Instituto Cenca is a prestigious private school in Toluca, México. There are 360 students in the High School division. The school is committed to giving young people the tools they need to become responsible and principled citizens, and above all to allow them to be happy.

School motto: “Hacer hombres felices es el sueño de los hombres que transcinden.”

Instituto Cenca is a prestigious private school in Toluca, México. There are 360 students in the High School division. The school is committed to giving young people the tools they need to become responsible and principled citizens, and above all to allow them to be happy.

English at Cenca

The High School offers two different English programs – Prepartoria Cenca (to prepare students for higher education) and Global Cenca (to further stretch academically outstanding students who have a high level of English). The school started using Q:Skills for Success in both English programs this year. Students have thirteen hours of English per week, and Q:Skills for Success is used three hours per week to improve all four skills and to motivate students to enjoy learning English with relevant and up-to-date content.

100% of students surveyed at Cenca say that learning English is important or very important to them.

Goals

• Teach relevant English so that students can see the real-life purpose and application of each lesson
• Motivate students to enjoy learning English
• Support students to improve their listening skills and prepare for Cambridge certification

Working with Oxford

• The school started using Q:Skills for Success in both English programs this year.

Outcomes

• Authentic and up-to-date material provides students with relevant English that they can use outside of the classroom
• The overwhelming majority (86%) of students surveyed at Cenca enjoy studying with Q:Skills for Success
• Audio and video content strengthens students’ listening skills and prepares them for exam success
CASE STUDY
Instituto Cenca, S.C.®

**Authentic material that relates to students’ lives**

English Coordinator Profra. Margaret Ann Gómez de Orozco needed a course with authentic material that her students would enjoy discussing and that would inspire a love of English.

Many courses she reviewed were focused on topics that young adults would just not find interesting. It was challenging finding a more down-to-earth material.

*Q:Skills for Success* was the perfect fit – the students like the topics and they inspire class discussion.

*The most important thing was focusing on everyday situations. We have found [Q:Skills] to be very relevant to students’ lives.*

Profra. Margaret Ann Gómez de Orozco
English Coordinator

*Q:Skills has helped a lot because I speak more with my friends and travel around the world.*

Student at Cenca

*Q:Skills has helped me to improve my English with speaking.*

Student at Cenca

The students find the opening question in each unit particularly engaging and it gives them a chance to talk freely in English without worrying about grading.

85% of students surveyed at Cenca agree that the topics in *Q:Skills for Success* are interesting or very interesting.

---

**UNIT QUESTION**

Do you prefer to get help from a person or a machine?

A. Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. What are some of the advantages of getting help from a machine rather than from a person?
2. What are some of the advantages of getting help from a person rather than a machine?
3. Look at the photo. Which are the hands?

---


Every unit in *Q:Skills for Success* opens with a question to stimulate class discussion and to encourage critical thinking.
Real-life listening skills

Students at Cenca struggle particularly with understanding native speakers and building their listening skills.

The variety of accents and real-life audio and video content provided in *Q:Skills* helps students to become accustomed to different voices and accents so that they don’t get nervous in exams and helps them to better understand English beyond the classroom.

*Q:Skills for Success* includes authentic BBC and CBS content, with voiceover at lower levels.

---

**Q:Skills has helped me to...**

- **understand conversations**
- **understand movies and TV shows without subtitles**
- **enjoy more TV shows in English, to read things on the internet**

Students at Cenca

---

MORE THAN HALF of the students surveyed at Cenca use their English to enjoy **music, movies and TV shows** in English outside of the classroom.

---

Example take from *Q:Skills for Success Second Edition, iQ Online, Listening and Speaking, Level 3.*
Students enjoy learning English with Q:Skills

Students at Cenca expect the very best from their English classes and have complained about courses that do not reflect their high standards in the past.

Since the school has started using Q:Skills not one student has complained and the feedback given to teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

Q:Skills “has helped me to improve my English which can help me in the exams like FCE, CAE and more.”

Student at Cenca

“The course helps a lot because I speak more with my friends and travel around the world.”

Student at Cenca

The teachers also enjoy Q:Skills for Success and have found the course easy to use and to integrate in to English classes.

“We really enjoy the book, it’s very easy to understand and follow. The teachers can teach it in a very open manner and we don’t have to follow a specific timeline. It’s very open for teachers in that way.”

Profra. Margaret Ann Gómez de Orozco
English Coordinator

86% of students surveyed said that they enjoy studying with Q:Skills for Success.