If you can’t beat them, join them –

Using technology in the language classroom
Overview

• Why can’t we avoid technology?
• Why is it difficult for us?
• In what way are learners different?
• A short history
• Some concrete examples
• Benefits of using ICT in language teaching
• Considerations
• Assessment
Why is it difficult for us?

*My students know so much more about computers than I do.*

Why use computers anyway? We’ve got a perfectly good coursebook.

Another new method? No, thanks

Technology distances people

I’d like to use computers more, but preparing materials is so time-consuming...
In what way are learners different? (Prensky, 2004)

• communication
• sharing
• exchanging
• creating
• meeting
• collecting
• evaluating

http://www.flickr.com/
A short history of using technology in the language classroom:

1960s, 70s: tape recorders, language laboratories, video players

1980s: CALL, respond to stimuli, text reconstructions, individual tasks, CD-ROMs

1990s: ICT (Internet, computer programmes, web-based tools, TELL)
Introduction to web 2.0

“Please describe web 2.0 to me in 2 sentences or less.”
“You make all the content. They keep all the revenue.”
(YouTube...).

Web 1.0 = Personal Website / Web 2.0 = Blog
Web 1.0 = Britannica Online / Web 2.0 = Wikipedia

http://bash.org/?779320
Projects online...an example

What is icEurope about?

icEurope sets out to gain insights into foreign language and intercultural learning within a web-enhanced English classroom on the basis of a combined model of intercultural foreign language learning.

4 classes from Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, and Turkey will collaborate online in Moodle. On the learning platform, the learners engage in exploring and negotiating intercultural topics and contents with their peers in communicative and collaborative activities.

The focus is on their icEnglish: the lingua franca English needed to collaborate and communicate interculturally successfully.

Project results will include:

Grassroots insight
Grassroots analysis of the three theoretical concepts involved (intercultural communication, English as a lingua franca, e-learning) & a survey on current practices (incl. analysis of curricula, learning objectives, teaching methods and materials).

Pedagogic model of intercultural foreign language learning
Development of a theoretical-methodological model for enhancing icEnglish, i.e. English as lingua franca used for intercultural communication purposes.

Intercultural web collaboration
In an authentic, communicative, and constructive Moodle learning environment, the learners will negotiate intercultural topics and contents with their peers, exploring and co-constructing their own English.

Teacher workshops & training materials
Several workshops based on the icEurope approach in all the partners’ countries; teachers and trainees will have the opportunity to work hands on in Moodle and with the icEurope materials; training materials are designed to be used for future (teacher-teacher) workshops. Opportunities for real web collaboration follow-ups are given.

icEurope booklet (digital & print)
A booklet with icEurope materials and results will be published to provide teachers and trainers with activities & suggestions for teaching ‘Intercultural English’ online and via web collaboration.

Moodle platform for teachers
Based on the project insights, a Moodle platform will be set up for teachers to carry out their own web collaborations in the future.

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Forums

Eventbrite Forums - Remove competitors' names from forum filter list - Mozilla Firefox

Hey, thomast, you have 1 message(s) are new.

Remove competitors' names from forum filter list (Read 0 times)

thomast
Eventbrite Newbie
I found it mildly disconcerting but ultimately rather funny when I figured out that certain eventbrite competitors' names are in the forum word filter list.

However, in a non-profit technology forum that I read, in a thread where I had sung eventbrite's praises, a new Eventbrite user reports that one filter replacement can cause users to be redirected to a not-safe-for-work site. You've lost at least that customer, and probably some number of future prospective customers with this.

It's time for it to go - it may have been funny in the past, but not any more. Eventbrite has proven its mettle with functionality and customer service. Forcing forum users to speak ill of competitors in the forums with tech tricks confuses and angers forum users and is a childish form of censorship. Your openness to user feedback is one on Eventbrite's greatest strengths, and sometimes feature requests are best made by referencing another service.

Stop being afraid of other services being mentioned in your forums and remove the filters.

Thomas Taylor
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

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Eventbrite Forums General Feature Requests
Chats

4:44:24 PM - Andy to Robert:
Great! 😊 What are you up to?

4:45:20 PM - Robert to Andy:
Not much. You know, Yak! is a fantastic chat app. It's so easy to use! http://www.digicraft.com.au/

4:45:42 PM - Andy to Robert:
Yeah, I know... ...

