# ALL London Webinar: Steve Smith 'Using the Target Language'

**25.01.15.**

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## Recording information

**Title**: ALL London Webinar-Steve Smith-Using the Target Language

**Type**: Recording

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**Summary:** https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/using-the-target-language-tickets-14589312025

**Recording Date:** 25/01/2015 4 pm

##

## Link to notes on Steve's blog:

http://frenchteachernet.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/teaching-in-target-language.html

## Adverts

ALL London events - put Sat 13th June 2015 in your diary please and look at website for details!

www.all-london.org.uk

**Next Webinar** Sat 7th Feb 16:30 - 17:30 GMT on New exams and data/grades

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gcse-and-a-level-1-new-qualifications-2-current-data-and-grading-issues-tickets-15486495525

**Join mflresources:**

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mflresources/info>

**National conference 20th-21st March 2015:**

http://www.all-languages.org.uk/events/language\_world/language\_world\_2015

**Twitter handles shared by participants:**

Helen Myers:@helenmyers

Sharon Barnes:@SJBarnes81

Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):@missviotti

Sandrine Pac-Kenny:@sandrinepk

Tracy Hall:TracyHall62

Rosie:@PalliserMiss

Julie Mason:@joolsm321

Jo Patisso:@jmpmfl

Dom:@dominic\_mcg

Sarah Ferretti:@missferretti

Leah Butler:@MrsLButler

## Ideas and responses from participants

8 main sections ... see Steve's blog

 unconscious informal / formal approach

 Skilled Q/A technique

 Levels of question: Comprehension (yes/no, true/false) - repetition (either/or/options) - productive (closed / open questions)

 Allows for differentiation - select pupils according to their ablity (so not random)

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny: I think needs to start from day one. so students see it as the norm.

 Variety of ways to make essential drilling 'fun'

 start with 3rd peson

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny: I like the mime what you are buying. good for vocab.

 Sharon Barnes: I've used the 1 word story telling and it does work well.

 Sharon Barnes: When introducing new words, I think of one of the words and students have to ask me in the TL "Is it X or X?" that way they are thinking about the new words and using them independently.

 Need to hear a word 9 times before it sticks!

 dbonifaci: I have been using this, not sure if I can explain it well enough...The whole class has to read a short text, however only one person at a time is allowed to read the next word. First sentence is really easy as there are no rules about timings as long as students don’t talk at the same time. Second sentence is harder because they have 3 seconds to say the following word and you can be very strict with pronunciation. Also you can give a number of “lives” that can vary according to the length of the sentence.

 Sharon Barnes: I use trapdoor reading tasks which focus on sentence structure.

 Tracy Hall: we play Poker Face for longer sentences

 Tracy Hall: sentence on whiteboard, pupils have to decide it they are in the round or out. I count down 54321 andif they have their hand up they are 'in'. I then choose a pupil who says what they think the translation is. I correct, everyone with their hand up gets a point. If wrong, they are out and I move on. They all have to have 'poker faces' so I can't tell who is bluffing

 Tracy Hall: if you want a ready made one with the 'rules' on a PP then email me at tah@rydeschool.net

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 Sandrine Pac-Kenny: love the idea of giving the role of interpreter. tere is always one in classroom and they do the English for me. The role makes it much better.

 http://www.actfl.org/news/position-statements/use-the-target-language-the-classroom-0

 Teaching 90% about relationships .. difficult to do this entirely in TL

 Above all, children need clarity

 Preferred order: Presentation - Practice - Explanation

 Advice from Steve to be realistic according to the class you have

 Ultimate aim = have the class who work for you!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny: I use Edmodo to post a video in easy French or English for them to watch as part of homework.

 Ludivine: use very little TL at the beginning and add more and more as the term went on.

 Sharon Barnes: Edmodo is a secure online file sharing siteSandrine Pac-Kenny: edmodo is like a facebook but for classes. Very safe, free. I love it! also has a sharing of resources by teachers. Worrth looking at it.

 dbonifaci: I am very firm with students, if they ask me things in English that they know how to say in TL I tell them that I don't understand them in TLdbonifaci: until they can say it in TL

 Belinda Bartley: I invested in "play money" Euros and reward groups with this during Group Talk activitis when I hear fab work - and then fine them and take money away if I hear English. positive points at the end for the richest group. they love it and really try hard to be original and creative.

 Steve: Motivation the most important thing .. more importamt than a '100%' rule

 Maximise input is th emost important

 Sharon Barnes: I use Edmodo to share lesson material and encourage spontaneous dialogue between students.

