

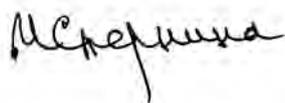
The 2 seminars held by Robin Walker in Voronezh on January 21, 2008 were attended by 138 University and secondary school teachers of English.

Both seminars were very interesting and extremely useful, especially for University teachers.

Voronezh Association of English Language teachers is the oldest ELT Association in Russia. During its 15 year history the Association organized a great number of seminars and workshops for its members, but only a few of them were devoted to ESP. Meanwhile a great number of the Association members are University teachers specializing in ESP. Other members of VELTA, who teach students majoring in English or kids at schools, also rather often work with adults. That's why the importance of Robin Walker's seminars can hardly be overestimated. The more so that the presenter turned out to be a very powerful speaker and had a very good contact with the audience.

Voronezh Association of English Language teachers expresses its gratitude to Oxford University Press and Relod for organizing the seminars.

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Going to hear Robin Walker's lecture "Bridging the gap: Teaching English for Adult Learners. How to teach Vocational English" I felt a teacher-researcher having acquired some knowledge of teaching adults and looking for someone who was ready to share the practical experience in the same field. I also wanted to see whether my assumptions that young students and adult learners do differ and this should be taken into account in the learning process were right.

Robin Walker started with pointing to the things that interested me so much: adult learners do have their own motivation, other psychological, mental and age peculiarities, their own needs and wants. All these, on the one hand, can't be ignored by their teachers but on the other turn the learning process into quite a new thing for both learners and teachers. With the help of newly-constructed materials Robin Walker demonstrated how to make this process challenging and involving for these two sides. His clear explanations, references to the well-structured and colorful slides of the power-point presentation, combination of lecture with elements of pair and group work allowed the audience to progress and be kept interested till the last minute of the lecture.

The discussion on the topic and ideas of Robin Walker's lecture among the English teachers of Voronezh is still going on. My colleagues and I are looking forward to listening to more R. Walker's lectures in the future.

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