



THE CALLAN METHOD EXPLAINED

The Callan Method is a fast, fun, and fantastic spoken method of learning English, unlike any methods you have ever done or experienced before.

It is based on question/answer format and these three elements: 1. REPETITION, 2. FEED and 3. CORRECTION, and it's divided into two 50 min classes: REVISION and NEW WORK. 85% of the lesson is SPEAKING, with 15% of READING and WRITING (DICTATION). LISTENING is 100% 😊.

As many of you will agree, we all learnt how to speak our native languages through listening, as kids, before school. Our parents, great parents, cousins etc, would say the word/phrase and we would repeat it as many times as it was needed until it became our second nature (the rules and grammar came later). The Callan Method simply follows the same philosophy. The teacher will ask you each question twice (in case you haven't quite heard or understood the question first time it's been asked), randomly pick a student (as to keep you concentrated and on your toes at all times), and kickstart the answer for the student by saying first two or three words of it, that is, PROMPTING the student in to answering. The student then repeats those words, after which they say the rest of the answer (in FULL SENTENCE) together with the teacher, that is, the teacher answers along with the student, also known as FEED. Note that there are NO PAUSES between asking questions-prompt-answering.

Now, the reason this method is fast (and there are no pauses during the process) is so that the student is fully and entirely focused on what the teacher is saying and do not have time to think about anything else, such as: What else do I need to get from the shop, apart from bread? What time the kids come back from school today? What did he think when he said: 'I have a surprise for you?', etc, but English. Do not overthink, that is, the less you think the better you learn! The teacher is (in) the centre of your universe during the lesson 😊, and the speed is much needed so as to avoid the students wondering off, as they often do when taught traditional methods, or even worse: START TRANSLATING. The latter should be avoided at all cost, as when you start translating the fluency is gone, that is, more often than not, you leave/escape the 'English room?', run to/hide into the 'Mother's Tongue', and then it's hard to get back (you feel 'falsely safe' in your Mother's Tongue room and are reluctant to leave again).

The three key elements, mentioned earlier, are important for the following reasons:

- REPETITION – as the famous slogan reads: 'Repetition is the mother of knowledge', each next REV class (and first 15 – 20 min of NW class) the students repeat/revise what they've done in previous lessons and only after that start with NW. By doing so, you learn and remember words, expressions, grammar, and word order much more efficiently, that is quicker and long lastingly.

- FEED – teachers answering together with the students can raise some eyebrows of suspicion and question marks, but the reason we do that is so that the students feel SUPPORTED. Think of me as your personal jogging trainer: I will never outrun you and leave you behind to catch up with me, and I, also, will never just stop, and let you run on your own, looking over your shoulder for me. NO! I will always jog/run right beside you making sure you feel safe, recognized, acknowledged, and supported.
- CORRECTION – one of the reasons the students speak ‘bad English’ and make the same mistakes, again and again, is due to not being corrected enough (or in many cases, at all). To avoid that, during the feeding process the teacher will correct EVERY mistake you make by imitation (e.g. ‘not deez’; ‘this’ , ‘not I tomorrow will go’; ‘I will go tomorrow’ etc), making sure you pronounce the words correctly, say them in the right order and grammar structure.

Speaking of MISTAKES, the golden rule of Callan is to speak and make mistakes rather than not to speak because of being afraid of making mistakes. The teachers love mistakes and without them there isn’t much for them to do. In addition, you don’t learn. Remember: if you don’t make mistakes, you don’t learn.

So, get into the Callan car, make yourself comfortable in the passenger’s seat, do not overthink things (‘Shall we turn left, or right?’, ‘Where’s the traffic light’, ‘Where’s this road going’ etc), empty your brain, let English in, sit back, relax, watch the landscape, and enjoy the ride your teacher (the driver) is taking you on. Remember: the end/goal/finishing line is not important, it’s all about the process and being right here right now.’

The End 😊

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