



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

English and Digital Literacies

Unit 5: The Internet for Language Teachers

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Using the Internet to support language learning

- Finding information on the Web.
- Using ELT websites:
 - Listening online,
 - Reading online.
- Educational Resources in Broadcast portals,
- Online Lesson Plans,
- Webquests.



Authentic materials and tasks

Two types of authenticity:

1. learners find authentic texts more motivating than pedagogical texts (Little, Devitt & Singleton 1994),
2. communicative language ability is situation-specific and pedagogical tasks should mirror as much as possible tasks learners will engage in outside the classroom (Bachman & Palmer, 1996).

The Web has potential for both types of authenticity.



Scaffold learning

Scaffolding refers to the ways teachers build their lesson plans and activities.

Definition: “the support that is designed to provide the assistance necessary to enable learners to accomplish tasks that they would not quite be able to manage on their own”
(Hammond, 2001: 3).



Sample scaffolding activities

Searching for information on the Web

Scaffolding activities (1/2)

- develop a series of structured activities to help learners acquire the skills to search and navigate the Web by themselves (Mansfield, 2002).
- select websites and categorise them using a learning management system (King Koi, 2002).



Scaffolding activities (2/2)

- design a website for learners to use (Puetter, 2002).
- choose ESL websites where learners can learn the language through structured activities (Blatnik, 2002; Unat, 2002).



Learning new literacies

The Web contains:

- texts that follow the conventions of print-based texts (e.g. narratives, information texts),
- familiar genres with new features,
- new genres, multimodal texts (visual, audio),
- a **hypertextual** environment, rather than a linear one, presenting one more literacy for learners to acquire.



Activities in an EFL class

Finding information on the Web

Activity 1

Print out the results of a Web search on a topic. Have each student choose a different site to investigate. Have students find their site and report back to the class on its usefulness. (Provide a list of criteria for evaluating sites.)



Activity 2

Have students read the URL of the results of a search engine and identify the different domains (edu, gov, mil, com, net and ~ for personal webpages). Discuss with students which they think would be most reliable and why.



Sensitizing students to URLs (1/2)

- **.ac** indicates a university or other academic establishment.
- **.edu** indicates academic establishments, used mainly in the US.
- **.gov** a government-run site.
- **.mil** a site run by the military.
- **.org** used by non-profit organizations.



Sensitizing students to URLs (2/2)

- **.com** the non-country specific version of .co, this is used by companies that want to look like global businesses.
- **.net** used mainly by internet service providers.
- **.com**, **.org**, and **.net** are considered **global**, so they are not always followed by the country identifier (www.microsoft.com).



Activity 3

Divide the class into three teams. Provide a general topic and specific information students are to find about that topic. Have each team use a different search engine (for example, Google, Yahoo!, Ask Jeeves, AltaVista, MSN Search, Web Wombat,) to find the specific information. Have the whole class evaluate the information found and discuss what criteria each search engine seems to be using. Discuss which would be the most useful criteria for their search.



Activity 4

Have all students go to a specific website. Ask each student to choose one of the links on the site and go to that site. With the whole class, compare the different sites for relevance, level of language, accuracy of information and ease of reading.



Using ELT websites

Using ELT websites (1/2)

EFL/ESL websites offer:

- Teaching materials,
- Lesson plans,
- Games,
- Instructional resources.



Using ELT websites (2/2)

Students of all ages, interests and learning goals can independently choose online instructional materials and activities that meet their specific language learning needs, and access them in their own time and at their own pace.



Models of online ELT sites for students

The
Distributive
Model

The Tutorial
Model

The
Cooperative
Model



The Distributive Model

Materials or lesson sheets are available for learners to study independently. Students respond to reading or listening passages by completing multiple-choice, gap-filling or other exercises. The software allows students to get immediate feedback on their answers.



The Tutorial Model

Is often found on fee-for-service websites that offer two-way communication between the teacher and the learner using email, chat, telephone or video conferencing.



The Cooperative Model

The cooperative model allows students in a course to communicate with each other as well as with the teacher.



An example of a class using EFL websites (1/2)

- The teacher creates a class website that is password-protected and only accessible by her students.
- She constructs a page of carefully researched links with EFL/ESL websites offering skills development in grammar, speaking, listening, reading, writing, spelling, pronunciation (**distributive**).



