



GOOD PRACTICE

Good examples from practical experience

Phonetic trainer for foreign teachers

The “SCHOOL your pronunciation” training aid uses audio tools and a booklet to help practise clear and authentic pronunciation.



iQ | GOOD PRACTICE
in a nutshell

Addressees for transfer:

Non-native teachers who want to have their vocational qualification recognised, and training providers who work with this group.

“SCHOOL your pronunciation” tool. B2-C2 phonetic trainer for teachers

There had previously been a lack of materials providing preparation specifically for the school context by embedding the phonetic learning content in the specific occupational vocabulary. “SCHOOL your pronunciation” is a practical manual developed to fill this gap. The phonetic trainer is a self-learning manual for foreign teachers who have German language skills at level B1 and would like to practise their profession in Germany. They are able to independently train their pronunciation using typical school-based communication situations, while simultaneously expanding their understanding of everyday school life in Germany. The booklet, audio files and solutions can also be accessed easily on the internet.

Competence centre:

IQ Competence Centre for Work-related German

Provider:

passage gGmbH

Project partner:

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Provision:

The brochure, audio material and answer key for the phonetic trainer are available at: www.deutsch-am-arbeitsplatz.de/phonetiktrainer.html. All previously published IQ Good Practice examples can be found at www.netzwerk-iq.de.

Starting point/challenge

IQ recognition advice most frequently provides support to individuals on teaching occupations. In the IQ context, language training is also offered for this target group. Coherent pronunciation and a clear style of speaking are essential for teachers to convey learning content and competent interaction with learners, colleagues and with parents. Previously, no appropriate materials were available for training pronunciation in conjunction with the specialist vocabulary and specific vocational communication situations. In light of the mostly lengthy qualification pathways for this group of people en route to recognition, and given the lack of materials, the development of a teach-yourself manual by passage gGmbH's IQ Competence Centre for Work-Related German Language was a necessary step. The aim was to improve the situation for the target group itself, but also for the institutions which work with the target group.

Implementation of the “SCHOOL your pronunciation” tool

A range of different specialist expertise was involved when creating the “SCHOOL your pronunciation” (in German: SCHULE deine Aussprache) tool. The purpose of the tool was to embed phonetic learning content into specific occupational vocabulary as well as to take into account the principles in the methodology of German as a second language, adult education and the practice of teaching phonetics. The authors, Olga Haber, Katrin Hannappel-Schröder and Benno Peters developed a manual consisting of four parts: (1) test for self-assessment and external assessment, (2) prosody (e.g. exercises on word stress or intonation), (3) consonants and vowels of standard German and (4) use of everyday language. The manual comprises 20 chapters with 215 audio files. Each chapter was trialled in a subject-observer setting. Improvement in pronunciation and increasing motivation



was observed in the subjects even during the trial. Diagrams were produced to help visualise the sound articulation, a glossary containing simply explained terms was created, and an answer key for all tasks was prepared. The test developed for self and external assessment gives users the chance to identify their individual needs, to prepare the training plan and to gradually work on their pronunciation. In the individual chapters, learners find out about the pronunciation rules, get to grips with phonetic phenomena, and try out the pronunciation tips. The range of texts, fun elements and entertaining listening texts aim to provide motivation for practice. At the end of each chapter, learners reflect on what they have learned and record their successes.

Conclusion

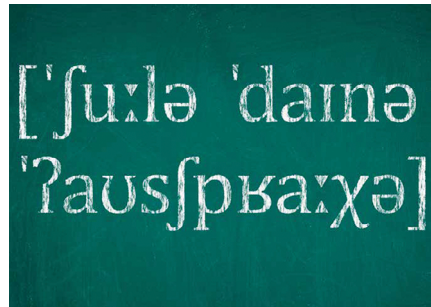
The booklet is available as a print version. It can also be downloaded free of charge along with all the audio files and the answer key from the website www.deutsch-am-arbeitsplatz.de. The phonetic trainer is now being used across Germany, in particular in Network IQ subprojects. It is also being downloaded and used abroad.

Find out what you can already do!

The phonetic trainer “**SCHOOL your pronunciation**” supports the learning process at many different levels

Once learners have defined their learning objectives in “My training plan - what should I practice?”, they select individual chapters according to the training plan they have prepared. Learners at level B2 and above are immersed in specific school-based situations such as conversations with parents, recording learning attainment and arranging cover teachers. In the “immersion text” they focus on discerning sounds and intonation. The learners practice the phonetic phenomena using exercises created in different ways—firstly in individual words and then integrated in communicative speech activity based on typical school-based communication situations. “Learners are supported in the phonetic trainer with visual aids. They can use diagrams (= sagittal sections) to understand how German sounds are for-

med. Information about articulation and prosody is summarised in a concisely and clearly worded leaflet. “A glossary with simply explained terms supports them in their work with the phonetic trainer,” explains Dr. Sarita Batra, a research assistant at the IQ Competence Centre for Work-Related German Language. “SCHOOL your pronunci-



ation” is the result of a fruitful collaboration between different experts and stakeholders from the areas of phonetics, teacher training and GFL/GSL teaching. They have designed a multifaceted companion which uses cognitive, visual, auditory and haptic methods to support the learning process. The training materials which have been developed are appropriate for independent learning as they are clearly worded and intuitive to use. However, they can also be used by GFL/GSL teachers both in occupation-specific as well as in cross-occupational and general German courses, as reference material and in the context of a scenario method as a didactic supplement. “An audio tool has also been developed and enables users to listen to the audio files straight from the website,” explains Dr. Sarita Batra.

Three questions for Dr. Olga Haber, contact for and author of the “**SCHOOL your pronunciation**” trainer from the IQ Competence Centre for Work-Related German Language.

“Coherent pronunciation and a clear style of speaking”



What is innovative about the “SCHOOL your pronunciation” phonetic trainer?

The users create their own training plan suited to their individual requirements. They are able to practise pronunciation independently and become familiar with typical school-based communication situations thanks to the linking of linguistic, professional and intercultural content. This is an important contribution to ensu-

ring that migrant teaching staff perform confidently in terms of language in their future day-to-day working life.

How can the phonetic trainer be used locally?

“SCHOOL your pronunciation” was designed from practice for prac-

tise, in other words for people participating in professional and language training. The phonetic trainer is already being downloaded in Germany and abroad to prepare for work as a teacher. It is being used in various IQ subprojects in teaching or by the participants for independent learning. Reading and listening texts from the phonetic trainer can also be used in teaching as authentic examples of communication in the workplace. The method we have developed and many of the exercises can be transferred to other occupational groups very quickly and with very few adaptations.

What can the phonetic trainer achieve over the long term?

The phonetic trainer is free for anybody who is interested. It can be used by learners at any time and any place. Learners can practice pronunciation at their own speed. They learn, repeat the exercises multiple times if necessary, and refer back to them whenever they like.

Publication details

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Network IQ

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