

## A selection of testimonials from recent 2-day phonics courses

*"I have been amazed at what we have covered in 2 days. I came not really knowing what to expect but it has been way beyond anything I could have imagined!*

*Having done this course, I feel I can't wait to get started!*

*I am also really keen to hear about how it develops in other schools, different set ups. It's even made me want to go back into the classroom!*

*I loved the small, intimate scale of the group and feel that this has made a big difference. Having been to a large training a few years ago, to another writing course, in a hall with about 200 people, this is so much better!*

*It allows for interaction, questioning, sharing thoughts. This has also been enabled by Debbie and Abi's approach to presentation too.*

*Many, many thanks for 2 wonderful days. I feel quite privileged to have taken part.*

*I could write more and more!*

*Thank you for your patience too!!!*



Private Tutor (Previously KS2 teacher), England

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*"This course has given me useful knowledge, skills and tips on how to set-up and run the phonics programme in my school.*

*It has given me confidence and self-belief in myself that it is something that I can do and do very well.*

*Before this course I read a lot about various phonics programmes – some overwhelmed me, some confused me but I am very happy that I attended this particular course and I will be a good ambassador.*

*It was a very intensive course and a few more five minute breaks would be appreciated.*

*Thanks very much for inspiring me and I hope to depend on your support as I launch into this project.*



Primary School owner, Nigeria

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*"What an incredible two days!!*

*I can't recommend this course highly enough. It was delivered with passion, integrity and impressive knowledge.*

*Debbie and Abi provided a clear structure for how to teach a complex topic.*

*The resources given were amazing too.*

*Debbie made us all feel very welcome and very much provided a safe, supportive and friendly learning environment.*

*A really inspiring and informative two days – a great way to begin the academic year!*

*Thank you.*



Sixth Form English teacher, level 1 & 2, England

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*“Thank you for 2 very informative and enjoyable days. I feel I am taking away lots of great new ideas and more importantly a renewed excitement for teaching phonics and leading it in my school.*

*I have no doubt that I will have many more questions along the way – it’s great to know you’re on the other end of an email.*

*Thanks again.”*

*Year 1 teacher, Infant Leader, England*

*“It has been great being part of this program. Frankly speaking, there is nothing like “I have been taught” as far as Debbie’s lectures are concerned because I get new things in any slide that you introduce.*

*I am pretty sure if I introduce what you taught – the golden nuggets, I will really be a master in my teaching of phonics. I promise I will keep a record and pictures of what I am going to do and send to you for assessment.*

*Thank you very much for the enlightening of phonics. Without your synthetic phonics programme I would not know what my kids and the kids in Asempah Junior College would have been. God bless you.*



*Academic Head, Ghana (second attendance at the training – synthetic phonics is already launched at the college!)*

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*“Debbie and Abi:*

*Very happy with the course! I feel I have the tools to get started and access what I need as I go.*

*My questions, as well as others, were addressed with respect and consideration throughout the 2-day period – thank you.*

*I particularly found the background helpful as a base, and the examples of lessons very helpful.*

*Repeating terms and key points very useful as well – in order to hammer down the point.*

*Probably could have done more hands-on teaching role-playing, but with so much to learn, I’m not sure I would want any other part of the course sacrificed! Could have been 3 days!*

*Thank you very much – I will likely have many more questions as I go, but know where to go to get answers.*

*Thank you!*



*Year 1/2 teacher, England (trained in Canada)*

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*“This course has been ‘fit-for-purpose; just for me. I am leaving feeling more confident about teaching and very excited about putting what I have learnt into practice.*

*I have received good guidance on how to carry-out lessons, as well as, learnt how to correct and improve things I have been doing incorrectly.*

*I’m confident that I will be a better teacher and my learners will be able to benefit straight away from my training.*

*Thank you!*



*Primary teacher of a mixed-age class, Ghana*

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*“Very useful. Comprehensive insight and demonstrations of a structured approach to teaching phonics.*

*Many practical ideas and suggestions for classroom implementation.*

*Looked complicated initially but with clear explanations, I feel I can introduce it in the school and hopefully share it with other teachers in Zambia.*

*Many questions answered from Debbie’s wealth of experience and study.*

*Thanks to you and Abi for all your work, time and patient explanations!*

*Keep developing phonics materials!* 

Primary Headteacher, Zambia

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*“The course has been invaluable in explaining a new and clear way of sharing phonics with children.*

*There has been so much information, and I am pleased that I can access more online to help consolidate, as my worry is that I will forget something important.*

*My hope is to implement the Phonics International ethos into my setting, and to support colleagues through sharing my new knowledge, to the benefit of our children.*

*Thank you Debbie and Abi for sharing. I will certainly be in touch with questions and feedback.* 