An example of a class using EFL websites (2/2)

- These links are regularly updated and reviewed to keep pace with student learning. She begins each day with a lesson (**tutorial**).
- She assigns Web-based learning tasks to the class, many of which require interaction among the students (**cooperative**).



Online listening (1/2)

Teachers may choose good models of spoken English using conversations, reports, interviews, and discussions in differing contexts, in a wide range of dialects, varieties and accents and with a variety of participants, allowing students to hear and identify the features of natural discourse in spoken English.



Online listening (2/2)

Beginner EFL learners:

- EFL sites offer audio and video texts for beginners that are shorter or delivered at a slower pace.
- Some provide transcripts and learners can read as they listen, replay as often as they like, and progress at their own pace.

Advanced EFL learners:

- Advanced learners can choose audio or video on news sites with interviews and reports or discussions that exemplify natural features of authentic spoken discourse.
- These sites may also offer transcripts.



Teaching suggestions for online listening

- **Prepare a list** with the kind of listening texts and activities to include in your teaching before you search the Internet. **It is easy to be distracted by the exciting range of resources**, and a list of specific needs will speed up your search.
- **Prepare a rubric** that includes types of spoken text, topics, language levels, learning activities and other criteria for choosing your online audio and video resources. This rubric will speed up your classification of resources.



Finding listening websites (1/2)

Browse specialist EFL listening sites, general EFL sites, and non-educational sites in that order.

Most ESL listening websites have extensive catalogues and links to their collections, making your research task easier, while many general ESL sites have audio collections as well.



Finding listening websites (2/2)

Access public broadcaster sites, like ABC and BBC. Many of these have excellent English language learning sites and the technical features of their audio and video files are generally more efficient and workable than non-expert sites.



Online Reading

As learners develop their ability to retrieve information from the Web, they will learn to expand their literacy skills from reading print-based texts to reading online texts. When students learn how to read and use information on the Web, they will be able to:

- read homepages critically;
- skim and scan a variety of genres;
- evaluate information presented in a variety of genres; and
- synthesize information from several different sites.



Teaching suggestions for online reading (1/2)

Using printouts of webpages and screens, demonstrate offline the three-column homepage design, embedded windows, scroll bars and links.



Teaching suggestions for online reading (2/2)

Teach skimming skills. Provide students with URLs that take them to a variety of different genres such as narrative and information texts, report and opinion texts. Have learners skim the texts and decide which genre each text is. Have students compare the reliability of the information from each text. Ask students to list the criteria they used to identify the different genres and also to determine the reliability of the information.



Teach skimming & scanning skills (1/2)

Source several websites on the same topic but use websites of differing reliability, for example:

- an advertising site,
- a university site,
- a government site,
- a primary school site.



Teach skimming & scanning skills (2/2)

Print out the texts and have students skim and scan the texts in order to compare the information from each text for reliability. With the class, develop criteria for determining reliability of information on the Web. Be sure to include the URL so students can use the information in the URL to help them decide.



Create online quizzes

Create a variety of web-based exercises or tests without any programming or knowledge of HTML. Users can insert images, texts, sounds, video sequences or Web hyperlinks into all types of questions. They can also personalize numerous parameters. The questionnaire can also be customized by changing its visual theme and adapting messages as needed.



NetQuiz Software

Home › Catalogue › Netquiz Web



Netquiz Web Formative version

Christine Blais, Richard Dumoulin, Lucie Trépanier and Robert Szczech
CCDM

Netquiz Web is a multilingual, multi-platform, multi-user Web application software that can be used to easily create exercises, formative games, quizzes and formative tests, and publish them online with a simple click. With *Netquiz Web*, you can create 14 different types of questions (*matching, multiple choice, classification, grid, essay, dictation, labelling, ordering, short answer, multiple answer, fill-in-the-blank, true or false, zone identification and page*) and parameterize and customize them to suit your needs and add indexes clues, images, texts, sounds and video clips. You can also add a glossary, so that words and expressions appear highlighted in the quiz, allowing respondents to obtain their definitions in the form of text, image, video, sound or links.

