

Title of Session: Mr. Collaboration - Dave Sperling

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

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JeffC: |** Please join Dave Sperling of Dave's ESL Cafe for a Question and Answer session regarding anything and everything in ESL. **|

JeffC: Let me start with introductions. My name is Jeff Cooper, and I volunteer on Helpdesk here. I'll paste in an intro to Dave Sperling, then invite people to type in their own brief intros.

JeffC: Dave Sperling lives in Los Angeles, California with his wife and two children.

JeffLe: and his lovely dog, Albie

JeffC: He is the creator of the well-known ESL/EFL website, Dave's ESL Cafe, as well as the author of 'The Internet Guide for English Language Teachers,' Dave Sperling's Internet Guide,' and Dave Sperling's Internet Activity Workbook.' Dave began his teaching career in Asia in 1985, where he taught several years in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. After returning to the United States, Dave completed his MA in Applied Linguistics at California State University, Northridge in 1995, and began teaching in their Intensive English ESL Program. He runs Dave's ESL Cafe full-time.

BeeD claps in delight at the opportunity of meeting Dave

KeikoSc is totally in awe to meet with Dave

JeffC: The format for today's session is rather informal. Dave is here to take questions and give answers! So... if you would all please type in a brief intro to yourselves... we can start the Q&A session.

Maggi: Hallo everyone. I teach business English freelance in companies in Germany

KeikoSc: Hi! I am Keiko Schneider, ESL teacher in New Mexico, USA and helpdesk here at the festival. I am so happy to meet you, Dave!

MichaelMa: My name is Mike. I'm a video webhead and the Real English guy.

SergeiG joined the room.

HalaH: Hi. Hala, EFL teacher. Sudan, Khartoum

BeeD: I'm Barbara (Bee) Dieu and I teach EFL at the Franco-Brazilian high school in Sao Paulo

ElisaJ: Hi there. I'm a new high school Language Arts teacher in MN

CarolF: My name is Carol. I teach a 2nd grade class with a majority of ELD students in Azusa, CA

JeffLe: Jeff Lebow - Worldbridges guy, webhead, and former teacher of ESL in Korea

SergeiG: Sergei in Minsk, EFL teacher

DaveSp: Nice to meet everyone!

DaveSp: And I already know Jeff L!

JeffLe: Nice to cyberly see you again Dave.

JeffLe: Do give my best to Albie

DaveSp: And the same to you, Jeff.

JeffLe: ...and the rest of the family, of course

DaveSp: Albie is right next to me, but cannot type!

BeeD: o O (when I started online in 1997 David's mail announcing the cafe was one of the first I got)

HalaH: First question: We do have some teachers ,volunteers who come to Sudan, having TEFL diploma and they are not competent at all, though they are native speakers of the language. The last one mentioned your web site for my members of staff for good resources for teachers. My question: Is it the diploma, or their not being specialized in ELT?

DaveSp: Hala: Do you mean which areas of my site are good for teachers?

DaveSp: Or you questioning the quality of the TEFL training?

HalaH: The last question

HalaH: not your site

MichaelMa: Dave, we all think of your site as an EFL reference point on the web - probably number one in the field. How do you explain your phenomenal success? You

began very early in the 90s didn't you? I think I first visited your site almost 10 years ago...

DaveSp: Well, there are many, many TEFL certificate programs, so it's important for teachers to find one with high standards and quality ... i.e. CELTA

HalaH: Too expensive

DaveSp: Michael: Yes, I started the site in 1995, so it's been about a decade.

Maggi: you get what you pay for

CarolF: You all seem familiar with Dave's site. What can you recommend for a newbie?

DaveSp: Michael: To explain its success? Well, I guess I would say it's because I've persevered and kept to site going day by day, month by month, year by year.

MichaelMa: I remember that in 1995 - 1996 - it seemed like the only HUMAN esl efl site

SergeiG: Dave's site!

