

A transition to Language Coach

Interview with Ingrid Layer, English Trainer, Germany

*“Now I am no longer a language trainer,
but a Neurolanguage Coach!”*

Can you describe your professional career before taking the language coaching certification (LCC)?

My professional career as a language trainer started in 2006 with an “aha” moment for me when I was asked to teach technical English and I realized that I had the gift to motivate and inspire my learners and to transmit my knowledge in a natural and effective way. Since then I have been teaching English for specific purposes with the focus on Scientific English and Business English for business professionals InCompany in groups or in one-to-one sessions. And I am a certified trainer and oral examiner for Intercultural Competence in English. Getting people to learn English in a motivated and passionate way has been driving me ever since. And in all those years I have developed my own signature style of teaching. Looking for new approaches to make learning a language more efficient and more interesting and looking for new ways to deliver English to my learners, I decided to join Rachel’s webinar which turned out to be my next “aha” moment in my teaching career. The next day I registered for the LCC and now I am no longer a language trainer, but a Neurolanguage Coach®.



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How did you find the course?

For me it was like a puzzle piece falling into place. The LCC was highly motivating, inspiring, challenging and energizing and it added a tremendous value to my work and my style of teaching. It was phenomenal to learn about neuroscience and its effect on language learning/teaching. Thank you Rachel for sharing this knowledge with all of us in such an inspiring and enthusiastic way.

“I completely changed the way I approach grammar topics by chunking them down into brain-friendly learning units”

Which highlights or insights did you gain from the LCC?

There were so many – changing the way you ask questions for example and becoming aware of how positively a complete conversation with a learner can change once you ask powerful open and non-directive questions. And an absolute highlight for me was that from session 1 on we were all thrown into the deep end and with Rachel’s support and encouraging feedback we were all able to coach each other right from the start. And changing the roles from coach to coachee was an eye-opening experience. Between our sessions, Rachel teamed us up and we could practice both the role as a coach and as a coachee and by doing so, we learned a lot about the different perspectives and what a difference it makes for example when you suddenly take the ownership of your mechanical and mastery goals.

What was the immediate impact on your way of teaching after taking the course?

Already during the course I started putting into practice what I learned. First thing I did, I changed the way I ask questions and I do not anticipate my coachee’s answers because you never know what will be his/her answer. I would say I was a good listener, but thanks to this course I became a better listener.

And I completely changed the way I approach grammar topics by chunking them down into brain-friendly learning units. The most important insight for me however was the transition from a language teacher to a language coach. It is the perfect couple. You build upon your experiences and add the coaching part and the insights of neuroscience. What a ground-breaking merger!

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Were there any impacts on your personal life during or after the course?

On a personal level, the course helped me to understand better why people react in a certain way. You realise how powerful our brains can be and that we have tools to influence others positively the way we behave, we speak, we listen and what a difference a positive feedback, called dopamine, can make. And I really want to go deeper into the neuroscience topic.

“Being a certified and accredited Neurolanguage Coach® builds the trust you need to start a new business relationship. Exciting years to come...”

How was your professional development after the course?

Already during the course I started to merge my professional language teaching expertise with the neurolanguage coaching® method. And being a certified and accredited Neurolanguage Coach® builds the trust you need to start a new business relationship. Exciting years to come...

How has the course changed the way you deliver a language course?

We now start our language courses talking about learning styles, motivation and I let my learners be in charge of their learning process, which means I help them explore their goals, taking one by one and checking in regularly to see if we reached the goal and set new ones or if we have to work on them a little longer.

“My learners are all happy. They are extremely motivated and eager to learn and to improve their English.”

Were there any impacts on your learners?

They are all happy. They are extremely motivated and eager to learn and to improve their English. Even though they have very tight schedules, they blocked these 90 minutes for me and come to class.

Is there any additional information that you would like to add?

Thank you Rachel for sharing your knowledge with us in such an inspiring, supportive and delightful way. And it's the passion for things we believe in that keeps us moving.

A big thank you also to the whole LCC team for a phenomenal support before and during the course.

July 2019