FOR ATEL MEMBERS & VISITORS

ATEL members enjoy the following benefits.

- Attend any workshop ATEL organizes around Lebanon for FREE. These regional workshops deal with different educational topics that can help teachers further develop their teaching skills.

- Attend various workshops and presentations given during every annual ELT (English Language Teaching) conference/seminar for FREE.

- Receive an official copy of the certificate of attendance (for workshops & Conferences/ Seminars) from ATEL.

- Access ATEL library which has thousands of books and educational resources and references.

- Benefit from 20% discount offered by Librairie du Liban.

- Check ATEL website for various workshops/articles/events/games/etc… (www.atel-lb.org).

- Join ATEL group on Facebook to be updated with ATEL latest news.

- Access Online Teachers' Assistance on ATEL website for practical tips & hand-on activities related mainly to classroom management and language teaching/learning.

- Get a job opportunity facilitated by ATEL.

ATEL
The Association of Teachers of English in Lebanon

is honored to invite you to its

24th Annual ELT Conference

Program
of the Day

8:00–9:00:   Registration

9:00:   Opening Ceremony

ATEL Welcoming Speech
Honor Guest Speaker:
Prof. Hyam Ishak, President of CRDP

Key Note Speaker 1: Beyond Borders: How English Teaching Shapes Tomorrow's Global Leaders
Dr. Dina Hammouri, PhD in Linguistics, Researcher & International Trainer

Key Note Speaker 2: Teaching English for a Global World: Can Global Citizenship Be Taught?
Dr. Tony Gurr, PhD, Chief Learning Officer of His Own Educational Training & Consulting Company

10:15–10:30:   Break

10:30–13:40:   Concurrent Presentations & Workshops

Concurrent Sessions

AUDITORIUM	
10:30-11:15	*Workshop:* Teaching English for a Global World: Can Global Citizenship Be Taught? **Tony Gurr**
11:20-12:05	*Workshop:* Global Citizenship Through English: Embedding Cultural Understanding in Language Instruction - **Dina Hammouri**
12:10-12:55	*Workshop:* Be a Mindful Reader - **Balkis Wehbe**
13:00-13:25	*Presentation:* The Impact of the Use of Digital Texts on Reading Comprehension for Fourth Graders - **Balkis Wehbe & Ghina Al Badawi Hafez**
ROOM 1	
10:30-11:15	*Workshop:* Understanding the EST – Skills for Academic Readiness- **Lisa Horvath & Joe Ephrem**
11:20-12:05	*Workshop:* Developing Students' Mediation Skills Through Verbal and Nonverbal Communication - **Bassam Saadeh**
12:10-12:55	*Workshop:* Enhance Your English Pronunciation with Effective AI-Tools to Better Communicate as Global Citizens - **Hanadi Mirza**
13:00-13:25	*Presentation:* From Language to Leadership: Training Teachers for Global Ready Classrooms - **Tahani Yassin**
ROOM 2	
10:30-11:15	*Workshop:* AI-Smart, AI-Wise: Helping Students Use AI Responsibly - **Rasha Halat**
11:20-12:05	*Workshop:* Using ESL Strategies to boost University Students' Academic Writing to Become Global Citizens - **Mira Alameddine, Fawzieh Orabi, & Likaa Abou Hadir**
12:10-12:35	*Presentation:* Turning Numbers into Knowledge: Students' Performance Analytics **Nadine Haidar**
12:40-13:05	*Presentation:* Educational Technology: Shaping the Future of Learning **Layal Ghaddar**
13:10-13:35	*Presentation:* Educational Psychology - **Fadia Ghabries**

Concurrent
Presentations & Workshops

10:30-11:15

AUDITORIUM

Tony Gurr

PhD Chief Learning Officer of His Own Educational Training & Consulting Company

Workshop

Teaching English for a Global World: Can Global Citizenship Be Taught?

Abstract

Let's be honest—every teacher has (at some point in their career) felt the pain of 'imposter syndrome'. I know I have. A great deal of this self-doubt stems from questions we ask ourselves and our inability to answer these questions (to our own satisfaction) fully. "Can we teach speaking?" - frequently morphs into the questions: a) "Am I teaching speaking, or am I just practicing it?", b) "Do my students hate speaking English because of me?", c) "Has anybody noticed how big a fake I really am?"

