

Insites

Jackie Hemingway & Sarah Butler

This section highlights some useful learning and teaching websites that can help with planning, teaching and professional development. This time we look at websites with ideas about learning and teaching using technology.

Teacher Training Videos

<http://www.teachertainingvideos.com>

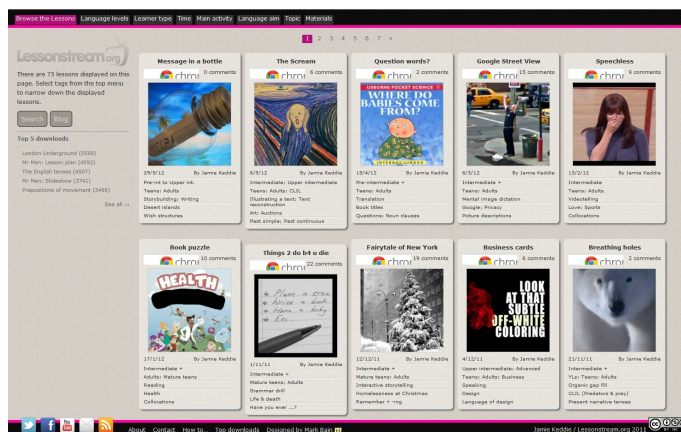
This award-winning website created by Russell Stannard is aimed at helping teachers incorporate technology into the language classroom. Focusing on English Language Teaching (though not exclusively), the author uses video to provide step-by-step guides to using a wide range of websites and ICT (Information and Communications Technology) tools such as podcasts. These videos literally talk users through how to use the websites/tools and offer suggestions for how to use them in the classroom. Both technophobes and the tech-savvy are likely to find new ideas and recommendations on using technology in English Language Teaching. Additional videos recommend websites for students to use for self-study. For those teachers interested in alternatives to written feedback, the site features research into using screen capture software and video for giving feedback to students and provides videos showing examples of how to do this. All the videos and content can be accessed for free and users can subscribe to a free monthly newsletter for updates.



Lessonstream

<http://www.lessonstream.org>

For those looking to use more visual materials in their lessons, this site created by Jamie Keddie, author of *Images in the Resource Books for Teachers* series (OUP), might be a good place to start. Lessonstream offers a variety of lesson plans centred on using visual images and online videos to teach English. The lessons incorporate a wide range of intriguing visual materials including advertisements, business presentations, and music videos. Although none of the lessons are specifically designed for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) classes, the site does offer materials for a range of learner types including learners of Business English, and many of the lesson plans could be adapted for EAP or at least provide inspiration for using visuals in the classroom. Lesson plans are organized under several categories, including language level, learner type, language aim, and topic. PDF lesson plans are free to access and include relevant images and links to online videos.



Australia Network

<http://australianetwork.com/learningenglish>

The *Learning English* section of the Australia Network website covers a variety of English skills based on programmes broadcast both within Australia and worldwide. University students may find the *Study English* section, which focuses on preparation for the IELTS test, particularly useful as the videos develop general academic language and skills. Transcripts, study notes and activities can be downloaded for further in-depth study. The *Business of English* pages contain detailed notes focusing on key language to help prepare learners for the world of work and this section also provides exercises on developing presentations and taking

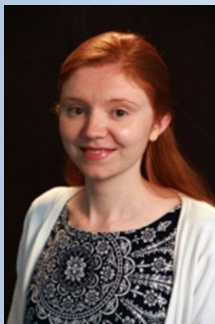
part in discussions. The *English Bites* section is presented in magazine format with topics ranging from national parks to art markets, allowing students to develop listening skills in a less formal, more relaxed way. The videos can either be watched online or downloaded and users can subscribe to podcasts. Overall this is a useful site for both students and teachers and it is easy to navigate from the main menu on the home page.

These websites are useful for developing a teacher's skill set and supplementing teaching. They can also provide students with an element of critical thinking and be used as an alternative to more traditional materials.

Contributions to this regular feature are welcome for future editions. Please contact the authors with your suggestions.

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