Enrichment Teaching Assistant, Independent Sector, England

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*“I’ve really appreciated your attention to small detail – both in the method you’ve presented and in how you’ve run the course (like providing really interesting snacks!)*

*There’s been a lot to take in so I’m glad I’ve got a lot to take away and go through again.*

*I found today a little bit too heavy in terms of how much listening was expected and I would have liked some time just to look at resources etc. and/or ‘doing’.*

*However, it’s been a really interesting two days and could well be the tool I’ve wanted for a very long time that will enable me to help the young people in my care.*

*So thank you! We’ll let you know how it goes.* 

English teacher, England

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*“Thank you for a fabulous two days, it’s been really inspirational! You’ve managed to clarify many things that I hadn’t fully grasped before. Thank you for explaining everything so thoroughly and answering all of my questions – even the ones I hadn’t asked yet but only thought of!*

*I’m very excited to come away with so many ideas, lots of enthusiasm, and a wealth of material; now there is a lot of work to do to put it all into practice, but I am looking forward to it.*

*Thank you once again, I’ll definitely be in touch with more questions and hopefully something to report from the classroom front :-)* 

Primary teacher, Helsinki, Finland

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*“Two great days of content-rich training. It’s really mind-blowing. I’m really impressed by your expertise and enthusiasm to promote phonics teaching.*

*Before we came, we didn’t know you had been fighting a corner. I’m really glad your devotion is not wasted.*

*We’re facing a similar, if not more challenging, trouble in China. We do hope to crack it with effort and new understanding gained here.*

*Thank you for everything and do come to China!*

*Best wishes for all of you!*



Teacher and teacher-trainer, Beijing, China

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*“I am completely overwhelmed by the 2-day training programme. To me, phonics was only a tool for children to read words only before now, but now I feel that phonics is much more than that. Phonics facilitates reading, and also comprehension.*

*I have the idea that I will start up a training centre for phonics with my friend and practise it actually. I am eager to post you all what I will get and get response and suggestions from you.*

*I hope we’ll work together to help Chinese children and students to grasp the right way of learning English, or to say things bigger – to change English education in China!*

*Thank you very much for your kindness and everything!*



English teacher, Beijing, China

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*“No beautiful words can express our gratitude. This is what I’m looking for – something that lets me know what is phonics, how to teach phonics and why teach phonics.*

*What’s more important, Debbie’s devotion to phonics teaching and researching makes us moved and give me courage to pursue the phonic teaching and training as my whole life’s career.*

*I believe with the great efforts, more and more teachers and students can benefit a lot, and even their life could be changed.*

*Welcome to Beijing. Welcome to China.*



Teacher-trainer, Beijing, China

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*“First, I’ve to say thank you soooooo much for providing such amazing training course. It really means a lot for me.*

*Actually, I’ve tried to apply some of your phonics things in my teacher-training programme. It’s really helpful.*

*However, I realised that I really knew so little about phonics.*

*It’s not until yesterday that I knew the more important thing I got to know is the philosophy of education behind phonics. Since people have to know “what” and “why” before they go to the “how” process.*

*It’s really important for English teachers to know the “what” and “why” first. So thank you again for letting me know “why”, “what” and “how” about phonics. I’ll try to study more on the history, the philosophy behind it and try to put them into practice.*

*Thanks for all. Hope that one day we'll meet in China. Keep in touch.*

*With so much love and gratitude.*



English teacher-trainer, Beijing, China

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*"Really informative and detailed course.*

*I have learnt a lot and now have a huge, yet exciting, task of integrating Phonics International into our intervention work which I will hopefully be able to disseminate across the school.*

*Thank you.*



Maths and Intervention teacher (numeracy and literacy) in a secondary school, England

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*"As you know, Debbie, Abi and David, I love coming to your course. I find myself progressing even further in my teaching field after receiving your 2 days training.*

*I absolutely love and adore teaching Synthetic Phonics.*

*You have been so helpful to me and made me believe in myself to further my teaching to become a trainer.*

*Thank you all for your inspiration.*

*GREAT WORK!*



Primary teacher teaching English as an additional language, Turkey

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*"Debbie, Abi, David,*

*All of you have produced a wonderful, enjoyable, beneficial, educational and fun course!*

*You have clarified all of my concerns, cleared up my mistakes and boosted my confidence.*

*Your work in synthetic phonics is literally world-changing! Don't give up! I certainly won't and I am now more determined than ever to 'spread the word', theories, systems, ideas. It really is that amazing!*

*Let's keep in touch! See you in Turkey soon!*

*Love, ...*



Primary teacher teaching English as an additional language, Turkey

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*"I have really enjoyed the course and feel that I have gained knowledge and practical advice that I can take back and apply in my classroom.*

