

# Integrating WhatsApp into a general adult EFL programme

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# Overview

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- Background to the study
- Objectives
- The WhatsApp programme
- Results
- Recommendations for teachers



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ja +Info tmb.cat

7 min

# LOOK!



THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO BE SAID ABOUT THIS  
PRODUCT, BUT WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT SPANISH  
PEOPLE DON'T READ ADS IN ENGLISH.

# Background

TL Contact outside class

Spanish Ranking out of 11 European  
countries: 10/11

Vez, Martinez & Lorenzo (2013)

Increase Target Language contact =  
Increased proficiency

Sundqvist (2009)

# Background



## Potential of Mobile Language Learning

*'Pull'* – learners' access information on their own

*'Push'* – information is provided, learners are 'pushed' into action (underexplored)

Motiwalla (2007)



## Real benefits?

'comparable with interactions within the walls of a face-to-face classroom'

Lamy and Zourou (2013: 3)

# WhatsApp - facts



Spain – biggest user of WhatsApp in Europe  
Present on 98% of mobile phones in the country

Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC), 2015.

# RESEARCH

- Han and Keskin (2016): *Using WhatsApp to Reduce EFL Speaking Anxiety*
- Jafari and Chalak (2016): *The Role of WhatsApp in Teaching Vocabulary to Iranian EFL learners at Junior High School.*
- Gutiérrez-Colon et al., (2013): *Improving learners' reading skills through instant short messages*



# Objectives

- Encourage out-of-class TL contact
  - Voluntary WhatsApp activities
- Analyse activity
  - Participation
    - per task / chronologically
  - Language use
    - use of L1 v TL / self-correction / evidence of learning
  - Interaction
    - length / participants / On-task v off-task



# The WhatsApp programme



**Summer 2017 intensive B2.1**

N=24

<b>Sex</b>	M	11 (45.8%)
	F	13 (54.2%)

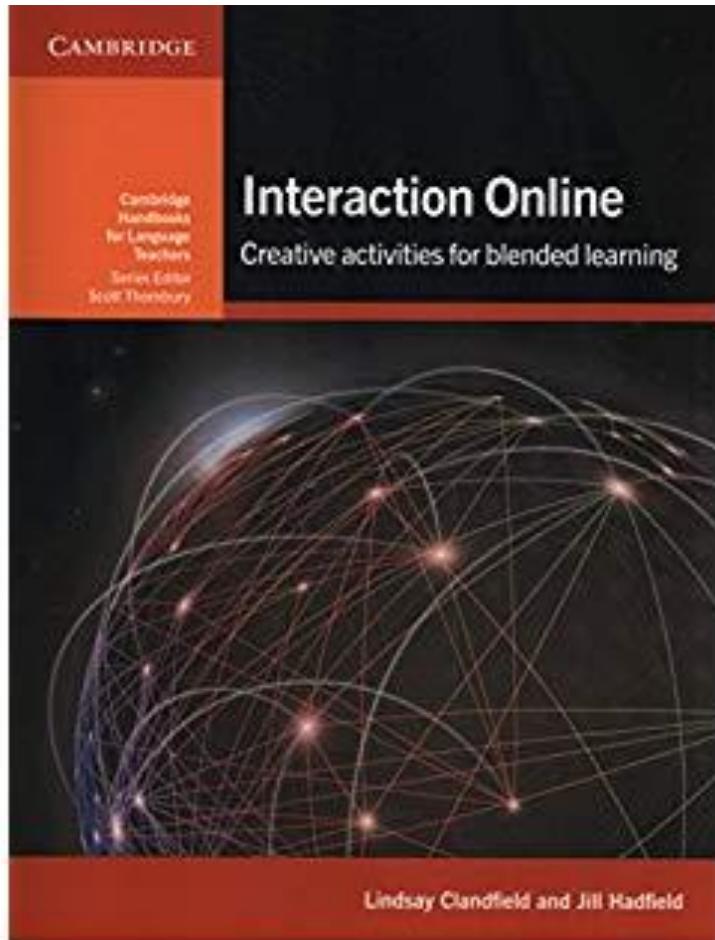
<b>Mean age</b>	21.2
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<b>Occupation</b>	Students	20 (83.3%)
	Working	4 (16.6%)





