

Business English student's weaknesses in listening and strategies to increase their confidence. Preliminary research findings resulting from a Neurosensory stimulation Project developed at the UPV- Language Centre & Faculty of Business.

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The creation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) has evidenced the need for the development of language policies at all European universities. The Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), given the importance of the use of foreign languages in the professional career of its graduates, requires that they master a foreign language once they complete their university studies. Internationalization is one of the UPVs priorities. To this end, all the Degrees include a B2 English subject to help students achieve the specified level. In addition, undergraduates may sit the CertACLES [2] exams, which are proficiency exams developed by the Language Centre of the UPV, in accordance with the model developed by the Spanish Association of Language Centres in Higher Education. In this paper, we as teachers of Business English at the UPV Business Administration Faculty (FADE), have observed our undergraduates' difficulties to improve speaking skills in one of the FADE degrees in business management. FADE students see their particular urgency to develop better speaking skills, intensified before graduation. The authors will present preliminary research findings resulting from Business English student's performance observation. Their weaknesses in listening and the challenge of increasing their confidence will be the main points to examine. Data about how crucial it is to improve listening skills will be provided in order to explain the extent to which strengthening our students' use of spoken English depends on helping them improve their listening skills. The solid framework needed to achieve the specified objective was developed as part of a research project between January and September 2016.

Keywords: ACLES, CertAcles, Listening performance, strengthening speaking skills, Business English, Placement test.