

Experiences of a non-native English speaking teacher.

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Abstract

The presentation is related to the typical fears non-native English speaking teachers face in the classroom, and how to overcome them. During the session, I talk about how I learnt English and why I became an English teacher. Also, the presentation includes results of a survey carried out on 100 students of advanced level at Escuela Politecnica Nacional in Quito, Ecuador.

Some statistics about English speakers:

- 1.1 billion English speakers
- 380 million native speakers
- 740 million non-native speakers
- 1.5 billion English learners
- 80% of English teachers in non-native English speaking countries are non-NESTs

Common fears of non-NESTs:

- Proficiency
- Accent
- Pronunciation

How to overcome fears:

- Take a proficiency exam
- Embrace your accent
- Work hard on pronunciation
- Get training (TEFL, CELTA, DELTA)

Advantages of the non-NEST:

- Knowledge of the language (grammar)
- Empathy with beginner students
- Become an example of the successful learner
- Anticipate some difficulties students may have
- Teach learning strategies

To become a successful teacher, we must:

- Be respectful
- Organised
- Hardworking
- Good communicator
- Well prepared

Results of a survey carried out on 100 students of advanced level at EPN.

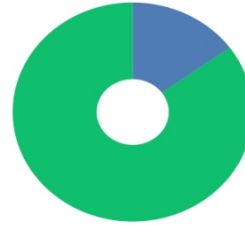
1. What kind of teacher do you prefer?



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■ Native speaker	29%	28
■ Non-native speaker	22%	22
■ Don't care	49%	48

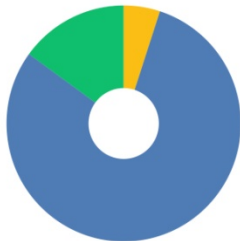
2. Do you think a non-native speaker gives more help to a beginner student?



Skipped: 0 Answered: 100

■ Yes	85%	85
■ No	15%	15

3. Do you feel you learn more from a native speaker?



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■ Always	15%	15
■ Sometimes	80%	80
■ Never	5%	5

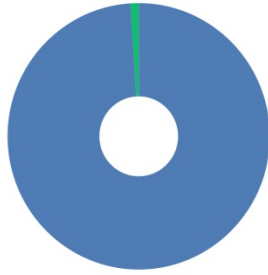
4. Who do you think knows more about grammar?



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■ Native speakers	30%	30
■ Non-native speakers	70%	70

5. What do you think it is more important in an English teacher?



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Nationality	1%	1
Knowledge of the language	99%	99

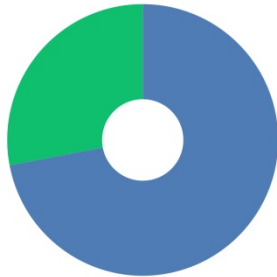
6. Do you think it is better when your teacher can speak your first language?



Skipped: 0 Answered: 100

Yes	63%	63
No	6%	6
It is irrelevant	31%	31

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Non-native English teachers use the language less confidently?"



Skipped: 0 Answered: 100

Agree	28%	28
Disagree	72%	72