4:46:07 PM - Robert to Andy:
Hey, check out the attached mp3 file.

4:46:36 PM - Andy to Robert:
Thankyou! I'll listen to it later.

4:46:56 PM - Robert to Andy:
I enjoy using Yak! so much. I don't know what I'd do without it!!

To Robert:

Yeah, I know what you mean.
Six Influential People in ELT today

For those of you who have been following this blog over the past six months you will no doubt have come across references to my (infamous) poll. I asked who the most influential people in ELT today are. To make it easier I included a shortlist of names,

SIX THINGS
A MISCELLANY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

RECENT POSTS
Six ways to exploit Obama’s Nobel Peace Prize in class
Six things to know about Global
Six original topical teaching ideas for October
Ben Goldstein’s six ways to sell English
Six classroom activities with mobile/cell phones
Six amazing words you never knew existed
Six things about teaching English in Romania
Six books that could
Podcasts 1: ELT Podcasts

ELT Podcast - Basic Conversations for EFL and ESL

Robert Chartrand and Bill Pellowe

Subscribe free:

Archive

Click the link titles to read the podcast transcript or notes, and listen to the broadcast.

- Basic Conversations - Introductions
  Nice to meet you! An EFL lesson about introducing yourself.
  [1.04 MB, 2:03, March 2nd, 2007]

- Basic Conversations - How long are you staying?
  When are you leaving?
  [2.32 MB, 4:49, July 1st, 2006]

- Basic Conversations - What kind of sports do you like?
  I like soccer. A basic conversation for English students.
  [1.36 MB, 2:44, June 6th, 2006]

- Basic Conversations - The Weekend
  Did you have a nice weekend?
  [1.25 MB, 2:30, May 20th, 2006]

- Basic Conversations - Who did you talk to?
  I talked to someone interesting yesterday.

- Basic Conversations - Weekend plans
  Do you have any plans for this weekend?
  [2.43 MB, 5:03, March 3rd, 2006]

- Basic Conversations - How often do you go skiing?
Podcasts 2: Better at English

Introduction
Hello and welcome to another episode of Real English Conversations from BetterAtEnglish.com.

In today's conversation, which is part four of our four-part series, we will be discussing the pros and cons of dog ownership, and dog owners sharing some of the vocabulary we deal with in this episode is a bit of a challenge, so if you are sensitive or easily offended, I suggest you stop listening now.

As always, you can find the vocabulary notes and full transcript of this podcast on our website, www.betteratenglish.com.

Ok, here we go!

Conversation Transcript
Lost: And some people... I swear, you know, dogs I think are great. It's dog owners that can be just real... I mean, sometimes.
Michael: Yeah.
Lost: There's a forest outside where I live here, where I like to go running and walking and... people, it's a great place. I don't see many people, but there are a lot of dog walkers who like to go there as well.
Michael: Yeah.
Lost: And they don't want to keep their dogs on a leash all the times. They let their dogs kind of run wild, and a lot of them don't really have control over their dogs.
Michael: Right, right.
Lost: And the dogs can be quite aggressive sometimes. But then, dog owners are really weird. Sometimes they are so protective of their dogs and they think their dogs can do harm.
Michael: Oh dear.
Lost: So they actually get angry at you, walking along telling you that, 'Oh, it's because you're afraid, that's why he (the dog) is acting like that.' And it's like...
Michael: Of course I'm afraid. He's a giant dog with slavering fangs. Yeah.
Lost: Running up barking at me, not looking friendly. Of course I'm going to be afraid, you know? And I don't think it's my responsibility as, you know, a person walking the dog, to have to control the dog and that it's my responsibility to take my behavior to the comfort of the dog.
Interactive White Boards
What are the benefits of using technology in language teaching?

• motivation
• learner autonomy
• interaction and collaboration between learners in the same class
• group building
• collaboration and communication between learners in different countries
• exposure to different varieties of English
• exposure to and practice in all areas of language
What do we need to consider when using technology?

• core values and beliefs
  ➢ aims and principles (e.g.: context rich environments, genuine needs and partners, priority to fluency)
  ➢ teacher and learner roles (facilitation, learner-centredness)

• potential dangers
  ➢ unpredictability of technology
  ➢ misuse

• course planning
• time
• collaboration with colleagues