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SUCCESS STORY

Guess What: Learning English Becomes Easy



Ms. Abrorkhanova discusses the new EFL student textbook with her students. Photo: Program/RTI staff.

Telling Our Story

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“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.” This idea, quoted from Frank Smith, a language researcher and educator, encourages teachers and educators to think about the accelerating globalization process and the fact that learning a foreign language is becoming a modern requirement. Uzbekistan is experiencing this trend too, and the demand for learning foreign languages is growing day by day.

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program is supporting the Ministry of Public Education to update its English as a Foreign Language (EFL) curriculum through the procurement, adaptation, and piloting of Cambridge University Press teacher guides, student textbooks, and student workbooks in two regions—Sirdaryo and Namangan.

Ms. Shakhlo Abrorkhanova, an EFL teacher from school No. 5, Mirzaobod district, in Syrdaryo Region, reported that in the past, she had difficulty developing strategies for students to practice listening and writing skills. She often had to search for additional resources that were not often readily available. Ms. Abrorkhanova said, *“In my opinion, the [Cambridge University Press] Prepare and Guess What! textbooks are good because they focus on the actual language level of the students and provide a wide range of materials to improve students' reading, listening, and writing skills.”*

Ms. Abrorkhanova also expressed her appreciation for the fact that the audio materials were recorded by native English speakers and included realistic background noise, such as the sounds of buses, train stations, and birdsong. *“I enjoy watching my students complete the exercises from the textbook with interest and curiosity,”* she stated.

Thanks to teachers' active engagement and participation in this piloting of EFL materials, the Program will be able to finalize the teacher guides for national rollout during the 2022/2023 school year.

Prepared by:

Gulnosa Egamberdieva, TPD Technical Coordinator
and Sonia Aria, Senior Technical Advisor, TPDR
Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program
29 Nukus Street, 7th Floor Business Center,
Tashkent

Contact Information:

Telephone: +998 977400375
Email: gegamberdieva@ueep.rti.org