[See the samples](#)

Netquiz Web Installer

Download

[1]



Visit broadcast portals

PBS: Public Broadcasting Service

The screenshot shows the PBS website interface. At the top left is the PBS logo and a dropdown menu for 'Choose Your Local Station'. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo is a horizontal navigation menu with links for HOME, TOPICS, VIDEO, TV SCHEDULE, PROGRAMS, DONATE, SHOP (highlighted with a red arrow), KIDS, PARENTS, and TEACHERS. Underneath is a 'Tonight on:' section with a sub-link 'Choose a station to view tonight's schedule'. This section contains four program thumbnails: 'Tomorrow on Need to Know: Campaign Spending', 'The Mind of a Chef Continues Tomorrow', 'Sunday on NOVA: Inside the Megastorm', and 'New Fizzy's Lunch Lab App'. Below this is a 'Today's Video' section with the title 'Nature An Original DUCKumentary' and a video player showing a mallard duck. To the right of the video player is a 'Sign Up for the PBS Previews Newsletter' form with a 'Subscribe' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Programs' section listing 'American Experience', 'American Masters', and 'Antiques Roadshow'. A blue box with the number '2' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

[2]



PBS Learning Media

The screenshot shows the PBS Learning Media website. At the top left is the PBS Learning Media logo. To the right are links for 'HELP' (FAQ, Feedback) and a 'LOG IN' button. Below the navigation bar are three main sections: 'BROWSE STANDARDS', 'BROWSE BY GRADE & SUBJECT' (with a dropdown arrow), and a search bar labeled 'Search'. The main content area features a large orange banner on the left with the text 'Bring Your Classroom to Life With PBS', 'Register Now it's free!', and 'Why register? Find out more'. To the right of the banner is a video player showing three people sitting outdoors. A text box on the right of the video reads: 'Take a Trip to the UK & Italy. This week, PBS will accompany Mrs. Obama on her trip to the United Kingdom...'. Below the video player are four smaller video thumbnails. The first is for 'SCIENCE' with the title 'Today in Biology: Travel to Palau in this webinar.' and images of 'Normal coral' and 'Coral after bleaching'. The second is for 'SOCIAL STUDIES' with the title 'Today in US History: Learn about African-American inventors.' and an image of a man with a glowing aura. The third is for 'MATH' with the title 'Today in Math: Learn to chart data using graphs.' and an image of a line graph titled 'ELECTRONIC TRAILER - GRIM WREAKER BY'. The fourth is for 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS' with the title 'Today in Literature: An introduction Ralph Ellison.' and an image of a man's face. Each of these four thumbnails has a 'Watch the video' button at the bottom.

[3]



PBS Kids

[SIGN IN TO PBS KIDS](#)

[APPS](#) [HELP](#) [TV TIMES](#) 

PARENTS ▶

 APP

Exclusive version of the Dinosaur Train A to Z app features 80 dinosaurs! Available on Google Play. [Download now](#)



[4]



BBC News



Most watched



Moment bomb hits Afghan parliament
2 hours ago



The e-bike without a chain
19 June 2015



One-minute World News
2 hours ago



Life in Ukraine's rebel-held Donetsk
7 hours ago



George eyes crowd at Queen's birthday
13 June 2015



Ronan Hughes was 'exploited'
9 June 2015

Show More

One-minute World News

Watch the latest news summary from BBC World News. International news updated 24 hours a day.

[5]



BBC Learning English

The screenshot shows the BBC Learning English website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a 'Sign in' button, a 'Menu' dropdown, and a search bar. Below this is a banner for 'LEARNING ENGLISH' with the tagline 'INSPIRING LANGUAGE LEARNING SINCE 1943'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Courses' and 'Features' dropdowns, along with another search bar. A teal-colored menu bar lists various content categories: 'The English We Speak', 'Words in the News', '6 Minute English', 'Pronunciation', 'Drama', and 'News Report'. The main content area features several featured items: 1. A video titled 'bored or boring?' showing a family on a sofa, with a 'Start the course >' button. 2. A '6 Minute Grammar' section with a green chalkboard background showing grammar exercises like 'Underline the nouns' and 'Circle the verbs', with a 'Join us on YouTube >' button. 3. A 'Drama: Jamaica Inn' section with a dark, atmospheric image of a man holding a lantern, described as 'A terrible event'. 4. A 'Changing places' section with a cartoon character and a diagram of a path branching into 'CHANGE' and 'SAME', described as 'Changing career'. 5. A 'News Report' section featuring a photo of Taylor Swift, dated 22 June 2016, with the headline 'Taylor Swift forces Apple music change'. A large '[6]' is placed to the right of the News Report section.

