

# WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

## Goodbye to ECP as we know it

After 13 great years, hundreds of wonderful students and many comings and goings, it's finally time to say goodbye to English Coaching Projects as we know it.



Photo by Bobby Johnson on Unsplash

**Many moons ago**, John, Rob, Pablo and I got together to form English Coaching Projects S.Coop. Rob's partner, Maite, joined us to help set up the company.

After a short time, Pablo decided that he wanted to take his family back to Canada, so he left ECP, only to return to Vitoria the following year.

Then there was a period of intense activity for the company. Rob and I went on a finance course, where we were put in contact with Paco, who looked after our money for many years. Aleksandra also joined us, helping to expand the numbers.

One of the biggest and best changes to the company then came when Ali decided to join us. Her incredible organisational skills as well as her talent for languages made her the perfect fit for ECP.

When Paco left to go onto **bigger and brighter things**, Ali took control of the administration, and we got yet another **boost** when Darren

Lynch helped to raise our numbers to seven members. His enthusiasm for teaching, as well as his knowledge of sports coaching helped to grow our reputation as one of the finest English schools in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

We put on many events, such as our 'FRED' Talks, Coffee Saturdays, Cinema Nights and Pintxo competitions, always free for anyone who wanted to come. Sometimes we had over 50 people attending our social gatherings at the place we knew as 'the **Hub**'.

Times changed, and Rob—the **soul** of the company—left to pursue a career on his own, and this was the **coup de grâce** for our wonderful little company. So many of the essential tasks in the company were done by Rob, so it felt very difficult to continue without him.

Then, last year, Ali, myself and Darren decided that we would also leave the co-op, whereas John maintained his principle to keep the **ethos** of ECP going.

It's **with a heavy heart** that I leave a company which I helped to build, and I write this with **tears** rolling down my face. I have had so many fantastic moments with students, coaches and friends. It will be very hard for me to continue without ECP, and for ECP to continue without us, but let me say this: Thank you all so very much for being part of our lives for so long, thank you for being part of our family, and thank you for supporting English Coaching Projects. ¡**Adiós!**



Written by **former** ECP coach  
**Darren 'Kez' Kurien**

## Word list

**many moons ago:** a long time ago

**bigger and brighter things:** to get a better job or improve your life in some way

**boost:** an increase or improvement

**hub:** the centre of an activity, region or network

**soul:** the essence or embodiment of a being

**coup de grâce:** a final action finishing a deteriorating situation (French/English)

**ethos:** the characteristic spirit of a culture

**with a heavy heart:** with sadness

**tears:** drops of clear salty liquid secreted from someone's eye

**Adiós:** Goodbye (from Spanish, but used in English)

**former:** previous, ex-

## Let's chat about that!

1. What was your favourite thing about ECP? Tell us.
2. Will you miss us? Why (not 🤔)?
3. Is it easy to leave a job that you love? Describe how you would feel.
4. How would you describe a co-operative? Is it different to a 'normal' company?
5. Will you continue studying with ECP? Why (not)?
6. Which is the best English school in Vitoria? Why?

## Foreign words used in English

'Clever' people love to use foreign words when they speak to show others that they're clever!

Here are 20 examples of words which we use in English which come from other languages:

- **avant-garde:** new and experimental ideas in art, music or literature (from French)
- **bona fide:** genuine, real (from Latin)
- **déjà vu:** the feeling of already having experienced the present situation (from French)
- **quid pro quo:** a favour given in return for something (from Latin)
- **Schadenfreude:** pleasure received from someone else's misfortune (from German)
- **Doppelgänger:** someone who looks like someone else; a double (from German)
- **pyjamas:** a loose-fitting jacket and trousers for sleeping in (from Urdu [Indian])
- **bungalow:** a low house having only one floor (from Hindi [Indian])
- **hygge:** a quality of comfortable conviviality/cosiness giving a feeling of contentment (Danish)
- **smörgåsbord:** a range of open sandwiches or delicacies served as a buffet (from Swedish)
- **hoosegow:** (my favourite word!) prison (from Spanish - juzgado)
- **savoir-faire:** the ability to act or speak appropriately in social situations (from French)
- **siesta:** an afternoon nap taken at the hottest part of the day in a hot climate (from Spanish)
- **fiesta:** a (religious) festival (from Spanish)
- **hola:** hello (from Spanish)
- **ciao:** hello or goodbye (from Italian 'schiavo' - I am your slave 🙏)
- **Gesundheit:** used to wish good health to someone who has just sneezed (from German)
- **sushi:** dish of small balls or rolls of rice with vegetables, egg or raw seafood (from Japanese)
- **vamoose:** to depart in a hurry (from Spanish 'vamos')
- **spaghetti:** pasta made in solid strings (from Italian)

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