

# 2020 DIGITAL CONVENTION

## MLA TEACHER TRAINING COURSE

### LEARNER TRAINING: APPROACHING A LISTENING TASK

Of the four skills in English, students seem to struggle most with listening. How can we as teachers equip them with the ability to listen with confidence when so many variables can cause problems; unfamiliarity with the subject, a difficult accent, exam questions designed to distract and mislead? Additionally, how can we make the most out of listening activities we do in the classroom to better exploit the language and give opportunities for students to respond naturally to what they hear?

We will look at some activities we can do before a listening to better prepare students for what they are about to hear, and some ideas for what to do after a listening to extend the activity and increase the opportunities for learning. We will also outline ways we can turn listening into a more authentic experience for the learner, so that they can respond to it personally and so more fully engage with what they hear.

#### SEAN CRAWFORD

Sean started working in ELT in the winter of 2008, and since then has taught in various countries around the world. His training and career has centred around young learners and teenagers, with particular focus on preparation for the Cambridge suite of exams. He returned to England every summer to teach and then manage other teachers in summer schools before coming back permanently in 2018. By 2015 he was involved in training and management, being a key figure in writing courses and training teachers for Bell Young Learners ahead of a British Council inspection. Since he joined MLA in 2019 he has designed many of the tasks in the second edition of Tasktime and has helped develop and adapt it for Language Live, the new MLA online course. He is passionate about the English language in general and is always trying to think of new ways to make it accessible to learners.

#### GABRIELLA FREZZA

Gabriella's working life has centred on education. She started as a teacher of English and became the Principal of a large paritaria school in Sanremo. She attended a master at La Cattolica University for the management of no profit organizations and worked in many important foreign universities abroad as a coordinator for programmes of English Language Learning for Italian students. She started a bilingual school with the British Council support. She was asked to speak at many conferences on the development of bilingual education and second language early learning. She is working for MLA as a business development manager at the moment and her main task is the improvement of the teacher training branch in the company.