BeeD: It is nice to surf and discover the hidden treasures

HalaH: The link please

HalaH: for the newbie

CarolF: Thank you!

MichaelMa: Back then we had grammar sites, and we had Dave's ESL café...

JeffC: Dave's site: <http://www.eslcafe.com/>

MichaelMa: It was easy to make a choice!

DaveSp: Carol: I suggest going to the Internet TEFL Journal's collection of links ... excellent for a new user.

HalaH: www.searchenglish/britishcouncil.org

DaveSp: Michael: well, I guess you can say that there is a human side to my site because I'm the one doing the work each day.

HalaH: Is this you Dave? on your site?

JeffC: TEFL Journal Collection of Links: <http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Reading/>

MichaelMa: It's not only that - you began with photos of your students - things that are common today but almost revolutionary in 1995

DaveSp: The Internet TESL Journal is at: <http://iteslj.org/links/>

DaveSp: Michael: Yes, that's true...

DaveSp: though it didn't seem like revolutionary at the time.

DaveSp: Hala: yes, that's me!

DaveSp: Hala: and my favorite area is my photo gallery at: www.pbases.com/DaveSperling

MichaelMa: Great photos - have already been there several times

DaveSp: Thanks, Michael. The photo gallery is my hobby, as well as a way to give a more human element to the website.

ElisaJ: Dave, I really like your idea cookbook--especially for a language arts teacher with a wide variety of student abilities and needs

DaveSp: Thanks, Elisa ... it's also one of my favorite areas, and one that I used a lot when I taught ESL.

HalaH: wow, it is beautiful

DaveSp: Thank you, Hala!

HalaH: It feels like you have added a human factor to the gallery too, Dave

ElisaJ: I will be teaching a low-level reading class with some ESL students, and I'm determined to make grammar interesting. Any words of wisdom?

DaveSp: But like everything, the site has just evolved for the past 10 years.

DaveSp: Elisa: I've been out of the classroom since 1999, but I always used grammar games to make it fun.

DaveSp: I have some at: <http://www.eslcafe.com/ideas/sefer.cgi?Games>

SergeiG: Dave, what's your fav warm- up exercise?

ElisaJ: Did you find it difficult to encourage the non-native speakers to participate when there were native speaking students playing, as well?

DaveSp: Sergei: Well, I often started my classes by telling my students about my weekend, and then finding out about theirs.

DaveSp: Elisa: My classes were all non-native speakers, so I didn't have that problem.

HalaH: So what do you do if you have left teaching a decade ago?

ElisaJ: Thanks! What a great site!

DaveSp: Sergei: I also used a lot of games, but they tended to be at the end of the lesson.

SergeiG: like what?

DaveSp: Hala: I run my website full-time.

DaveSp: And I'm a full-time dad!

KeikoSc: Good for you! I am glad to hear that!

Maggi: kewl

KeikoSc: Especially about running the site, but also about Dad

HalaH: Great. I envy you, and your kids for having a full time dad

KeikoSc smiles

DaveSp: Thanks!

DaveSp: Well, my kids see a lot of me ... maybe too much!

DaveSp: Actually we just came back from a trip to San Francisco yesterday, and in two weeks I'll take my son to Thailand.

CarolF: From a previous stay-at home mom, it is worth it!

Maggi wonders if Dave bakes, too

DaveSp: Not quite, though I make a heck of a good waffle for breakfast!

HalaH Hala wonders if she can have a husband like Dave

Maggi: lol

HalaH: bakes or no

HalaH: 2lols.

CarolF: Dave, can you recommend some strategies for teaching math to ELD students?

DaveSp: Carol: Yes, I'm lucky because I work out of my home, so I'm able to spend a lot of time with my children. I didn't get this when I was growing up.

DaveSp: Carol: I've never taught math, but you can find a few ideas at:

<http://www.eslcafe.com/ideas/sefer.cgi?Math>

CarolF: Thank you. I find my ELD students get lost easily.