 If techniques are poor - it won't work

 Sharon Barnes: In the lesson I give students 3 tokens that they can exhcange for a translated word. That way they either have to use a dictionary or think carefully about what needs translating in order for them to understand. I try to make them realise that not every word needs translating in order to understand the sentence.

 Technology offers access to good high quality target language if teachers not confident

## Chat Transcript

 Lucy Vallejo:it's ok now!

 dbonifaci:yes, it is!

 Lucy Vallejo:yes!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:guest working!

 dbonifaci:yes we can all hear

 Leah Butler:yes we can hear you :)

 Taline Halpern:yes :-)

 Adriana Defilippi:Hola!

 Sharon Barnes:Yes, thanks guys. I did tweet but I've sorted it now.

 Steph Standing (Rugby):Loud and clear!

 Sophia Tomey:loud and clear

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:yes we know about your glasses! :-)

 Dom:All good here :-)

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Thanks for helping Helen - I also lose earrings! :-)

 Leah Butler:All looks good :)

 Leah Butler:very organised

 Dom:I have it on good authority that those files are all empty, Steve...

 Suzanne Eccleston:Suzanne : All good

 Matt:testing! :)

 helene pavan:Working very well. Thank you

 Sarah Ferretti 2:very clear!

 Sarah Ferretti 2:I think I've signed up twice!

 Jo Patisso:can hear and see you well!

 dbonifaci:I am Italian as well! Diana Bonifaci ;)

 dbonifaci:ahah bene grazie

 Tracy Hall:\*sccots in at last minute!\*

 Nolwenn Burkey:hi Helen, I have had to come in as a guest, impossible to remember my username

 Julie Mason:Just made it in time :)

 Matt:Matt, HOD, New Forest :)

 Leah Butler:I live in East Yorkshire and teach French from Year 7 - A Level

 Belinda Bartley:Hello. Head of Languages in Oxfordshire. french and German.

 Nolwenn Burkey:I am Nolwenn, I teach French to A level, spanish and latin up to ks4

 Julie Mason:11-16 French and German, Solihull (but from Wales) :)

 Yasmin:Yasmin Salter, KS3 co-ordinator and teacher of French adn Spanish in King Edward VI Community Mollege in Devon

 Steph Standing (Rugby):Teacher of French and German, 11-18

 Dom:I'm Dom and I teach Fr/Sp/Ger in North East England :-)

 Taline Halpern:Taline Halpern, NQT Teacher, Spanish and French, KS3 and 4 in Brighton

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:French teacher, Secondary in Ireland. Also on French teacher Association of Ireland executive.

 Ludivine Fitzwater:Ludivine, I teach French KS3-4-5. Surrey

 Sharon:Hi, Sharon ( Waszkiewicz), NQT, London, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, Japanese

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):HI!I am Swiss, French teacher to 11-16 in Surrey.

 Sharon Barnes:Assistant Director for Languages & Internationalism in a secondary school in Bristol. I teach German, French and Spanish.

 helene pavan:Herts, teach French A Level and adults, any level

 Jo Patisso:Teacher of Spanish and French at KS3 and 4 in Fleetwood, Lancs.

 Victoria:Victoria Pentel, I teach French at secondary school and primary, Herts. I'm part-time (which is lovely!)

 dbonifaci:Hi, I'm Diana, I am from Rome, I teach Spanish and Italian at Headington School , Oxford

 Suzanne Eccleston:Hi I'm Suzanne. I work in a PRU in London Borough of Redbridge. I teach French, Spanish and German at KS3

 Sarah Ferretti 2:Hi, I teach Italian ks2-3-4-5 and French ks2-3-4

 Kym Ceurvorst:Am a MFL Teacher in Kent, Uk - German & French- deperately looking for links to help increase the up take of German at KS4 and KS5

 Christoph Link 2:Hi, I am Head of German in Tunbridge Wells

 Idorys:MFL coordinador . Spanish & French teacher y7-y11 Suffolk

 Adriana Defilippi:PGCE student teaching Spanish and French

 Sophia Tomey:french and spanish, p'borough

 Tracy Hall:HoD Isle of Wight, independent school, French years 7-13

 Lucy Vallejo:Hi everybody! Head os Spanish in a secondary school in East Sussex

 Angela Leyburn:Lucy's colleague in same school in E Sussex!

 marc degueurce 2:hi everyone marc SL MFL in The Charter School south London

 Helen Myers:As you join .. please introduce yourself here with a one-liner on your role

 Sarah Ferretti:Sarah Ferretti, HoD at St. Gabriel's school, Newbury

 Valeria Agostini:Hi, teacher of Italian in KS 2, Worthing

 Helen Myers:Welcome to new poeple who have joined

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:I think needs to start from day one. so students see it as the norm.