[6]



Search Online Lesson Plans

TeAch-nology Website



The Online Teacher Resource

Search



Worksheets

Lesson Plans

Rubrics

Teacher Resources

Printables

Subjects

Tools

Tips

Memberships

Home



Welcome to TeAch-nology.com

For over a decade, TeAch-nology has been providing free and easy to use resources for teachers dedicated to improving the education of today's generation of students. We feature [46,000+ lesson plans](#), [10,200 free printable worksheets](#), [rubrics](#), [teaching tips](#), [worksheet makers](#), [web quests](#), [math worksheets](#), and thousands of other great [teacher resources](#). We are the online teacher resource that is designed to help busy Kindergarten through High School teachers.

Become a Member

Featured Lessons, Themes, Worksheets and Resources

[7]



TeAch-nology.com

Includes the following resources for teachers:

- 46,000 lesson plans,
- 10,200 printable worksheets,
- preformatted rubrics,
- worksheet makers,
- webquests,
- printable generators,
- 257,000 reviewed sites for teachers to search for information related to the subject matter they teach.



Lesson Plans from BBC Learn English website

The screenshot shows the BBC Learning English website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, News, Sport, Radio, TV, Weather, and Languages. A search box is located on the right. Below the navigation bar is a purple banner with the BBC Learning English logo and the text "Inspiring language learners for 70 years" and "70 YEARS".

The main content area is titled "Lesson plans" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "Home > For teachers > Lesson Plans". Below the title, it states "Last updated at 14:56 GMT, Friday, 20 February 2009".

There are two featured lesson plan sections:

- Words in the News:** Includes a photo of a man in a radio studio and the text: "Lesson plans to accompany our Words in the New Features (2005 - 2008)".
- Keep your English up-to-date:** Includes a word cloud with terms like "ants", "be like", "pre-owned", "smirt", "cashback", "woot!", "newbie", "carbon footprint", "supersize", "D'oh", "24/7", "facebook", and "downsize". The text below the word cloud reads: "Lesson plans from series one to four of our feature on new and changing vocabulary".

A left-hand navigation menu lists various categories: Home, General & Business English, Grammar, Vocabulary & Pronunciation, Talking Sport, Quizzes, The Flatmates, Community, For teachers, Lesson Plans (highlighted), Skills, Grammar & Vocabulary, Teaching Ideas & Worksheets, Video, and Discuss & Vote.

[8]

Free Online Lesson Planbook for Teachers



Login

The Simpler, Smarter Lesson Planner.

Never struggle with lesson planning again. Your plans are available anywhere and are simple to create.

Attach files, Common Core Standards, print, export to Word or PDF, share with colleagues.

14-day premium trial, free basic service for life, 10-second sign up, nothing to install and no credit card required.