This challenge has grown dramatically recently, as teachers are asked to take on the so-called 'new literacies' - financial, digital, and AI literacy. What about newer learning outcomes based on global citizenship? Is this learnable? Is it 'doable' for teachers - 'teachable', yani? These are the questions that Tony will tackle in his keynote session, and hopefully, they will guide you to some answers.

In his follow-up workshop, Tony will take a more interactive, hands-on approach and share some of the ideas and materials that forward-thinking publishers have started to use in their textbooks. He will also share best practices that other teachers are adapting and evolving in their classrooms and invite you to evaluate/comment on these. Come ready to put your 'thunking caps' on..

11:20-12:05

AUDITORIUM

Dina M. Hammouri

PhD in Linguistics,
Researcher & International Trainer

Workshop

Global Citizenship Through English:
Embedding Cultural Understanding in Language Instruction

Abstract

English language teaching must extend beyond the confines of grammar and vocabulary to embrace cultural competence, fostering effective cross-cultural communication. As the demand for global communication increases, teachers are tasked not only with helping students grasp language skills but also with preparing them to engage confidently across diverse cultural contexts. This approach encourages learners to navigate various speech acts—such as making requests, offering suggestions, issuing threats, and expressing farewells—while understanding the cultural nuances that shape language use. To equip students with the communicative skills necessary for global citizenship, English language educators must integrate cultural awareness into their teaching practices. Teacher training should focus on incorporating artistic elements into lesson plans, designing activities that promote cross cultural understanding, and guiding students in performing speech acts appropriately across diverse cultural contexts. By addressing both linguistic accuracy and socio-cultural appropriateness, teachers can foster a learning environment where students develop the skills to communicate effectively, respectfully, and meaningfully with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. This integration of cultural competence into language curricula is essential for preparing students to navigate the complexities of a multicultural world, ensuring they are equipped to thrive in global interactions.

12:10-12:55

AUDITORIUM

Balkis Wehbe

*Head of English Language Unit at Al-Makassed
Islamic Philanthropic Association in Beirut
English Instructor at BAU*

Workshop   ***Be a Mindful Reader***

Abstract   The Be a Mindful Reader workshop provided valuable insights into fostering deeper student engagement with texts. It reinforced the idea that mindful reading is not just about comprehension but also about fostering a reflective and critical approach to textual analysis. One of the most compelling aspects of the session was the identification of common obstacles that prevent students from engaging with texts effectively, such as distractions, lack of motivation, and difficulty in recognizing textual structures. Understanding these barriers is essential for designing interventions that encourage more meaningful reading habits. A particularly useful takeaway was the introduction of the QDAFI approach, which offers a structured method for analyzing experimental reports. This approach, along with techniques like "What it does" and "What it says" statements, provided concrete strategies to help students navigate complex texts. These tools emphasize the importance of not only understanding content but also recognizing the underlying structure and purpose of a text, which can significantly enhance students' analytical skills. The workshop also underscored the role of course design, assignments, and grading in reinforcing mindful reading. By aligning assessment strategies with thoughtful engagement rather than superficial reading, educators can encourage students to approach texts with greater care and critical awareness. This aspect of the session was particularly thought-provoking highlighting the need for institutional and pedagogical shifts to support deeper learning.

13:00-13:25

AUDITORIUM

Balkis Wehbe

Head of English Language Unit at Al-Makassed Islamic Philanthropic Association in Beirut English Instructor at BAU

Ghina Al Badawi Hafez

Director General of Educational Affairs at Al-Makassed Islamic Philanthropic Association in Beirut- Assistant professor at USJ

Presentation

The Impact of the Use of Digital Texts on Reading Comprehension for Fourth Graders