 Sharon Barnes:I agree Sandrine, I've started with Yr 7 and they know no difference and don's sit there shouting "I don't understand" they actually try to follow the lesson in the TL.

 Nolwenn Burkey:a very gifted student Sir, the accent is marvellous

 Nolwenn Burkey:et je ne sais pas dessiner moi monsieur

 Tracy Hall:drawing not so much lol

 Tracy Hall:lol

 Nolwenn Burkey:just a little

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Unicorm? :-)

 Matt:il est magnifique, votre chien, monsieur

 Sharon Barnes:I thought it was a unicorn too :)

 Belinda Bartley:lol

 Ludivine Fitzwater:you caught the attention of my 20 month old daughter! She fascinated!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:Q - are all the students drawing something on own whiteboard or only cople students at board?

 Belinda Bartley:This would work brilliantly with mini whiteboards

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Q how long would this kind activity last? Would you do it at the beginning/starter?

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:Agree Belinda. so all involved.

 Tracy Hall:I learnt like this on my GCSE with Frank Corless at Southampton :)

 Tracy Hall:PGCE!!

 Helen Myers:me too Tracy!

 Sharon Barnes:I think that's a great way to intro the French past tense, I'd be interested to see how it worked with German perfect tense using haben and sein.

 dbonifaci:me too, Tracy, at Oxford Brookes less than 5 years ago

 Belinda Bartley:Me too at Oxford brookes - in 1993!

 Tracy Hall:dbonifaci you must be young - I did mine in the dark ages in 1987 :)

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:I like the mime what you are buying. good for vocab.

 Sharon Barnes:I've used the 1 word story telling and it does work well.

 Tracy Hall:sounds good

 Helen Myers:For anyone arriving late, this is the blog reference for these ideas... http://frenchteachernet.blogspot.co.uk/2015/01/teaching-in-target-language.html

 Sharon Barnes:When introducing new words, I think of one of the words and students have to ask me in the TL "Is it X or X?" that way they are thinking about the new words and using them independently.

 Belinda Bartley:I agree Sharon. They all get a real sense of achievement at the end when they have a good paragraph in their books.

 Nolwenn Burkey:un vetement

 Leah Butler:pantalon

 Ludivine Fitzwater:pantalon

 Angela Leyburn:pantalon

 Tracy Hall:pantalon

 Leah Butler:yep :)

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:manteau

 helene pavan:manteau

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):manteau

 Belinda Bartley:manteau

 Helen Myers:impermeable

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:imperméable

 Helen Myers:imperméable

 Tracy Hall:love this

 Ludivine Fitzwater:love this game!!

 Leah Butler:Bonne idee!

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Great game

 Tracy Hall:i'm being observed next week - that one will be in!

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Pupils like a challenge

 dbonifaci:I have been using this, not sure if I can explain it well enough...The whole class has to read a short text, however only one person at a time is allowed to read the next word. First sentence is really easy as there are no rules about timings as long as students don’t talk at the same time. Second sentence is harder because they have 3 seconds to say the following word and you can be very strict with pronunciation. Also you can give a number of “lives” that can vary according to the length of the sentence.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:our assistant last year cut our 100's of letters and we did all the furniture. students loved it. they enjoyed learning the words.

 dbonifaci:it gets very competitive ;)

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:do they need to remember the text dbonifaci?

 Sharon Barnes:I use trapdoor reading tasks which focus on sentence structure.

 Tracy Hall:we play Poker Face for longer sentences

 dbonifaci:no, you have the text on the board. The text will have good examples of complex sentences, opinions, etc.

 Belinda Bartley:What is Poker Face?

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:how do you pick the person who reads the word?

 Tracy Hall:sentence on whiteboard, pupils have to decide it they are in the round or out. I count down 54321 andif they have their hand up they are 'in'. I then choose a pupil who says what they think the translation is. I correct, everyone with their hand up gets a point. If wrong, they are out and I move on. They all have to have 'poker faces' so I can't tell who is bluffing

 dbonifaci:you don't pick...they have to say it, the aim of the game is not to say the following word at the same time as someone else..

 Sharon Barnes:For listening, I also make Vokis and then differentiate the worksheets to vary what students identify from the same transcript.

 Tracy Hall:that should say 'if correct'

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:i get you. thanks.

 Belinda Bartley:Thanks Tracy - sounds great - will definitely give it a try.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:nice idea Tracy

 Tracy Hall:if you want a ready made one with the 'rules' on a PP then email me at tah@rydeschool.net

 Tracy Hall:the kids love it

 Sharon Barnes:I use sentence auctions too in my lessons to focus on correct TL use.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:love the idea of giving the role of interpreter. tere is always one in classroom and they do the English for me. The role makes it much better.