# The WhatsApp programme



## *Interaction Online*

Clandfield, L. & Hadfield, J.  
(2017) Cambridge  
Handbooks for Teachers  
(CUP)

Interaction patterns:

- Confetti
- Pass the parcel



# The WhatsApp programme

Authors' recommendations:

- Set up like classroom tasks:
  - Demo first, provide model answer
  - Clear instructions
- Break task up into stages
- Set deadlines
- Be present and positive, withdraw support gradually

## Giving information

- (1.1) Introduce themselves
- (5) Choose a song and explain why it is special
- (7.3) Take a picture of part of an object and the rest of students were asked to reveal what the object was

## Drills

- (2.1) Answer to an either/or question with expressions like 'Definitely!', 'I suppose' etc.
- (2.2) Chain drill. Respond to an either/or question and ask another question
- (3.1) Make questions that start with 'Don't you hate it when'
- (3.2) Make questions that start with 'Don't you love it when'

## Question and answer

- (1.2) Ask /answer questions about themselves
- (4.1) Ask questions to the teacher about a photo of a festival
- (4.2) Ask/answer questions about a special song
- (7.4) Ask/answer questions about three objects
- (8.3) Ask/answer questions about three photos

## Guessing

- (7.2) Guess what the 'secret' objects posted in a previous activity (7.1) are
- (8.1) Guess what the picture posted by the teacher is using modals of deduction
- (8.2) Post a picture of a place they have been on holidays and guess where the pictures posted by other students are.

< 2



EIM level 4 summer  
Angel ,

< 2



EIM level 4 summer  
Angel ,

< 2



EIM level 4 summer...  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



José Luis (4A S)

Josep (4A Sum)

Yes Jose you disc  
Its my bike

It was very diffi  
a cycling exper

José

It was  
cyclin

I can'  
floor

José Luis (4A S)

One part of the  
like a shadow in  
You need to ob

José Luis (4A Su)

One part of the  
like a shadow in  
You need to ob  
realize completly

José Luis (4A Su)



It is the ring that  
chain

Josep (4A Summer)



For you Jose

22:05

José Luis (4A Summer)

Guau! I like your bike!

22:10

I like the floor

23:1

21 Jul 2017





# Results

- A. Participation
- B. Language
- C. Interaction
  - Participants
  - Length of exchanges and posts
  - On-task vs Off-task



# Results:

## A. Participation

During course: 27/6/17 - 30/7/17 (34 days)

Total of 765 messages

657 (86%) from learners

# Results:



## A. Participation

Type of activity		Activity	Participation
<b>Giving information</b>	Students write a description	1.1	100%
		5	43.5%
		6	15.8%
		7.3	33%
<b>Drills</b>	Students respond to teacher's prompt	2.1	94.7%
		2.2	100%
		3.1	100%
		3.2	78.9%
<b>Question and answer</b>	Students post a question or answer	1.2	100%
		4.1	89.5%
		4.2	75%
		7.4	0%
		8.3	43.5%
<b>Guessing</b>	students post message with a guess	7.1	100 %
		7.2	52.17%
		8.1	52.6%
		8.2	43.47%

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EIM level 4 summer...

Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



&lt; 2



EIM level 4 summer...

Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



Before you start, have a look at this list. These are some ways of agreeing in English (from emphatic to weak):

Definitely! (Emphatic)

For sure!

Absolutely!

Yes.

I guess.

I suppose (weak)

Task 1:

I'm going to write two things. You need to choose which one you prefer. Write the name of the thing you prefer and use one of the expressions from the list.

For example, I write this:

Travelling by bus or travelling by train?

You write:

Travelling by train,  
absolutely!

If you don't like travelling by bus and you don't like travelling by train, you can write:

Neither!

Ready? Let's start!

Travelling by bus or travelling by train?

