



tutor profile

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It was all my Dad's fault – the reason I became a languages teacher. When I was little, he sometimes used to talk to my older sister in French. I was dying to know what he said. Then, when he really wanted to tease us, he would talk to my oldest sister in German. Guess which two foreign languages I learned? Thanks, Dad.

I grew up in the north of England in the well-known seaside resort of Blackpool, which I loved. I enjoyed languages at school, (even the short stint of Latin!) and went on to train as a French teacher. By the way, the first time I went to France was when I was doing my teacher training, so if you have not yet been there either, you can still pass your exams, as I have proved.

Further study led to a B.Ed Honours degree, as well as a maths qualification, one in IT and another in Business Studies. I also did a garden design course – I just get a kick out of studying and I hope you do, too. As for teaching, I have taught the whole age range, from primary to adult, and the whole ability range from holiday French to Oxford entrance. However, most of my teaching has been in schools and colleges in the north of England.

As well as teaching from GCSE and IGCSE to A level, which I now do as a

private tutor, I am an 'A' and 'AS' level examiner for French. Every spring, I travel around the country conducting oral exams, then spend the next month or two marking written papers. I love going to different places and interacting with the wide range of students I meet. Some of those A level students keep me on my toes, especially when I get a native French speaker!

Away from work, you will find me either in my garden, out watching birds or at my local amateur dramatic society. I act, direct and (try to) write and am very lucky to be in an excellent group in Bristol which likes to put on all kinds of plays. I have been nominated twice now for my acting, which was a great thrill ... but the writing? I'm working on it.

Being able to speak a foreign language opens so many doors. Reading the subtitles at the cinema just isn't the same as following what the actors are saying. And reading a book or a poem by looking at the words the writer chose makes all the difference to one's enjoyment. Of course, speaking to someone in their own language is just the best. I wish you every success with your studies and look forward to being able to help. All because of my Dad.