DANIEL

Background
Daniel is in his sixties. He came to the UK from Spain two years ago. His wife is British and they moved here to take care of his mother-in-law.

Languages
He speaks, reads and writes Spanish fluently. He could speak some English before he came but only greetings and restaurant menus.

Use of digital technologies
He uses a computer and a smart phone for learning and leisure. His teacher also uses a Moodle which he finds useful. He likes using translation apps.

Previous education and employment
He left school when he was fourteen. He worked as a waiter in Spain.

Access to ESOL
He has been attending a pre-Entry ESOL class in local authority provision for six months. The class is twice a week for eight hours in total. His wife found the course through an Internet search. When he first started, he was put in too high a level because he had been able to guess lots of the answers in the computer-based test. Sometimes he has to miss classes to care for his mother-in-law.

Engagement in ESOL provision
He finds English very difficult to learn because it is different to Spanish as it's written one way but sounds different. He also finds it difficult to learn because it is a long time since he studied. It helps him to have a very patient teacher who repeats everything. He thinks he learns best by writing everything down and translating it into Spanish. He would like longer hours as he finds it difficult to study by himself.

Outcomes and benefits
He finds it very difficult not being able to speak English; it makes him feel isolated. He has benefited from coming to the class because it is a chance to socialise and meet people. He wants to learn enough English so he can have make friends and have conversations.

Advice
He was very reluctant before he joined the class; he was frightened and embarrassed about his English. Joining the class and seeing people in the same situation from different nationalities made him feel much happier and more confident. He thinks it will be the same for other people if they try.