14:1



Anna (4A Summer)

If I have to choose bettewn





# Results:

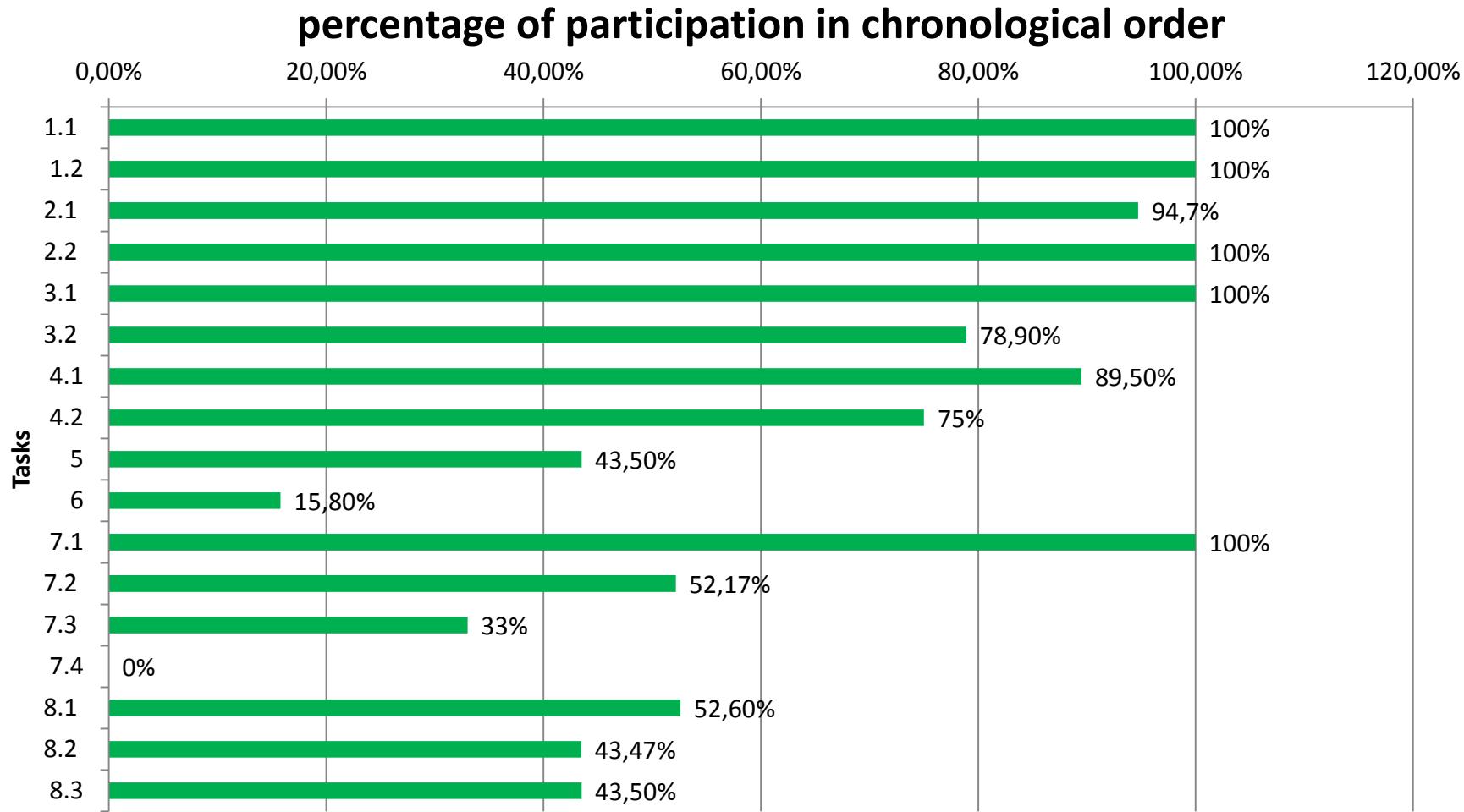
## A. Participation

- Higher participation in drills
  - ‘safe’ parameters, but learners often went beyond task.
- Pictures, especially personal ones, encourage curiosity = + participation
- ~~Group dynamics: 3 of 4 ss joining the group late did not participate.~~
- Attrition effect
  - Over different stages of task
  - Over course

# Results:



## A. Participation





EIM level 4 summer...  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



Don't you hate it when there  
are subway's "huelga" ?

22:48

I don't know the translation  
of "huelga" 😊

22:48

David (4A Summer)

Strike

23:08

5 Jul 2017

José Luis (4A Summer)

Thanks David

00:29

Don't you hate it when there  
are subway's strike ?

00:30

José Luis (4A Summer)

Don't you hate it when there a  
subway's "huelga" ?



