



English via Youtube – Steven Huitorel

Steven I created a YouTube channel two years ago so I make videos. Each video is covering a special topic on th... in the English language and I use these videos to help my students improve. So if they don't get a point in class they can always go to the YouTube channel and watch the video.

Rob You teach in a school and you also teach online?

Steven That's right. I, I, I'm an actual teacher in Broons in a college. This is my job and I also teach on YouTube. I use those videos in class and those videos are used by many other people.

Rob You have quite a following?

Steven Well, yes ah we reached the twenty thousand followers which is really nice and the videos have been viewed more than a million times now so it's, it's, it's amazing, really I'm happy about this.

Rob Where did this idea come from?

Steven Well, it started with a pretty sad thing. I was concerned about the fact that many of my students failed in English. I had students who were doing English for a few years and they, they were not engaged. I felt responsible for this and I couldn't help them enough because I only had my students three hours a week which is obviously not enough to improve. The only thing I could tell them was to read their notebooks from last year which is not a solution because when, when a kid drops out he doesn't keep his notebook anyway. So that was useless so I thought I had to create a tool that could be used by my students but something really efficient. And one day my car battery died and I was tempted to call the, the garage and have them come and fix the whole thing but I thought I could do that myself. I ha.. I had no clue about mechanics so I went on YouTube and I found a tutorial and there was this bloke with his phone trying to show them actually how to do it and like 'oh I can do it' so I went to the store and I bought the, the battery and I just changed it the way he showed. After this experience I, I was really glad I could do that and felt really, em...

Rob ...Empowered?

Steven Yes, self empowered – I was sort of relieved I could learn something by myself and with the help of someone else I didn't know and I thought if I can do this I could as well try and do my, my own thing with the English language. This is something I can do – I know I can do it, so if I can do it in class I could very well do it on the Internet. So I just, um, started my project.

Rob These short videos- they are like your classes at all or..?

Steven Those YouTube videos offer me a little bit more freedom than I have at school because I can do, really I can do whatever I want. If I want to dress up which I do, if I want to make jokes I'm free to do whatever I want – not that I'm not joking in class – I a... I am but it's a really creative process and that's what I like.

Rob This has been going for a couple of years now?

Steven Yes, two years now

Rob And what kind of subjects do you cover?

Steven Any sort of subjects related to the English language. It could be a little bit of grammar. It could be pronunciation. It could be everyday life, like ordering food in a restaurant, like going to the doctors, telling the time, conversation tips, vocabulary. Anything that is related to the English language.

Rob How do people find you on the YouTube?

Steven Ok, the name of the project is 'les tutos de Huito' . It's a weird name, I know. Le Tutos is a short name for tutorial, obviously, and 'Huito' is the first five letters of my name HUITO- but, uh, yeah, you can just go on YouTube or Google or whatever you like and type 'tutohuito' and its easy to find..

Rob And how many have you done so far?

Steven I don't know. I haven't counted. Probably fifty, fifty videos. I try to keep a good rhythm - a video every two weeks

Rob It's a lot of work to do one of these?

Steven Yeah, it takes me about ten hours to make a video that will eventually last ten minutes. I do everything – it's a DIY project. I do it on my own in my office at home. It's a very small room and I record myself. I do all the editing part and then I upload it on, on YouTube.

Rob What kind of reaction do you get from your pupils in class?

Steven They really like it- I mean they, uh, they are proud, I think – most of them are proud. Some of them just don't pay attention. That's, that's a fact, I know it. It's just a tool that I offer them.

Rob Do you see results?

Steven Yeah, I see results in terms of confidence. Some kids lack confidence and they are pretty sure that they wont succeed but the videos tend to show them that if you take ten minutes to watch the videos then you can just learn something by yourself and feel more adequate- feel more confident in class. So yeah, I have seen students improve a lot.

Rob Looking at the Website of the College you're at which is Jean Monnet I saw that your class were singing a cup song. What's that about?

Steven Well, that's a project I did with my Troisième. There was at the time 106 students and I wanted to get them involved in a collective experience in which we would use music as a, a, a way to learn English. I originally saw a video on YouTube again. It was a project made by, um, a teacher in Ireland who used the Cup Song which is a song taken from a Hollywood film and there is some sort of rhythm with a cup involved. So there is a percussion that students do with a cup and they sing along. But they did that in Ireland in Gaelic and when I saw that video that was amazing – it, it hit like millions of views I was absol..... I fell in love with the song and with the concept and I thought I could as well do it in English so we worked with our students. We taught them the song. We taught them how to do the percussion with the cups and one thing which is really important is that the music is actually played by the students themselves and so they sing they do the percussion and three or four students are playing. So we, we shot the video. We uploaded it on YouTube. After a few months it got thousands, hundreds of thousands of views. It's now been seen in more that a hundred countries so it's, it's, it really took off. It went viral and the media were also interested in it and for the kids it was a great experience because they understood that a very small project in a small school can get attention and can grow into a really collective experience and English language is part of it.

Rob And for our listeners who might want to access this- how do they find it?

Steven I think if you type – ‘Cup Song, Jean Monnet Broons’ on YouTube you will find it.

Rob And it’s all in English

Steven It’s all in English – Yeah

Rob Brilliant! Well, I think your enthusiasm for the language must be infectious..

Steven I hope so – I would lie to you if I said to you that all my students are really motivated and engaged- Its not the case but I’m trying my best to show them that the English language is a language of communication. Its not that hard and everybody can do it – I did it so everybody can do it.

Rob Steven Huitero!, thank you very much indeed for your time.

Steven – your welcome. Thank you so much.

