
Four-letter words	Vocabulary-building	Various articles	15	all levels
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**Tobias Himmerich**

This month, we talk to the founder and director of Lingua Projects.

**What does Lingua Projects do?**

We go to schools and take over the lessons for a whole week with our native speakers. We provide a vivid and authentic language experience in the classroom with our full-immersion projects.

**Tell us about Lingua Projects and how it came about.**

The original idea back in 2009 was to give every student the opportunity to talk and interact with a native speaker, to bring the culture and the language into schools. Not everyone can afford a trip abroad or an exchange programme, so we started this project as an alternative to these. Our projects are an interactive linguistic and cultural journey around the English-speaking world.

**What happens in these workshops? Who runs them?**

During our inSchool Project Weeks, we do several activities with the kids — the main goal is to use the language intuitively, without realizing it: project based learning following the immersion principle. So we do lots of activities: sports, theatre workshops, role-plays, cooking, language games, a town tour, crafts, etc. The projects are all run by native speakers in their native language. We've trained our native speakers for the type of projects we offer in cooperation with a German university.

**What are some reactions from parents and students to these workshops?**

It's overwhelming! Sometimes when the parents pick up their kids on Friday after school, the kids are speaking English to their parents because they've been in an English environment the whole week — and that's far cheaper and more effective than a

trip to England. And the kids love it. It is an ideal way to learn a language without performance pressure. Last year, we conducted a project week at a school in Germany during the summer. It was so hot that the whole school was given time off. However, the class that took part in our project asked the headmaster if they really had to go home. They wanted to stay in school and continue to work with our native speakers.

**What has made Lingua Projects so successful?**

I think it's the authenticity of our projects. We send native speakers from around the world — from Canada, the USA, New Zealand, England or Jamaica — to German schools. During the week, the kids are not learning simply for their marks, but because they want to learn, they want to communicate.

**How has learning English changed since you were at school?**

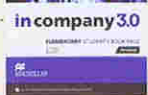
English is a truly global language. Today, it is even more important than it was 20 or 30 years ago. When I started to learn English in school, it was no fun at all. The teachers strictly followed the book. It got better during my school years, but what we do today represents a great leap forward.

**Any future plans for Lingua Projects?**

We are currently working on topic-based project weeks, such as natural science, business or job preparation. I'm especially looking forward to our natural science project weeks. We'll be doing a whole week of experiments in different fields of physics or engineering with the kids. And the great thing about it is that we'll bring all the material and equipment to the schools.

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**Reviews**



This title is built around short, accessible units that zoom in on business trends, people skills and business scenarios. New in this third edition are a series of videos that address real business problems that students have to analyse and discuss. Both the actors and scripts are excellent and the videos are downloadable. Changes made in the people skills section reveal a trend towards sales skills, leadership and coaching. The online workbook allows students to track their progress, and access is available to extra material, too, such as phrase banks, worksheets, tests and more. **In Company 3.0: — Elementary**, Simon Clarke et al., Macmillan, €23.99.

[www.SprachenShop.de](http://www.SprachenShop.de)



All you have to do is assemble the 12 dice, cut apart the 66 adjective cards and you're all set. The paper dice feature 72 picture cues: characters (for example, a wicked witch), places (like the Scottish Highlands) and objects (such as a horse-drawn carriage). Geared to the intermediate level, these cards can be used to practise grammar, vocabulary, reading and pronunciation, speaking, writing skills and storytelling. The teaching booklet comes with nine photocopiable worksheets for pair or group work, a ready-made creative writing project and a board game. The title is also complemented by a session on peer evaluation. Get ready to roll the dice! **English Story Dice**, Alexandra Bruns, Klett, €14.99.

**Service**

Join Lonny Gold for a Suggestopedic Teacher Training workshop from 29 June to 3 July 2015 in the High Coast region of Sweden, a World Heritage Site. Five days of thought-provoking and entertaining activities that train long-term memory for effective learning. More details can be found at <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/18116729/AAA-Teacher%20Training%20Mannaminne%202015%20copy.pdf>