

# Personalising students' learning with Wordsmyth and a few thoughts on Dogme

Magdalena Fijałkowska

## Our teaching evolving

We will talk here about Wordsmyth <https://www.wordsmyth.net/> and how to create on-line and PDF tasks for our students, but before we do that, I would like to reflect for a bit on my own teaching approach, and maybe on your teaching approaches as well. After all, the way we teach has evolved over the years, has it not?

Having worked in publishing for years, I have developed a great respect for coursebooks, especially English language coursebooks, which are in stark contrast to German, Spanish, or Italian ones. They are exciting to use, come with a set of tools, and provide us not only with a solid syllabus, but also with a wide range of text and multimedia materials. They are, no doubt, excellent for certain types of teaching contexts.

However, my current teaching is heavily influenced by English for Academic Purposes, which emphasizes the importance of learner autonomy and student initiative in choosing the materials of most relevance to their own situation. In fact, I often feel that my own role as a teacher boils down to motivating the students, guiding them to relevant sources, and helping them upgrade their language.

I think that without really thinking much about it, I have moved away from coursebooks, as the one-size-fits-all approach may mean that the materials are often of limited relevance



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Magda dreamed of becoming an English teacher when she was a child, and so she did. When she grew up, she worked as a teacher, manager or director with International House Kraków, UEC-Bell in Warsaw, Eurocentres, Macmillan and Pearson Longman publishing houses, Stafford House, Experience English and International Quest in the UK. While working with Newcastle University and Strathclyde University in Glasgow she discovered her new love: English for Academic Purposes. She has recently completed Cambridge University Delta as well as Learning Technologies course at the University of Sheffield. Since 2007, she's been running NaukaBezGranic, offering schools multicultural workshops and theatre shows performed in English. Check out [www.naukabezgranic.pl](http://www.naukabezgranic.pl) to find out more.

