

Interview with Joana Keary and Xavier Ferrer-Bonsoms, directors of Englishjet.

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## “Forgetting your fears when you have to speak is essential if you want to achieve a good level of English”

*Englishjet is a Language Boutique which works for and with Spanish companies. Their objective is that the employees will learn to have a good command of not only English, but foreign languages in general. This will help companies, regardless of their sector, to be more competitive in today's global market. Their system of learning is based on maximum quality in a very select environment, undertaken by a team of rigorously selected instructors, and adapting to the individual needs of each executive. The agency, founded in 2000 by Joana Keary and Xavier Ferrer- Bonsoms, transfers their team daily to the location of the companies, thereby taking language training out of the class room and into the meeting room.*

**English continues to be the dominant language for doing business on the global stage. Spanish companies have advanced a lot in language training over the last few years, and yet, for some professionals, it remains a bone of contention. (unfinished business??)**

**What are the key points to obtaining a good level of English?**

**JK:** It's true that in Spain, people have come a long way in learning languages, taking into account that the Spanish began with language training later than in other countries.

Nevertheless, although the level is much higher now, there is still a lot of ground to cover, overall when it comes to getting rid of fears. To get back to your question; in this sense, the major point when trying to obtain a higher level of any language, not just English, is to free yourself from any fear when you have to speak. That, and realising that everybody has the capacity to learn a language. We believe that language is, above all, for

communication, so it's essential to practice your speaking skills, and also to have a good instructor to help you on your way.

*“Our methods are very practical and we pay very close attention to the progress of all of our clients”*

**How much time is needed to have an adequate level of English?**

**JK:** With an intensive course, a good instructor and the dedication and discipline of the learner, it's possible to express yourself relatively fluently in the space of a year.

**Is Ejet centred exclusively on learning English? Or on other languages too?**

**XF:** No, we train in all languages, whatever the client requires. At the moment, we notice a demand for French and Portuguese, and also Spanish for foreigners. These are for foreign executives who have to come to Spain for business purposes, and they need to have a working knowledge of Spanish.

**What kind of courses do you offer to companies and professionals?**

**JK:** We offer various types of courses: the most mainstream being regular sessions of two to three hours a week, with a language instructor, and either an individual learner or a small group.

We also offer intensive crash courses. These are designed to increase level quickly, and consist of between 40 and 80 hours. And also available are online courses and telephone courses. These courses have proven to be very popular; we think this is due to a limited amount of time that the executives can dedicate to their language training, and also because they often have to have telephone conversations with their peers and colleagues abroad.

**And besides this, you also offer language courses in other countries....**

**XF:** That is correct. We are in contact with different language centres in England, Ireland and the USA. There we have established collaboration agreements which permit us to send our clients to their establishments.

**And looking to the future, what new projects are you working on?**

**XF:** At the moment all our effort is going into creating a digital platform which will contain online courses, some focused on business, and other general courses for all levels.