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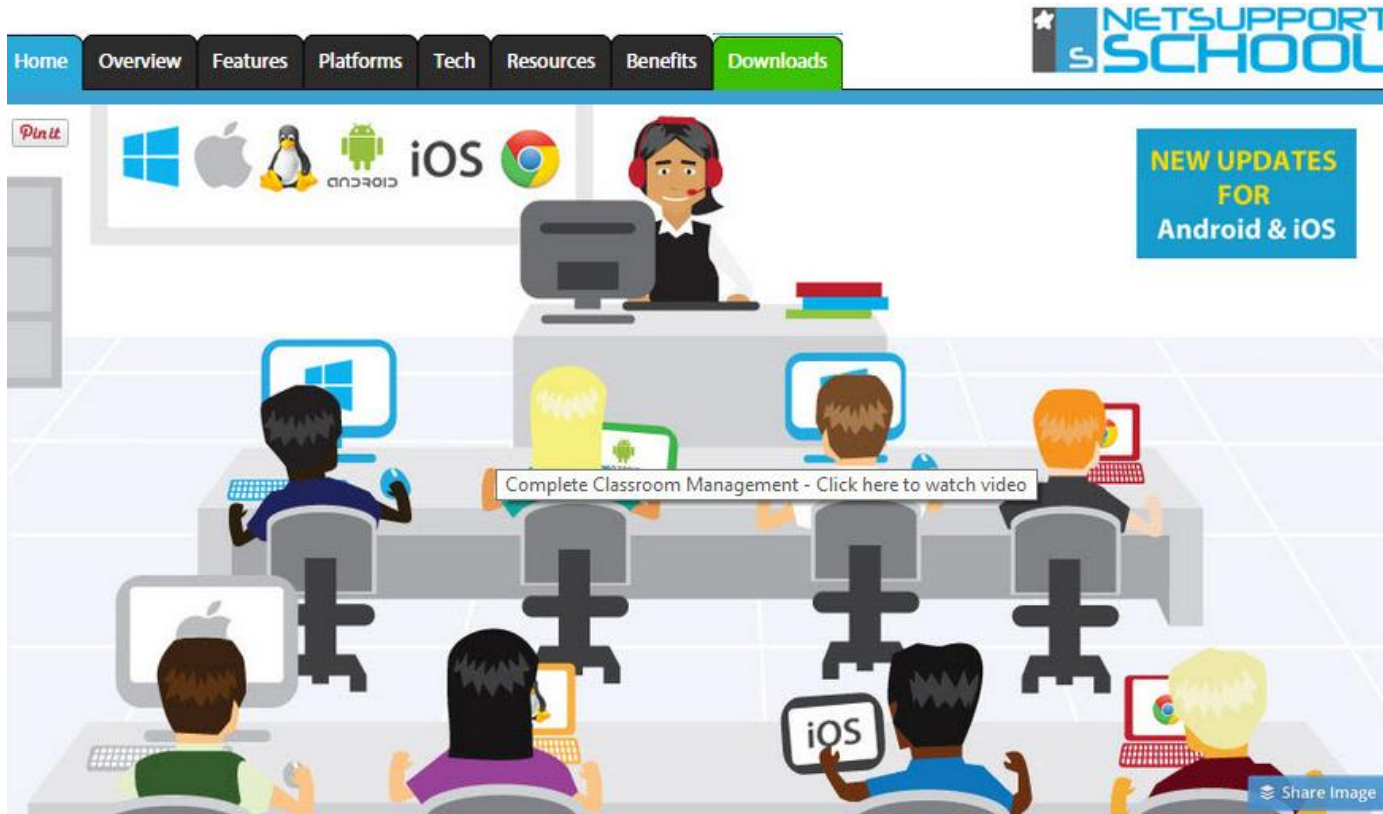
[Watch a 60 Second Tour](#)



[9]



Lesson planning features in educational platforms



The screenshot shows the NetSupport School website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Overview, Features, Platforms, Tech, Resources, Benefits, and Downloads. The 'Downloads' link is highlighted in green. To the right of the menu is the NetSupport School logo. Below the menu, there is a banner image of a classroom. A teacher is seated at a desk with a computer, wearing a headset. Several students are seated at desks, each with a computer. The students' screens display various operating system logos: Windows, Apple, Linux (Tux penguin), Android, and iOS. A text box in the center of the classroom scene reads 'Complete Classroom Management - Click here to watch video'. In the top right corner of the banner, there is a blue box with the text 'NEW UPDATES FOR Android & iOS'. In the bottom right corner of the banner, there is a 'Share Image' button. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Classroom Instruction, Orchestration, Monitoring & Management'. The text below this title reads: 'NetSupport School is the market-leading classroom software solution for schools. Working across all platforms, NetSupport School supports a teacher with a wealth of dedicated assessment, monitoring, collaboration and control features to ensure they can leverage the very best from their ICT equipment.' To the right of this text, there is a green button with a white download icon and the text 'FREE TRIAL 40 PCs for 30 days Download now'.

Home Overview Features Platforms Tech Resources Benefits Downloads

NETSUPPORT SCHOOL

Pin it

NEW UPDATES FOR Android & iOS

Complete Classroom Management - Click here to watch video

Share Image

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NetSupport School is the market-leading classroom software solution for schools. Working across all platforms, NetSupport School supports a teacher with a wealth of dedicated assessment, monitoring, collaboration and control features to ensure they can leverage the very best from their ICT equipment.

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[10]

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Notes

Note on History of Published Version

The present work is the edition 1.0.



Reference Note

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