

How to learn something new?

When you want to learn to play football you find yourself a ball and start playing. If you want to become really good you find yourself a coach to help you along with good advice and the fine points of the game.



That is just exactly how learning a new language is. You need a "ground" where to practice using the language and a coach who can help along the development of the language. An educational course combining an academic subject with the teaching of language is exactly such a "ground".

The language must be used.

You learn a language to be able to communicate by means of it. You learn a language by using it. Pupils should not be afraid to have a go. They must use the words and phrases they already know, and they can ask about the things they have not learned yet. If in an English CLIL project it is the pupils themselves who say "How do you say..." then they will remember the answer. They learn the language while using it - and use the language while learning it.

When the pupils learn a language at the same time as they are learning e.g. natural science the facts of the subject support their memory and help them remember both the facts and their linguistic skills.



But what about those, who do not find languages easy?

Will pupils learn what they have to learn in a subject if it is taught in a foreign language? The short answer is: Yes, they will - and in the long run they will actually often learn more.

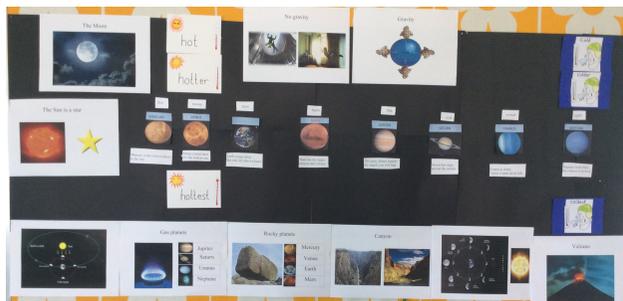


When classes are taught in a foreign language teachers are demanded to use many ways of teaching to make sure that pupils understand everything. Pupils are active in the process all the time and use the foreign language to communicate with both each other and their teacher about the subject they are working on.

Pupils experience that what they are doing is meaningful to them, and that they are succeeding in using what they have learned.

What is CLIL?

CLIL is short for Content Language Integrated Learning and is a way of teaching that combines the teaching of different academic subjects with the teaching of foreign languages.



That means that a course of CLIL teaching gives pupils the possibility of learning both an academic subject and becoming better at a foreign language. If e.g. You are dealing with a subject like air in natural science then pupils will learn both what air is, and how a tornado comes into existence, while at the same time extending their vocabulary or learning a specific sentence structure e.g. asking a question.

You can find additional information about the CLIL method at:

www.languages.dk/clil4u



Link to the CLIL4U videos



Link to an article by David Marsh



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CLIL

When language
and content walk
hand in hand