Strike



- Unknown words
- Concepts without a direct translation
- Interjections



# Results:



## B. Language Use\_ Self repairs

Task	Self-repairs per task	%
1	4	7%
2	1	2.56%
3	4	9.5%
4	2	3%
5	0	0%
6	0	0%
7	2	2.5%
8	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3%</b>



## EIM level 4 summer...

Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



Angel (4A Summer)

Pablo (Summer 4A)

These are the "Gegants de Mollet ". They dance in the center of the t...



The "Gegants" are represent real people? Like somebody famous?

13:52

Are representing\*

13:52

Pablo (Summer 4A)

Angel (4A Summer)

The "Gegants" are represent real people? Like somebody famous?

They are like icons, and each one represents an idea. For example:

Vicençs is a farm hand, he is the icon from the bugging of



## EIM level 4 summer...

Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



Olga (4A Summer)

Arosely (4A Summer)

Photo



It can be eaten?

09:17

Don't forget the word order in (most) questions: Aux-Subj-Verb e.g.

Can it be eaten?

Does it smell?

Is it a phone?

09:22 ✓

Oscar (4A Summer)

Oscar (4A Summer)

Is a phone?

Is it\* a phone?? 😊😊😊😊

11:20



David (4A Summer)





# Results:

## C. Interaction\_ Participants

Interaction	<u>% of exchanges without response</u>
Teacher to student	0%
Student to student	19%

### Reasons:

- Students' decision
- Sequential nature
- Near-synchronous nature



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EIM level 4 summer...

Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



I prefer beach, yes! Football  
or basketball?

14:18

**Pablo (Summer 4A)**

I can't choose, I love both!  
Read a book or whatch a  
movie?

14:19

**Carlos (4A Summer)**

Football definitely!

14:19

Ok... Ajajajaj

14:20

I love both too. Drive a car  
or ride a motorbike?

14:21

**Sergi (4A Summer)**

Football of course! What do  
you prefer Harry Potter of  
Game of Thrones?

14:21

Or\*





# Results:

## C. Interaction\_ Length of exchanges

### 'extra' posts

	Total number of messages	'Extra' posts	
Drills	108	19	17.59%
Guessing activities	89	22	24.71%

### Functions:

- Humour or teasing
- Clarification request



- Humour or teasing
- Clarification



## Results:

### C. Interaction\_ Length of exchanges

#### ‘extra’ posts

	Total number of messages	‘Extra’ posts	
Drills	108	19	17.59%
Guessing activities	89	22	24.71%

#### Functions:

- Humour or teasing
- Clarification request
- Adding extra information

EIM level 4 summer 2...  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosely...

Here is my photo!

21:49

**Oscar (4A Summer)**

Could be central park??

21:49

In New York

21:50

**Pablo (Summer 4A)****Oscar (4A Summer)**

Could be central park??

No Oscar, sorry

21:50

central park is bigger than  
that

21:50

**Oscar (4A Summer)**

Dishh no idea XD

21:51





# Results:

## C. Interaction\_ Length of exchanges

### ‘extra’ posts

	Total number of messages	‘Extra’ posts	
Drills	108	19	17.59%
Guessing activities	89	22	24.71%

### Functions:

- Humour or teasing
- Clarification request
- Adding extra information
- Focus on form



# Results:

## C. Interaction\_Length of posts

	words per post (mean)
Drills	15
Question and answer	30
Guessing activities	36
Information giving activities	53

	Total
Fewer words than model	37.5%
<u>More</u> words than model	62.5%



# More words than model:

••••• vodafone ES 17:52



EIM level 4 summer 2...  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosely...



Mine was (the back of) a photo frame with a picture of my dad. What about you?

09:51 ✓

Angel (4A Summer)

Mine was a painting by my girlfriend based on this picture where I'm giving back at the sea a rehabilitated seagull.

