

AUTHENTIC LEARNING MATERIALS FOR DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

The obvious necessity and importance of soft skills for successful navigation in the modern professional environment accelerate the search for adequate tools that foster students' mastery of those skills. Maritime English teaching, based on communicative approach, has a wide range of opportunities for the effective implementation of such learning content. As recommended by the IMO Model Course 3.17, it encourages an ample use of discussions, debates, argumentation, and analysis, all of which are more meaningful when based on real-life sources.

The present paper aims to share practical experience in using authentic learning materials for developing soft skills. The authors consider that it is important for the teachers to understand that the authentic texts used (printed, audio or video) should reflect certain crew member relationships on board ship, that they are aware of soft skills peculiarities, and proficient in analysing selected materials. Those include official maritime accident reports, ship logs, descriptive texts, videos of real-life procedures, seafarers' interviews, and video blogs, which help expose students to possible situations in the real world of their future work. Thus, authentic learning materials can be used to involve students in language mastery, promote their collaboration, and create a more efficient learning environment to hone soft skills, which help build better relationships and accomplish shared tasks.

KEYWORDS:

soft skills, authentic learning materials, Maritime English