*Having used Phonics International for the last year, I have seen how it benefits the children and I feel that with this extra knowledge and understanding it will benefit them all the more.*

*It has been great to meet people from a range of places around the world and compare the different ways that things are done.*

*Thank you to Debbie and Abi for sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience.*

*I found everything relevant and worthwhile and will definitely be keeping in touch to seek advice and let you know of the progress within my school.*



Year 1/2 Teacher, mainstream primary, UK

*"I have really enjoyed the two-day course.*

*I've found it extremely interesting and am able to take away with me a new bank of knowledge and ideas to think about for the future.*

*The course has provided me with the programme I intend on following in September, and I feel more confident thanks to the information provided and the material given.*

*I've been really pleased to see a lot of material exposed for us to look through and it's been another helpful aid to planning what material to use and what books to buy.*

*The course was thorough and informative and not difficult to follow.*

*Thank you very much for the precious advice and all the free material, I'm amazed at just how much I'm going away with.*

THANK YOU :) 

Primary School Teacher, Italy

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*"Fantastic!*

*Very informative.*

*Opportunity to access the resources and see how they can be used and managed as a central resource in the school.*

*Clarity of information and informing/supporting colleagues for consistency across the school.*

*Great demonstrations of delivering the resources in a lesson using 'review, teach, practise, apply'.*

*Really enjoyed the days.*

*Great food.*

Thank you. 

HLTA, UK

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*"Thank you so much for a wonderful couple of days. I have learnt so much and am very excited about going back and sharing Floppy's Phonics and Phonics International with my colleagues.*

*It was very refreshing to come on a 'realistic' training course – this is why you do it, here are the resources to do it, here is how to assess it!*

*Nothing is left to chance!*

*I am certain I will be in touch soon.*

Thank you for all your support. 

English Coordinator, UK

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*"Dear Debbie and Abi,*

*I have really enjoyed your course!*

*I understand how much work has gone into this course, and I really appreciate it so much!*

*For me: I know I will be using your ideas and methods, and I will assist other teachers in the school to be 'Debbie Converts' because I love the Phonics International programme.*

*It is SO different from the way we were taught to teach!*

*So much simpler and I love how you teach the codes from the beginning!*

*As a child we were not taught all the spelling codes! We had to discover these by trial and error.*

*You give students today the tools to succeed from the start!*

*I am so excited to get started with my little Arab students who desperately want to be able to read and write in English perfectly.*

*You have given me a new lease in life and, as I said, I cannot wait to get started.*

*Best regards to you both! Keep up the good work! You are greatly appreciated. Thanks again!*



Reading Coordinator, Saudi Arabia

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*"The course was extremely informative and enjoyable. I am very satisfied with the programme and the resources available.*

*I know that sharing this knowledge back at school will open a range of questions from colleagues about how to implement this effectively.*

*I would like to keep in email contact to help us guide the implementation of this programme effectively.*

*Our school would benefit from in-service/at location training.*

*Thank you.*



ESL (English as a second language) Teacher & Coordinator, Germany

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*"I learned much more than I anticipated.*

*I've gained a clear understanding of the need for accuracy and being critical of our own phonics teaching.*

*I feel I've gained a 'critical eye' to analyse what we currently do, and how we do it, looking for its real value.*

*I've also gained lots of practical ideas for applying and teaching the content of the programme.*

*I really liked the format of the 'eBooks' where you can find everything in one place.*

*The format of the online training you offer with many different links has made it a real struggle for my colleagues to get on board and see how they can use phonics practically.*

*Thank you for a very comprehensive guided tour around the world of Phonics International!*



Literacy and Numeracy Tutor, Curriculum Development Lead, UK

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*"I am happy, in fact very honoured to be the only black African and male in the program.*

*I must admit I have learned a lot.*

*I have changed my method and will use yours.*

*Thank you for the wonderful reception, your food and above all your training.*

*I have enjoyed every bit of the program.*

*I wish you could invite me for further programs that would equip me more in phonics teaching. My sister and I are grateful for such a wonderful training and I hope it will impact positively on my children.*

*I suggest next time run us through the sounds (I mean all the alphabetic code).*

*Thank you very much.* 

Teacher/Administrator, Ghana, West Africa

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*"What an amazing experience!*

*Although I have used the program before, the opportunity to meet Debbie and listen to her has been wonderful.*

*Debbie's, and now also Abi's, work has certainly been an inspiration.*

*Your advice has given me a true push of confidence and the determination to make things happen at the school I am working at.*

*I would like to continue using your program with the intention to develop a structured role-play approach as the next step, having previously taught young learners how to use individual sounds in words they will be using in their play.*

*In order: \*structured phonics program; \*create a role-play program linked to previous phonics learning – to establish strong foundations.*

