



ERGÄNZUNG ZU UNSEREM

# NEWSLETTER



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## A chat with ...

Steven, the new member of the English Team!

### Could you introduce yourself to our newsletter readers?

My name's Steven Trevallion and I'm from a small town near Oxford. I met my wife Julia in Australia and when she began studying here, I came too! Sixteen years later we are married, have two children and live on the Österberg. Aside from teaching, I also work as a football coach and in radio.

### That's quite a mix...

Yes, but communication is at the core of each job. Whether standing in front of a group of players, holding the attention of the listener, or reacting to difficult questions in a classroom, clarity in what you're saying is essential.

### Has anything unexpected happened in a lesson you taught?

I was teaching at the UKT to a group of medical students. A door opened at the back of the room and a nurse came in pushing a wheeled stretcher with a corpse on it. An actual corpse. The whole class looked, then looked straight back at me as if it was the most normal thing in the world. I somehow continued with my explanation without breaking sentence.

### What are you looking forward to about working at the FSZ?

There are so many excellent teachers here. I just hope to do a good job and learn from those around me. I'm really looking forward to seeing the students (even in an online classroom)!

### As you have mentioned your new job has coincided with the Corona outbreak...

The Corona crisis has turned everyone's lives upside down. From a personal point of view, Home Office is not easy with two children at home but I know this situation

is also an opportunity. Digitalisation is now a very real part of teaching.

### What is your motto?

Be kind to animals.

### You have taught in summer language schools, private language centres and even in a school in Kenya...

Yes! Each experience has made me a better teacher. Although the setting changes, the principle stays the same. You have a group of people before you who desperately want to communicate. I am a firm believer that you must enjoy learning a new language if you are to improve. Hard work and occasional laughter is a great recipe for success!

### In your opinion, is speaking essential to mastering a language?

To master a language, of course. For beginners it helps but there will always be some students who do not like talking and they get good grades. In some cultures it is not normal for students to speak but again, they do really well. I hope the students I teach feel comfortable enough to give it a go.

### What's easy and what's difficult about the English language?

Learning English is easier because there is so much English to hear and see. However, pronunciation can be quite difficult as there are often no rules for many words. Baffling I know!

### Is there an English saying you use that Germans do not have?

I am not amused.

### Is there an English saying you use that Germans do not have?

Like playing snooker with a rope. It's probably best not to translate.



Steven

Source: Trevallion