

CLIL-CONTENT AND LANGUAGE INTEGRATED LEARNING

INTRODUCTION

What does CLIL stand for and encompass?

CLIL stands for Content and Language Integrated Learning. This means studying another subject (for example, science, history, or literature) and learning a language, such as English, at the same time — integrating the two subjects. The definition is broad because the integration can happen in many different ways.

Professor Do Coyle, who together with education researcher and author Dr. David Marsh coined the term CLIL, explains, "[T]here isn't just one model. ... It can be a theme. It can be principles. You can spend a lot of time on this or a short time on this. But the fundamental principle of CLIL is that there is an integration between using language to learn and learning to use language through the development of content." In this article, we'll explore what exactly that means and, in particular, how it's used in English language teaching.

What are the origins of CLIL, and where is this method gaining popularity? Although the term "CLIL" is modern, the technique is as old as learning itself. Any time someone learned about something else — engineering, art, cooking — while they learned and practiced a foreign language, they were using CLIL, even if they didn't realize it!

The approach became more formalized in the 1960s, in language immersion programs in Canada and with Languages Across the Curriculum (LAC) programs and Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) programs in the UK and the US. Many of these classes involved native English speakers studying a subject in a foreign language and included study-abroad programs.

David Marsh and Do Coyle came up with the term CLIL in the mid-1990s, at a time when governments, schools, and individuals were all starting to realize the importance of knowing more than one language. The movement was especially strong in Europe, and it's growing around the world in response to globalization.

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essment and Feedback in CLIL sentations of CLIL novate your classroom, Conclusions & Evaluations

OUTCOMES

- What are the benefits of CLIL? What kind of results does it provide to learners?
- If CLIL takes extra training and effort on the part of the teacher, why should they adopt this approach?
- The short answer is because it provides so many benefits to the students.
- As students become proficient in two languages, they gain social and cognitive advantages. Studies have shown that bilingual people are, on the whole, more flexible, better problem solvers, and better communicators. In addition, learning a second language can improve a person's memory and even protect against the effects of aging on the brain.
- Other benefits include a deeper understanding of the target language, mastery of a subject, improved social and critical thinking skills, and even a stronger, more flexible brain. With all of these advantages to students, why not see if you can incorporate some CLIL principles and practices into your own teaching?
- Learn concrete strategies to put complex CLIL theory into practice within your school.
- Go beyond a surface knowledge of CLIL buzzwords to gain a holistic understanding of this innovative method.
- Become a part of the global movement toward CLIL implementation in bilingual education.
- Meet required educational standards by efficiently developing and implementing institution-wide CLIL methodology.
- Set your school apart with accredited CLIL teacher training, including best practices and adoption.
- Collaborate with bilingual educators around the world to share ideas.

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