

**Title**

MetaLanguage – using MetaTaal in learning English

**Author**

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**Background**

A lot of students experience difficulties in learning English, especially in further education. Auris College Leiden (ACL) formed a workgroup to investigate how to support the English teaching method. MetaTaal proved to be effective in learning Dutch grammar and should help students in learning English as well.

**Aim**

Finding out if MetaLanguage will help VMBO-students in learning English grammar and understanding en using sentences.

**Methods & procedures**

Before intervention five secondyear students were twice examined in understanding and using the sentences which would be trained. They showed none/hardly progression. After that they got once a week speechtherapy, for 8 weeks. Then they were examined again. After 2 months the last examination took place.

**Results**

A part of the students seems to benefit from the intervention. Four students (out of five) indicate improvement in understanding the lessons en think the improvement is because of MetaLanguage. The teacher notices much improvement for three students (out of five). Retention measurement will take place in June.

**Conclusions and implications**

The sentences which were practised improved for two student (out of five). That seems to be a poor result, but using MetaLanguage seems to help VMBO-students. They understand the lessons better then before, they know more words en their pronunciation improved. The teacher notices more fun in learning English and improvement in performances.