Abstract

The research "The Impact of the Use of Digital Texts on Reading Comprehension for Fourth Graders" examines the impact of digital texts on reading comprehension and students' attitudes toward reading among fourth-grade EFL learners in Makassed schools in Beirut, Lebanon. The research seeks to determine whether there is a significant difference in reading comprehension scores and reading attitudes between students using digital texts and those using printed texts. A quasi-experimental design employing a mixed-methods approach was used to enhance the validity and depth of the findings. Quantitative data were collected through pre- and post-tests to measure reading comprehension, while qualitative insights were gathered through pre- and post-focus group discussions with the experimental group. The study involved 51 fourth-grade students from private Makassed school. The research findings revealed that students using digital texts developed a more positive attitude toward reading and demonstrated improved reading comprehension compared to those using printed texts. The results effectively answered the research questions, highlighting the benefits of digital texts in enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes. The presentation is going to contribute to understanding how digital texts influence reading comprehension and students' engagement with reading, offering practical implications for EFL instruction and the integration of digital resources in primary education.
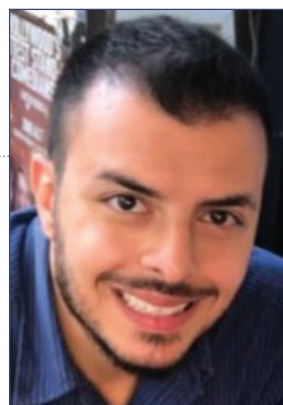
10:30-11:15

ROOM 1

Lisa Horvath

Language Curriculum Developer and EST External (Validator (English Language

Joe Ephrem

Assessment Manager

Workshop   ***Understanding the EST – Skills for Academic Readiness***

Abstract   This session offers English Language Teachers an overview of the EST, with a focus on the Reading Comprehension and Language Usage section and its role in assessing students' preparedness for academic study. Participants will examine the core skills tested and discuss how these align with the skills needed for success in university-level courses. Participants will also examine the detailed individual and group reports generated from test results which highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each student or student group, providing valuable insights for tailoring instruction to support student learning and academic growth. The EST assessment suite also includes subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, World History, English Literature, and Math.

11:20-12:05

ROOM 1

Bassam Saadeh

Mediator at Professional Mediation Center (CPM) at USJ - Mediator/Trainer at Maronite Archdiocese of Beirut

Workshop   *Developing Students' Mediation Skills Through Verbal and Nonverbal Communication*

Abstract

Effective communication is essential for successful mediation, and English language teachers play a key role in helping students develop these skills. This workshop focuses on equipping teachers with strategies to enhance their students' verbal and nonverbal communication skills for conflict resolution.

Verbal communication in mediation involves active listening, expressing ideas clearly, and using neutral language to encourage productive discussions. Teachers will learn how to guide students in paraphrasing, asking effective questions, and reframing statements to promote understanding and cooperation.

Nonverbal communication—body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and gestures—also plays a crucial role in mediation. Teachers will explore ways to help students become more aware of their own nonverbal cues and interpret those of others to build trust and prevent misunderstandings.

Through interactive activities, role-playing, and classroom-based strategies, participants will gain practical tools to teach mediation skills, enhance student confidence in communication, and foster a positive and inclusive classroom environment.

This workshop is designed for English language teachers who want to integrate mediation techniques into their lessons, helping students develop essential communication skills for both academic and real-life conflict resolution.

12:10-12:55

ROOM 1

Hanadi Mirza

Assistant Professor at Lebanese University
-Islamic University of Lebanon – Master Trainer
ATD & ATEL Educational Officer

Workshop

Enhance Your English Pronunciation with Effective AI-Tools to Better Communicate as Global Citizens

Abstract

Incorporating AI tools into English language teaching has revolutionized pronunciation training, offering learners personalized and interactive experiences. In an increasingly interconnected world, clear and accurate pronunciation is essential for effective communication, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting global citizenship.

This workshop explores the use of ChatGPT as a conversational practice tool and Speech Analyzer as a speech recognition tool to enhance English pronunciation, particularly for non-native speakers. By leveraging effective prompting techniques, participants will learn how to guide ChatGPT in generating targeted pronunciation exercises, stress patterns, and intonation. Combining ChatGPT with Speech Analyzer can help learners identify and correct errors more efficiently.