*Thank you for helping me see that wanting to make a difference is THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!* 

Pre-School Manager & Teacher, Independent School, UK

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*"Thank you for providing such an informative and interesting course!*

*I was worried about my own knowledge of phonics before teaching KS1 for the first time – but feel empowered now to use P.I. techniques and resources.*

*The amount of resources you have provided us with is immense and very valuable – thank you!*

*Everything was clearly explained and Abi and Debbie are a great combo.*

*Lovely food too!*

*Excellent two days, thank you.* 

Y2 Teacher & Maths Coordinator, UK

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*"This two day course has been excellent, although now I feel at saturation point and need to go away and look again at all the handouts.*

*I feel I have a much better understanding of the importance of phonics teaching and will be looking at how best to tackle this within my school setting.*

*Thank you so much.*



SEN Teacher [Special Education Needs], UK

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*"Debbie and Abi I liked so much your 'Synthetic Phonics Training'.*

*Thank you so much, you have done an unbelievable scientific work.*

*Keep going and do not forget to visit Greece and especially ..... where I live. With love.*



English & Italian Teacher, Greece

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*"I absolutely enjoyed this course, thank you!*

*Learned a lot, want to get this started right away.*

*I would have liked more in depth examples for Units 8 – 12 to talk about the maturity of those kids and their possible reactions when asked to complete the activities. (We've got a few moody pre-teens!)*

*We will now hopefully get the rest of the staff on board and get back to you with further questions...*

*Thank you both so very much!*



Year 6 Class Teacher, Germany

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*"I really enjoyed being here, I certainly learned a lot.*

*With all this new knowledge and material, I can't wait to get back into my classroom!*

*Although I have to admit – I understood all about phonics, because I did some phonetics and phonology in university – as my colleagues in May – I would have been lost and overwhelmed with all the information.*

*If you need help in creating the German alphabetic code, please let us know!*

*It would be wonderful to stay in touch, as we might need help to establish at our school properly.*

*Thank you.*

*(PS: Tried to improve my handwriting....)*



English Language & PE Teacher, Germany

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*"Phew! So much to take in and process but all really, really great, interesting and informative info.*

*When is Part 2? :) Please inform me if there are any follow up courses.*



EFL (English as a foreign language) Teacher, Spain

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*"A very informative course.*

*Lots to think about!*

*Debbie and Abi have a lovely approachable manner.*

*I appreciate the time taken to help each individual and their specific situation.*

*I have always been scared of phonics and I now feel much more confident and passionate about it.*

*Thank you!*



English Coordinator, UK

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*"The training has been very interesting, eye-opening above all.*

*The reception has been wonderful.*

*Thank you.*



Reception Teacher, mainstream primary, Nigeria

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*"The course was very informative.*

*We have been using Phonics International for 7 months and have already found it very helpful.*

*I learned a lot during the course which will help us to improve the implementation in our school and hopefully increase our students' achievement further.*



Primary School Teacher & Literacy Coordinator, Germany

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*"This training was a great example of rigorous teaching.*

*I feel very much inspired!*

*A lot of the phonetic approach was familiar to me but without the practical insight it remained more or less knowledge.*

*Now it makes sense!*

*I wish I could stay for a week.*

*Thank you.*



Class teacher Nursery/Rec/Year One, Luxembourg

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*"Thank you for such a detailed and valuable two days.*

*I appreciated very much your emphasis on spelling, and the routines you developed to help children learn/master the spelling of a wide range of words.*

*The very many tips you gave, based on practical experience, will be really useful.*

*I liked the informality and friendliness which was really encouraging and made one feel comfortable.*

*The challenge of some of the material was not there because you explained everything so well, and the materials were excellent, fitting in exactly to the aim of the programme.*

*Thank you, too, for your generosity in giving me materials for [my colleague] who will be delighted.*

Your thoughts are very much appreciated – over and above what we would have expected.



Tutor & Educational Consultant, Australia

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*“The two days have been thoroughly enjoyable.*

*Debbie and Abi have provided phonics and ‘general teaching’ training which have stimulated my interest in returning to the classroom.*

*Everything is so well thought out and put together and, most importantly, rooted in real classroom experiences in different contexts.*

*I can now address those nagging worries I have had as a parent about the reading my children are doing.*

*I have worried about it but truly not known quite what to do to support them despite my background in education – how shameful!!*

*But now I can do something and it won’t be cobbled together stuff – it will be proper tried and tested and I can keep on doing it not just while they are in the infants (this is a big misconception that I had).*

*The informal style is a great asset and we were fortunate to be in a small group so plenty of opportunities to ask questions and get answers.*

*I also liked the personalised welcome form that you wrote a response to.*

*Thank you! I will try and keep in touch to let you know how I get on.*



Parent returning to teaching, UK

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