



## For teachers

### Authentic communication: forum & chat

The language learning programme “English for Glass Professionals” aims at finding communicative partners in Europe and worldwide, with which the apprentices can virtually talk about glass arts & crafts, about glass designing techniques, about their journeyman’s pieces, about current trends in glass... Two ways of virtual communication are known: talking via chat at the same time and talking to each other at different times via forum. Both ways have their good effects and should be used. In our programme we use the technique of our learning platform TEAMLEARN. With this software we can also do a video-conference and application sharing.

### asynchronous communication: forum

- Use the forum to encourage students to write in a foreign language. Perhaps you let them choose their topic freely. If they want to talk about the soccer world cup, let them. If they want to talk about music or the latest fashion trends, that’s good. That’s what the forum can provide: a playful way to get accustomed to write in English.
- When your students are used to writing in English in the forum, create tasks where they have to post a comment in the forum concerning a specific topic, and where they have to comment on each other’s posts. Include these in the assessment of your students.

### synchronous communication: chat

- Different learning aims are connected to the chat: In creating a communicative situation where people talk to each other at the same time, authenticity is the keyword, the more so, when students of different schools are involved.
- Especially in educational situations as our vocational apprenticeship, where students come for some weeks into school and work for some weeks in companies, chats are a welcome tool for talking about learning problems while being away from school.
- Mind that your students know how to behave properly in both communicative forms: Let them check the “chatiquette” for instance. URL: <http://www.chatiquette.de>.