The workshop will highlight the effectiveness of these AI tools in improving pronunciation, emphasizing benefits such as instant feedback, individualized learning, and increased learner autonomy to prepare individuals for active participation in global communication. By equipping learners with clearer and more confident speech, these tools contribute to global citizenship education, empowering individuals to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration. Finally, common challenges and limitations will be discussed.
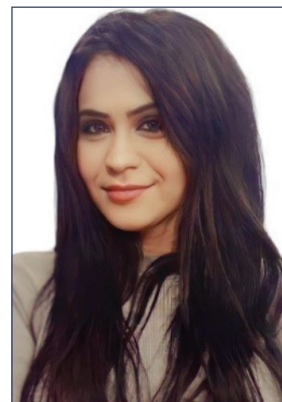
By the end of the session, participants will gain practical strategies to integrate AI-powered tools into their teaching or self-learning routines, maximizing their potential for pronunciation improvement and fostering more effective global communication.

13:00-13:25

ROOM 1

Tahani Yassin

Math Coordinator at L.I.S., experienced educator, certified educational trainer, and lifelong learner

Presentation   ***From Language to Leadership: Training Teachers for Global Ready Classrooms***

Abstract   In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, teachers must go beyond traditional instruction to cultivate global citizenship, digital literacy, and 21st-century leadership skills in their students. However, many educators face challenges in integrating student-centered learning, technology-driven approaches, and leadership development within their teaching practices. As the role of educators continues to shift, there is a pressing need to empower teachers as leaders who can navigate cross-disciplinary learning environments and prepare students for the demands of a globalized world. This session provides a practical roadmap for teachers, coordinators, and school leaders to transition into educational leadership roles by leveraging innovative teaching strategies, digital tools, and global collaboration techniques. Drawing from real-world experience as an educational trainer, consultant, and coordinator, this workshop introduces proven methodologies that foster inclusive, technology-driven, and globally relevant classrooms. Through interactive debates, hands-on activities, and case studies, participants will explore effective leadership models, classroom management techniques, and digital solutions that promote engagement, collaboration, and student empowerment. Attendees will actively engage in collaborative discussions that challenge traditional instructional methods, encouraging them to adopt new perspectives on leadership and educational transformation. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with practical strategies, digital resources, and leadership frameworks that they can immediately implement in their institutions.

10:30-11:15

ROOM 2

Rasha Halat

Assistant Professor at the Lebanese University and Lebanese International University -Senior Consultant for regional & international organizations

Workshop   *AI-Smart, AI-Wise: Helping Students Use AI Responsibly*

Abstract   How can you engage your students with different artificial intelligence (AI) tools critically and ethically? Whether looking at AI-generated pictures or chatting with Chatbots, students need to do it right.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a concept of the future; it is an integral part of our daily lives and education systems. While many educational curricula focus on teaching the technical aspects of AI, there's a growing need to engage students ethically and critically with the technology (Poole & Mackworth, 2023). This interactive workshop will provide educators with engaging, hands-on activities that encourage students to question, analyze, and responsibly use AI tools.

During the workshop, the presenter will share dynamic classroom activities she has successfully experimented with. The activities focus on the students' critical interaction with AI tools, such as chatbots, AI-generated images, deepfake videos, and Suno AI, to assess their creativity and reliability, identify biases, and uncover misinformation. Moreover, the workshop attendees will learn how to structure ethical debates, fact-checking exercises, and critical thinking challenges that spark curiosity and deepen understanding. The presenter will demonstrate how by actively engaging with AI, students will shift from passive consumers to critical, responsible users of these powerful tools. Finally, the presenter will spot the light on different forms of alternative assessment that can be used as a measure to curb academic dishonesty.