 Sharon Barnes:Sandrine, it also helps when there's a native speaker as they can improve their Eng by explaining in Eng to class so you can stay in TL.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:true Sharon.

 Helen Myers:http://www.actfl.org/news/position-statements/use-the-target-language-the-classroom-0

 Sharon Barnes:Although we don't always have Native speakers in class :)

 Rosie:Hi, late joiner - I'm a French and Spanish teacher in London. Loving the ideas being shared

 Helen Myers:Welcome Rosie!

 Sharon Barnes:I use a lot of German in my lessons but I have to admit the thing stopping me doing this in French and Spanish is me. I am just not as confident in these subjects. Having native speakers in the room really makes me panic. I need to overcome this.

 Suzanne Eccleston:Yes I think most people have a stronger language

 Rosie:My native speakers often correct my language - it's quite difficult to deal with at times. Any ideas?

 Sharon Barnes:Rosie, I've had that.

 Helen Myers:Sharon: I woudl not use target language as much if not confident ...

 Sharon Barnes:I just explain to the class that it's not my strongest language and that sometimes my mouth says something different to what my brain thinks and that it's good to have Student X to help.

 Belinda Bartley:It's so reassuring to hear such a pragmatic view on the use of English - thank you!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:I am a native speaker - team of 6. One teacher has asked me to correct her. others no. so i don't unless they ask me to check things over. Somethimes I ask them for help! When I have blanks...

 Tracy Hall:PP sent :)

 Nolwenn Burkey:it does me so much good to listen to this, in my Year 8 I have got a ADHD kid who has changed the whole atmosphere in the class and she is refusing to do any work as well, it gives me courage for tomorrow

 Helen Myers:This is so imprortant Steve - to share the language learning process

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:it is hard with classes with disengaged students and are not willing to figure out things.

 Nolwenn Burkey:agrred but this session m a revigoree

 Tracy Hall:Me too - I'd forgotten about some of these

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:I guess we must not give up!

 Sharon Barnes:I had a big issue with my Yr 9 and I told them I wanted to use more Tl. I got them to sign up to Edmodo so they can view lesson material in advance. That way they can look up key language before the lesson and reduce the amount of Eng explanation needed.

 Ludivine Fitzwater:I have a class ike that Sandrine, key thing for me was not to take things personally and use very little TL at the beginning and add more and more as the term went on. They're not always ready for TL but it's better than it was so prgoress! :-)

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:In Ireland the Junior exam is answer in English only - Aural and written. So you speak a lot of English for practice. Oral is an option. big shock when they get to senior level.

 Belinda Bartley:The drip feed effect is certainly very helpful - with the drips getting bigger and lobger!

 Belinda Bartley:longer...

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:I use Edmodo to post a video in easy French or English for them to watch as part of homework.

 Rosie:I've not heard of Edmodo - what is this?

 Sharon Barnes:Edmodo is a secure online file sharing site

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:edmodo is like a facebook but for classes. Very safe, free. I love it! also has a sharing of resources by teachers. Worrth looking at it.

 Sharon Barnes:I use Edmodo to share lesson material and encourage spontaneous dialogue between students.

 Helen Myers:https://www.edmodo.com/

 Rosie:Sounds interesting - thanks!

 dbonifaci:I am very firm with students, if they ask me things in English that they know how to say in TL I tell them that I don't understand them in TL

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 Belinda Bartley:I invested in "play money" Euros and reward groups with this during Group Talk activitis when I hear fab work - and then fine them and take money away if I hear English. positive points at the end for the richest group. they love it and really try hard to be original and creative.

 Sharon Barnes:I use a lot of group talk to encourage discussion.

 dbonifaci:I have read that it is a strategy often used by parents who are trying to raise bilingual children

 Ludivine Fitzwater:Like that idea Belinda :-)

 Sharon Barnes:I am English but I bring my daughter up speaking German. I only reply in German when she uses English I keep asking "Was?" until she uses the correct German word.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:dbonifaci - what about the studnets who just stay silent?

 Sharon Barnes:In the lesson I give students 3 tokens that they can exhcange for a translated word. That way they either have to use a dictionary or think carefully about what needs translating in order for them to understand. I try to make them realise that not every word needs translating in order to understand the sentence.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:Sharon, looking for you on Edmodo to connect but too many Sharon Barnes.

