

# ELP Teachers' Perceptions About Teaching Reading

## 1 A SNAPSHOT OF ELP TEACHERS IN FRANCE

9

universities  
across France

11

average years of  
teaching experience

26

questionnaire  
respondents

7

in-depth  
interviews

20/26 teachers focus on text structure  $\geq 2x$  per semester

6 out of 7 teachers interviewed were **self-trained in ELP** – practices developed on the job, with wide variation across courses and institutions.

## 2 HOW DO ELP TEACHERS PERCEIVE TEACHING READING?

### READING SEEN AS LESS IMPORTANT

Reading tends to be ranked below speaking & writing in ELP course design.

*"Reading comprehension is not something you can really teach."*

An assumption transmitted across generations – with no empirical grounding.

“

*If you don't understand how things fit together chronologically, you can make mistakes in understanding the procedure - and not understand why the decision went the way it did.*

– ELP teacher interview respondent

### CURRENT PRACTICE

Bottom-up: from vocabulary & grammar to larger units of discourse



### DATA-SUPPORTED DIRECTION

Top-down: starting from text structure to better support reading comprehension

## 3 STRATEGIES & RESOURCES USED IN PRACTICE

Mean frequency of use per semester (1 = never → 5 = more than 5 times)

### STRATEGIES

Vocabulary lists		3.12
Grammar exercises		3.08
Scanning		3.08
Skimming		2.77

### RESOURCES

Authentic legal docs (e.g. SCOTUS decisions)		4.19
Legal dictionaries		3.19
Textbooks: legal English		2.81
Textbooks: general English		1.64

## 4 3 APPROACHES TO CASE LAW IN ELP

### 1 Case theme

The theme of a landmark case is used as a stepping stone to speaking or writing tasks. Press articles or multimedia materials support the lesson.

**Goal:** Understand societal issues – express and debate opinions

### 2 Translation

Extracts of court decisions are used for language work and translation. Students locate the holding and key vocabulary before translating.

**Goal:** Translate keeping the cultural and legal context of the target language

### 3 Full reading

Decisions are read for comprehension and analysis. Students identify arguments, references to precedent, and the court's reasoning.

**Goal:** Understand legal reasoning – produce an informed written or oral response