11:20-12:05

ROOM 2

Mira Alameddine

Associate Professor at the Lebanese University & Rafic Hariri University

Fawzieh Orabi

PhD Candidate-Beirut Arab University English Instructor at Rafic Hariri University
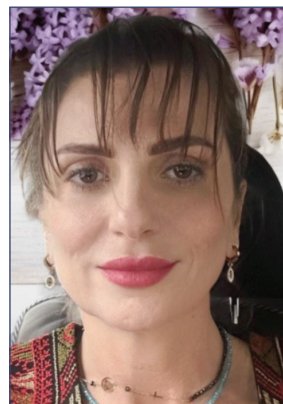
Likaa Abou Hadir

English Instructor at Rafic Hariri University

Workshop   *Using ESL Strategies to boost University Students' Academic Writing to Become Global Citizens*

Abstract   This workshop presents a brief overview of the activities designed in ESL classrooms at the university level. The activities aim at enhancing EFL learners' writing skills by providing the learners with phrases that would help them maintain coherence in their paragraphs. These added words/phrases should ensure the smooth link between the constituents of the paragraphs, particularly the "lead" sentence in the introduction. The presenters aim at providing the attendees hands-on activities on applying these sentences. These activities aim at generating coherent-building new phrases that are specific for each mode of writing. By mastering such academic writing strategies, students are better equipped to express their ideas clearly and effectively in a global context. Ultimately, the workshop promotes academic writing not only as a tool for academic success, but also as a key skill for engaging in meaningful, cross-cultural dialogue—an essential aspect of becoming active and informed global citizens.
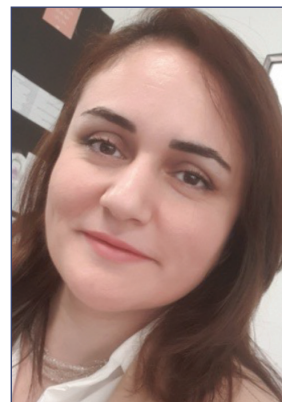
12:10-12:35

ROOM 2

Nadine Haidar

Academic Quality Controller ensuring education standards & Research-driven Professional advancing methodologies and leading improvement

Presentation   *Turning Numbers into Knowledge: Students' Performance Analytics*

Abstract

This presentation delves into the transformative power of student performance analytics, highlighting how data can be harnessed to identify trends, address learning gaps, and tailor instruction to meet individual needs. By converting raw numbers into actionable insights, educators can foster a more personalized learning environment that supports each student's unique journey toward academic success. Through real-world examples and best practices, we will explore the practical applications of data analytics in the classroom, underscoring its potential to revolutionize educational practices and elevate standards.

Student performance analytics not only provide a granular view of individual progress but also offer a macro perspective on overall school and district performance. By leveraging advanced data visualization tools and techniques, educators and administrators can gain a clearer understanding of where interventions are needed most. This data-driven approach enables a proactive stance in addressing issues before they become systemic problems. Moreover, this presentation will highlight the ethical considerations and challenges associated with data collection and usage, ensuring that student privacy and data integrity are always maintained. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies for implementing student performance analytics in their own educational settings, equipped with the knowledge to drive meaningful changes and promote equitable learning opportunities for all students.

Furthermore, the presentation will address the critical importance of cultivating a data-driven culture within educational institutions.

12:40-13:05

Layal Ghaddar

Founder & Director of Layal Global Innovative Learning Hub- Professional Trainer from the European Board

Presentation   *Educational Technology: Shaping the Future of Learning*

Abstract   Educational technology is changing the way we learn, making education more accessible, engaging, and personalized. This paper explores how digital tools like AI tutors, virtual reality, and gamification improve learning experiences. It also discusses challenges such as unequal access, teacher training, and data privacy. Looking ahead, new technologies like AI assistants and digital credentials will continue to shape the future of education. By embracing these innovations, we can create a better and more inclusive learning environment.

13:10-13:35

ROOM 2

Fadia Gabries

Teacher, Coordinator, Author, and Educational Coach

Presentation   *Educational Psychology*

Abstract   Educational psychology is the scientific study of how individuals learn and develop within educational environments. It explores the cognitive, emotional, and social processes that influence learning, motivation, and behavior. By examining key theories of development, learning, and motivation—such as Piaget's stages of cognitive development, Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, and Maslow's hierarchy of needs—educational psychology provides valuable insights into how to create effective, inclusive learning experiences. This field also emphasizes the importance of understanding diverse learning styles and addressing individual differences, such as those related to learning disabilities, cultural backgrounds, and emotional needs. Educational psychology equips educators with evidence-based strategies to enhance classroom management, foster intrinsic motivation, and improve student outcomes, ultimately promoting an environment that supports the holistic development of learners.