 Belinda Bartley:Some of my colleagues like to use counters to encourage pupils to talk. They have a specific number of counters at the beginning of the lesson/activity and need to get rid of them - they can only do this by speaking. Can be particularly useful for quiet A Level classes.

 dbonifaci:Sandrine - I meant for the students asking me things like "how do you say....in Spanish?", they know how to formulate that question in Spanish so I pretend I don't understand what they are telling me by saying "I don't understand" in Spanish

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:love the tokens ideas.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:Ok. Dbonifaci.

 Sharon Barnes:Sandrine, I may be listed as Mrs Barnes

 Nolwenn Burkey:merci

 Helen Myers:Could you all write twitter handles in box below before you leave?

 Belinda Bartley:Good token idea Sharon.

 Suzanne Eccleston:Suzanne eccleston@mungrisdale

 Steph Standing (Rugby):@mrs\_standing Thanks Steve and Helen for giving up your time to host. Will have to catch up on the rest at a later date.

 Sharon Barnes:Sandrine, I think i've found you on Edmodo and added you.

 Helen Myers:Thanks for coming Steph! Will send link later tonight

 Suzanne Eccleston:Yes very much appreciated. Not many PRUs seem to do MFL so good to share ideas. Thank you both very much

 Helen Myers:Please do invite anyone to attend .. great to see you Suzanne!

 Emeline Viotti (Cranleigh):Thank you so much Steve! Will read your post & encourage my HoD to read it too!

 Julie Mason:Thank you

 Tracy Hall:This has been very helpful, thank you!

 dbonifaci:Thank you so much

 Kym Ceurvorst:Merci!

 Valeria Agostini:Grazie!

 Sharon Barnes:Thank you very much Steve and Helen.

 Ludivine Fitzwater:Trying to connect to you too Sharon and Sandrine :-)

 helene pavan:Thank you Helen and Steve, really enjoyable

 Ludivine Fitzwater:Thank you Stee and Helen :-)

 Leah Butler:Merci beaucoup :)

 Sharon:Sharon Waszkiewicx @waszksharon

 Jo Patisso:Thank you!

 Sharon Barnes:Ludivine, I've just added you.

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:Ludivine, just founf you.

 Belinda Bartley:Thank you so much for giving up your time for this. A very stimulating presentation and debate and also very reassuring that we're all trying our hardest!

 Sarah Ferretti:Many thanks!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:A great way to spend a Sunday afternoon! Thank-you!

 Sharon:Fab ideas to use tomorrow! ( special thx to Tracy for PokerFace!)

 Tracy Hall::)

 Ludivine Fitzwater:Lovely to meet you (even if remotely) Steve :-)

 Ludivine Fitzwater:and the cat!

 Sarah Ferretti:@missferretti

 Angela Leyburn:Thank you Steve - very enjoyable and helpful.

 Lucy Vallejo:Thank you very much for giving up Sunday afternoon for this webinar. Lots of fab ideas from everybody!!

 helene pavan:Il a un beau chat noir

 Belinda Bartley:show and Tell would be fab.

 Tracy Hall:and thank you Steve for frenchteacher.net I use it every day :)

 Rosie:Hi Freddie!

 Valeria Agostini:bellissimo!!!

 Belinda Bartley:Bonjour Freddie!

 Rosie:My cat tried to climb over the keyboard earlier!

 Rosie:Thanks all!!

 Nicola Pugh:Thank you

 Dom:Thanks Helen and Steve :-)

 Adriana Defilippi:Thank you

 Valeria Agostini:Ciao, grazie Helen and Steve!!!

 dbonifaci:Grazie Helen e Steve, vado a finire di scrivere le pagelle :(

 Belinda Bartley:Enjoy your evening both of you. Merci et au revoir.

 Ludivine Fitzwater:that right

 Ludivine Fitzwater:she's raised bilingual and loved your voice Steve1

 Ludivine Fitzwater::-)

 Idorys:thank you ! gracias

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny:my daughter loved your cat!

 Tracy Hall:Bye everyone!

 Ludivine Fitzwater:lol

 Tracy Hall:haha

 Sharon Barnes:It was lovely to "virtually" meet you all.

 Angela Leyburn:Have played Pictionary with 6th form - great for question formation and good fun

 Ludivine Fitzwater:take care, Salut!

 Sandrine Pac-Kenny: A la prochaine!

 Helen Myers:Bye all!

 Suzanne Eccleston:Bonne soiree tout le monde

 Yasmin:Merci!

 dbonifaci:who else teaches Italian?

 dbonifaci:Is there anyone willing to share resources?

 Helen Myers:caio D ... join mflresources and we can exchange resources there

 Helen Myers:ciao even!