11:40

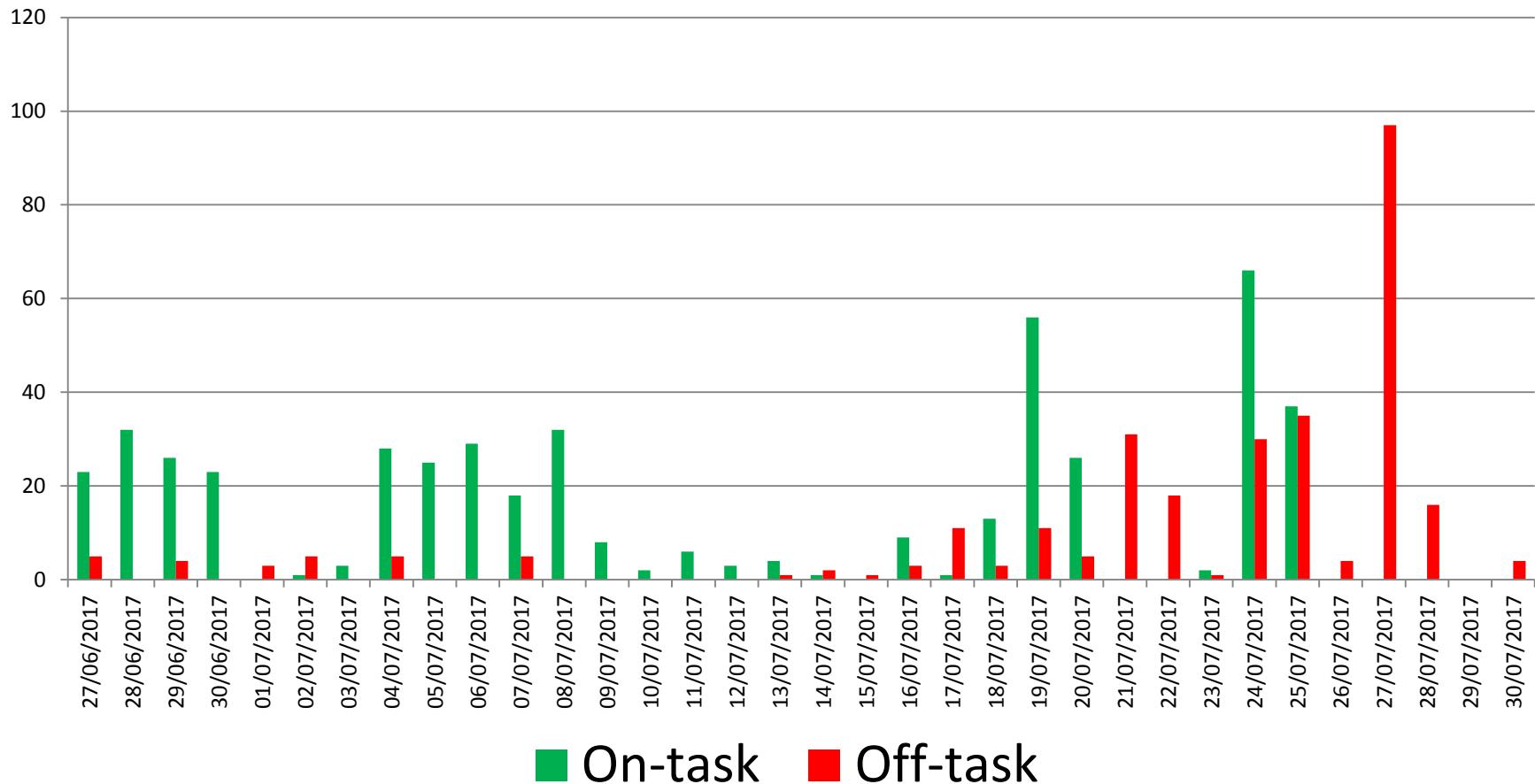
Angel (4A Summer)