Maggi. o O (www.mathforum.org)

KeikoSc: Carol, TI has math discussion groups, too. You may want to participate in poster session.

DaveSp: Carol: Yes, I can imagine.

CarolF: Keiko: I am new to Tapped in. What is poster session?

DaveSp: For math, I also found: <http://oneweb.utc.edu/~deborah-mcallister/eslmath.html>

DaveSp: Feel free to ask any questions!

HalaH: Some times I can not use some good lesson plans due to the large classes we have

Maggi: when students ask about vocabulary what do you recommend?

HalaH: How many hours do you stay in front of the keyboard?

DaveSp: Maggi: I try to encourage to try to learn as many words as possible each day carry a notebook and jot down words from movies, tv, conversations, etc.

Maggi: good

DaveSp: Hala: I'm usually online about 4-5 hours per day.

DaveSp: Maggi: This is what I did when I studied Japanese and Thai.

Maggi. o O (beats Dave's record)

KeikoSc smiles at Dave

DaveSp: Actually I try to spend as little time as possible online ... I just do my work and get off. Life is waiting! Not to mention the new Harry Potter book!

SergeiG: Have you ever worked with absolute beginners? what did you start with? abc? pronunciation? Grammar? Listening? what is your first lesson like?

Maggi: yes indeed

DaveSp: Sergi: Yes, I taught the very basics: colors, numbers, days of the week, months, greetings, etc.

DaveSp: Sergi: In some ways it was easier because I knew that there were specific basics that had to be taught.

SergeiG: like what?

HalaH: I have to go now. Thank you Dave. It has been great to meet the Dave's himself online and hear him "talking".

DaveSp: Nice to meet you, Hala. One of these days I would like to visit the Sudan.

DaveSp: Where do you teach, Sergi?

SergeiG: In teach in Minsk, Belarus

DaveSp: Sergi: Are most of your students absolute beginners?

HalaH: You are welcome anytime. You will find me at the Webheads in Action prtal. Ask anyone there, and you will be led to me

HalaH: lol

DaveSp: Thanks, Hala.

SergeiG: nope, but some of them are

HalaH: Sudan is entering a new era of peace.

Maggi hugs Hala bye

HalaH: bye all, I have a break

MichaelMa: Thanks for your time, Dave, et bonne continuation.

DaveSp: Thank you for attending, Michael.

MichaelMa: Bye All.

SergeiG: yes, thank you, Dave!

DaveSp: My pleasure, Sergi.

Maggi cheers

DaveSp: Thanks for the cheer, Maggi ... heard all the way to Los Angeles!

Maggi: thank you for being accessible

KeikoSc: I can't thank you enough you do for general public, Dave.

KeikoSc deeply bows

DaveSp: Maggi: my pleasure ... I always enjoy meeting new people.

Maggi . o O (pretty loud cheer)

DaveSp: I'm happy to help, Keiko.

KeikoSc claps loudly

SergeiG <clap, clap clap>

DaveSp: Keiko: and thanks for the bow and the clapping ... it's very good medicine for my ego!

Maggi: yes, that makes the world turn better

KeikoSc: I hope you all enjoy the rest of the festival.

SergeiG: right

DavidWe: Welcome, Dave!

KeikoSc grins to Dave. I am Japanese after all, you know.

DaveSp: Thank you. I'm going now for a swim, and then to a movie with my son.

KeikoSc: Good for you! Stay out of the heat!

KeikoSc waves to all

DaveSp: I'll be back online later today.

DavidWe: Take care, Dave

DaveSp: Be well, David ...

DavidWe: Thanks

SergeiG: Dave, keep on going with Dave's Cafe!

DaveSp: I really enjoyed chatting with everyone today, and thanks for all of your questions.

Maggi . o O (it's his baby)

DaveSp: Bye everyone!

Maggi: .waves bye

SergeiG: Bye, bye!