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This newsletter is brought to you by  
Maris Hawkins and Stacey  
Margarita Johnson

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# MIDWEEK NEWS AND UPDATES

WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT  
WTL PODCAST EPISODE TO COME OUT...

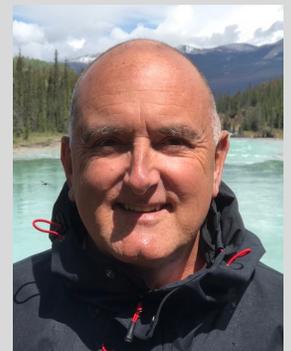


## Preview of the next episode

### EPISODE 58: PRINCIPLES OF OUTSTANDING LANGUAGE TEACHING WITH STEVE SMITH

An underlying assumption of the We Teach Languages podcast is that we are all better when we learn from each other. As teachers, we all make the best decisions we can based on our own teaching contexts, our own individual traits as teachers, and our own understanding of how language is learned. Episode 53 with Diego Ojeda and Sara-Elizabeth Cottrell and episode 56 with Martina Bex stand out as notable recent examples of this ethos.

This Friday, we will hear from Steve Smith, a teacher with 33 years of experience teaching French in England, a prolific blogger, the author of *Becoming an Outstanding Languages Teacher*, and co-author of the *Language Teacher Toolkit*. One of the things I loved about the interview was that Steve and I don't always have the same view of every topic as listeners will notice when the topic of authentic resources comes up. Yet, he maintains such a thoughtful and respectful approach even through disagreement, that the interview was a genuine pleasure to conduct. It fits in well with other recent episodes. We look forward to hearing your feedback after you listen!





**RESPONSE TO EPISODE 57:  
CLIC RESOURCES, TALKABROAD, AND ONLINE TEACHING  
WITH DR. FLORENCIA HENSHAW**

This week's episode reaction is from Dr. Ann Abbott, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

One of the things that I admire about my colleague Florencia Henshaw is that she is both a thinker and a do-er. On the one hand she possesses deep knowledge about language learning, can see the big picture and discerns patterns. On the other hand she is very organized, easily converts huge projects into smaller tasks and meets deadlines. So in honor of Florencia's very effective work style, I thought I'd share the to-do list I made for myself after listening to this podcast. The conversation between Florencia and Stacey provides food for thought and reflection, but there is a lot we can immediately implement, too.

✓ Peruse the bank of teaching observation forms.

At this point in my career, I want a pared-down classroom observation form. Ideally, I want to give the instructor one, just one suggestion with high impact. Or at the very least, I want to prioritize my suggestions for them. What one thing should you do differently for your very next class? If I can't find one in this bank, maybe I should create one and add it to Florencia's resources.

✓ Watch the CLIC webinar about contract learning.

I love to write. And I love to teach writing. When I used to supervise our Spanish composition course, I would tell my TAs, "You think you're teaching them how to write. Really, you're teaching them to think." Good ideas, original insights and well-structured arguments almost always result in a good essay—in any language the students uses. So the concept of contract learning in the little description that Florencia gave intrigues me.

✓ Talk abroad.

I don't use this in any of the courses I teach or supervise, but I was very interested in what Florencia said about L2 and HL learners' perceptions of their online conversations with native speakers. I teach community service learning courses, and I notice this same tendency with their interactions with native speakers in the local community. I will make a lesson plan that combines the strengths and interests of HL and L2 learners as they learn about immigration and how to provide effective services to them in Spanish.

**What are your takeaways from this episode? What are your next steps?  
We would love to hear from you on social media, email, or in the  
comments section on our website!**



# Reactions to past episodes:

**Kevin A. LaMastra** @CL\_LanguageLab Following

Wow! @MartinaBex on @weteachlang -more great ideas per minute than anywhere else. Engaging advice on effective L2 instruction that will resonate w/teachers everywhere. Share w/colleagues who want to try but don't know where to start. @LHS\_NJ #langchat

**MichelleLang** @michellelang Following

Great reminder by @MartinaBex. Thanks @weteachlang ! It is so important to always keep in mind what seems comprehensible and evident to us is not to our students regardless of age. It's also a good way to differentiate for our learners. @GannAcademyWL @GannAcademy #CI

**Charla Lorenzen** @xarlaru Following

Gracias @PSMLA1 for making me aware of these podcasts. Regarding this particular episode, I require my college students to use #TalkAbroad and they really enjoy it.

**Elizabeth W. Edwards** @ewebwards Following

Replying to @weteachlang

This was a great episode, filled with practical recommendations!

**American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)** 5 hrs · 🌐

We Teach Languages is a podcast that explores what excellent language teaching looks like from the diverse perspectives of real language educators. In its 56 episodes (about 20 minutes each), the podcast has featured prominent leaders in the field, such as Dr. Kate Paesani, Sara-Elizabeth Cottrell, Kaishan Kong, Dr. Beniko Mason, Dorie Perugini, Manuela Wagner, Noah Geisel, Gianfranco Conti, Catherine Ousselin, our own Paul Sandrock, and too many others to name. That's why they're our #FollowFriday.

**Valerie** @valerie\_guarino Following

Replying to @weteachlang @actfl

It's so very well deserved. I finally got to binge a few episodes and I have to say I'm amazed at how much I got out of each one. Thank you!

After being a guest on episode 56, Martina Bex wrote a fantastic follow-up blog post in response to a listener question. Check it out!

**Martina Bex** @MartinaBex Following

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# Updates from Past Guests & Contributors



Rebecca Blouwolff (episode 47) shared a French resource from Plan- International on Twitter that she used with her unit on funding global education. The essential question was: why can't all children go to school? She used this authentic resource with her French 7 class.



Kate Paesani (episode 49) recently published an article with Catherine Barrette in the summer edition of Foreign Language Annals. The title of the article is "Conceptualizing cultural literacy through student learning assessment."