# Results:

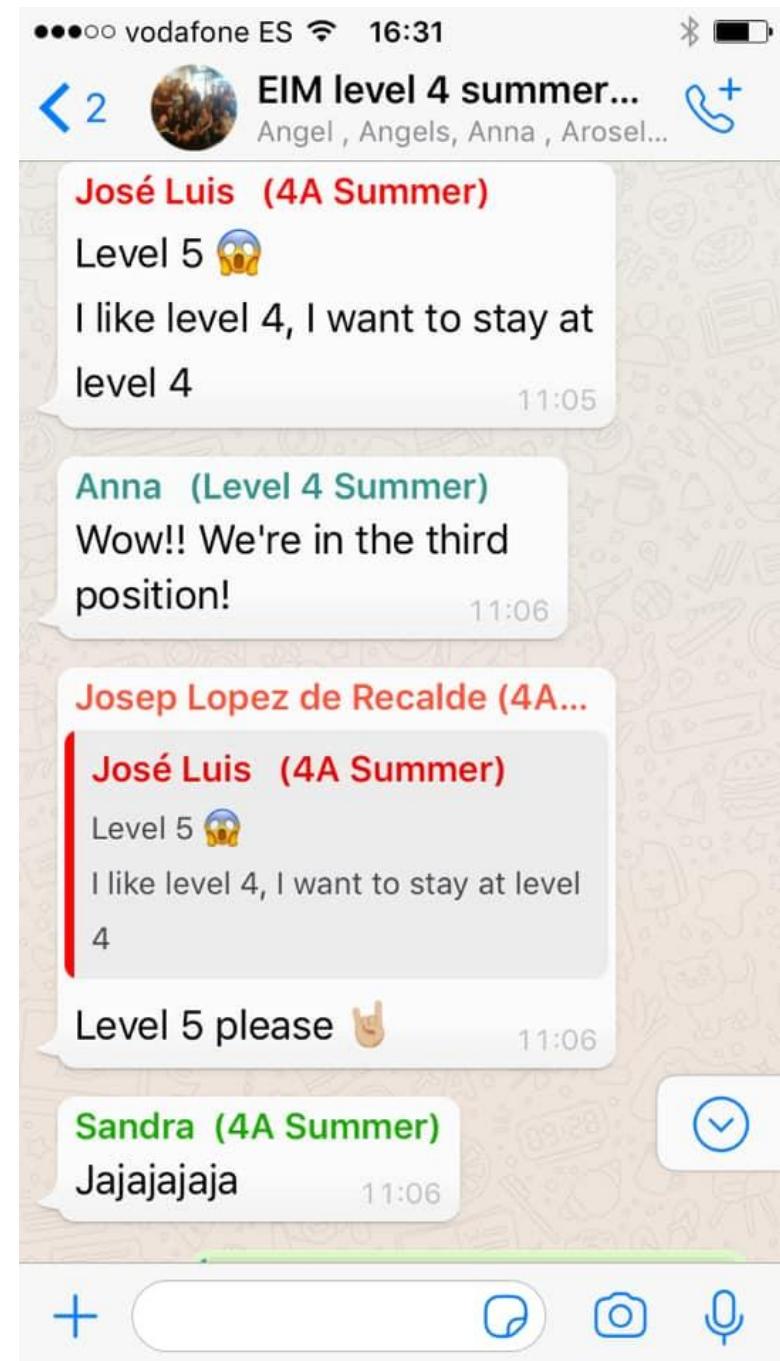
## C. Interaction\_On-task vs Off-task





# Purpose of Off-task contributions:

- Administrative
- Social



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**EIM level 4 summer...**  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...

**José Luis (4A Summer)**

You

OK - 10 points?

Ohh!! -10 points!! Jessica is from Scotland and you are a weepy(Ilorón) man.

██████ (Extra points to Marie Curie!) 15:50

20 Jul 2017

If you haven't already guessed the mystery objects, the owners should now reveal what they were. Mine was (the back of) a photo frame with a picture of my dad. What about y

09:



**EIM level 4**  
Angel , Angels,

**Angel (4A Summer)**

**Miriam (4A Summer)**



#soñandoconelaprobado

The final task 🐒 what are dreaming Carlos!

**Sandra (4A Summer)**

**Angel (4A Summer)**

The final task 🐒 what are dreaming Carlos!



15:1

**Oscar (4A Summer)**

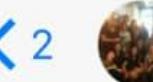
About food

15:16

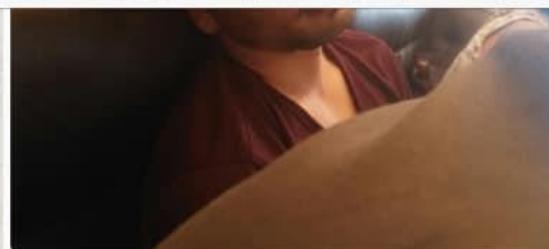
Obviously

15:16

**David (4A Summer)**



**EIM level 4 summer...**  
Angel , Angels, Anna , Arosel...



#soñandoconelaprobado

15:12

**Angel (4A Summer)**

😍😍😍 so cute

15:12

**Carlos (4A Summer)**

Ufhsud

15:12

Bdjdhdbd

15:12

Bdjdhdsu

15:12

Hdjdbd

15:12

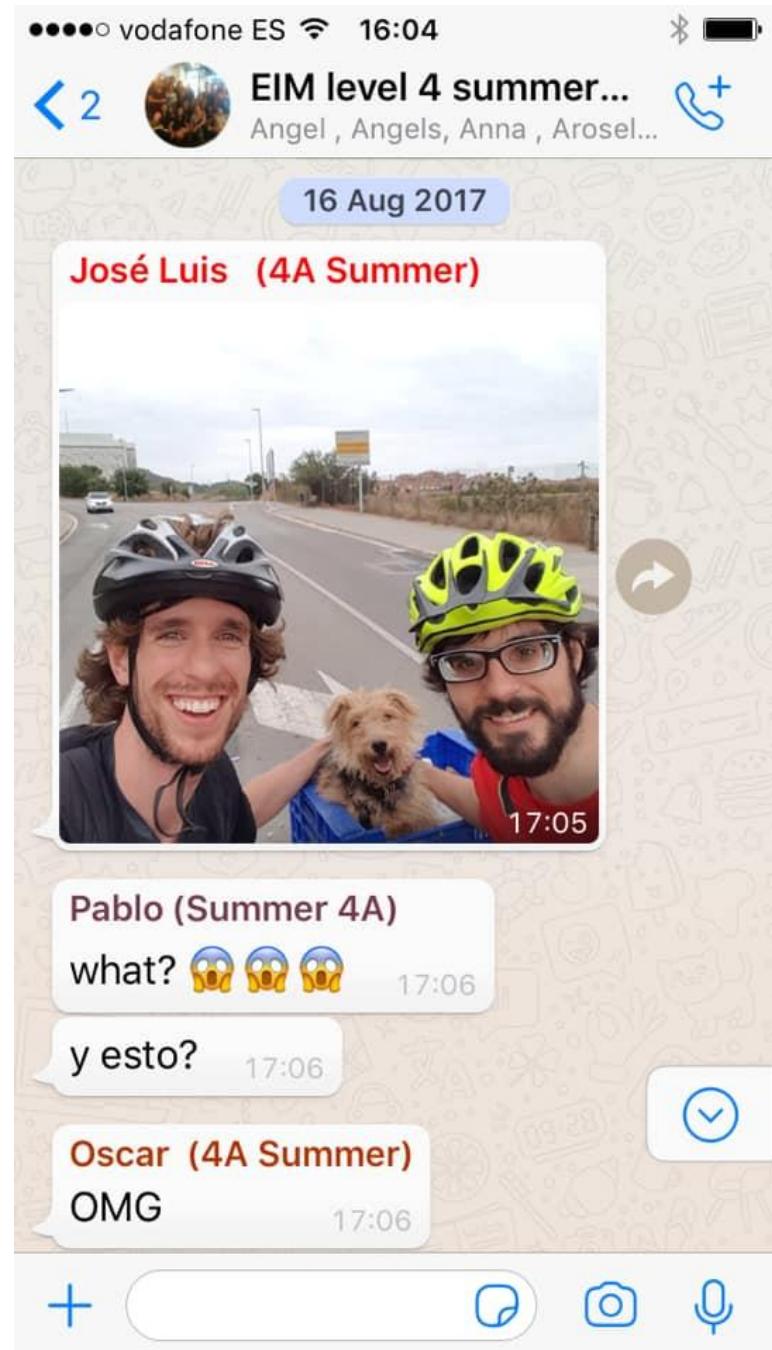
**Sandra (4A Summer)**



15:12



Their interaction continued (in English) after the course had finished.





# Implications for teachers

## *Practical Tips*

*Make sure everybody participates*

1. First couple of activities: tell students who to ask.
2. Set a limit (3) questions per contribution.
3. Incentives for late arrivals.





# Implications for teachers

## *Practical Tips*

### *Encourage interaction*

1. Photos (esp. of the students themselves) generate curiosity.
2. Teacher as participant: ask questions, show interest.
3. Encourage off-task interaction.
4. Only correct at 'point of need'.



# THANK YOU!



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