

# OUR FAVOURITE ONLINE RESOURCES

**BRITISH COUNCIL SPAIN – OUR FAVOURITE ONLINE RESOURCES**



# MESSAGE FROM...

## ROD PRYDE Country Director Spain

First, welcome everyone to our annual teachers' conference. If you're returning, it's nice to know that you appreciate our efforts; if it's your first time attending, I have no doubt you'll get a tremendous number of ideas to take back to the classroom, and will want to come again. In any case, I'm sure you'll contribute to the great atmosphere, as ever.



You may recall that last year we put together a very well-received booklet for you, with a focus on our favourite warmers and fillers. I'm sure that everyone who received one was inspired to try out an idea or two – and if you had a go at my 'Shouted Dictation', I hope you had a noisy good time with it! This year, with half an eye again on providing really practical tips for teachers, we decided to focus on our favourite online resources. We have contributions, again, from all of our Spanish teaching centres, and from staff at every level – teachers, coordinators, managers, and directors, every one with a unique perspective on classroom practice. While we as an organisation obviously invest in the highest quality teacher support,

and can engage with major partners like the BBC (TeachingEnglish) or the Barclays Premier League (Premier Skills) to produce first class websites, it's often the case that less well known sites can also be useful to the practicing educator. We've tried here not just to provide a list of resources, but to give reasons for the choices: every site was chosen and described by an individual. Naturally we cannot be held responsible for the content of these sites, and everyone has their personal preferences, but I'm sure the wide range you'll find in these pages will contribute to your professional development. We have tried to provide a selection of resources of varying types, too – my apologies to those whose suggestions didn't make the final edit.

A practical boost to your learners' abilities inside and outside the classroom is, as ever, our ultimate aim, and, in the spirit of mutuality, we'd be only too interested to hear which sites not listed here you find useful in your work. Enjoy the conference, make use of this booklet, share with colleagues, and keep in touch!

Rod Pryde .

# TEACHINGENGLISH

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** Teachers

**URL:** <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>

**Brief Description of Resource:** British Council/BBC website for ELT resources, training, development, and teacher interaction.

**How We Use It:** This site contains a wealth of resources of all teachers of English, focused on sharing resources, interaction, and professional development. It's divided into five sections: Teaching resources; Teacher development; Teacher training; Articles; and Community. The most immediately exploitable is 'Teaching Resources', which has lesson plans, divided by level, on all kinds of topics from card games to CLIL. There are downloadable worksheets with many lesson plans, but also a section of activity ideas, and another with video tips from teachers on topics like 'using songs', the phonemic chart, or 'energising classes'.

**Why We Like It:** The variety of resources here is incredible - you can download articles or even whole books in some cases! The

quality is perfect, as you'd expect from a British Council / BBC collaboration, but what's also nice is that you can interact with anyone from experts (top names in the industry blog here) to other teachers from countries all round the world. These different perspectives create a really dynamic community, so if you're looking for an idea, opinion, or experience, someone is bound to be able to help you out!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the TeachingEnglish website. At the top, there are logos for the British Council and BBC, and navigation links for 'Search with Terms', 'User login', and 'User registration'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Home', 'Teacher development', 'Teacher training', 'Articles', 'Community', and 'Teaching tips'. The main content area features a video player with a play button, a 'Teaching tips' section with a search bar, and a 'Welcome to TeachingEnglish!' message. On the right side, there is a 'User login' form, a 'Navigation' section with links to 'Articles' and 'FAQs', and a 'Cambridge Dictionary' search bar. At the bottom right, there is a 'THIS IS GREAT' banner with a British flag.

# EDU365CAT

**Age:** Primary, Junior, Senior, Teens

**Level:** Beginner to Advanced

**URL:** <http://www.edu365.cat/crea>

**Brief Description of Resource:** A website provided by the education department of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

**How We Use It:** There are four different areas with a total of over 90 websites, covering an eclectic assortment of purposes in support of education. They can be used to create animations, create collective stories and projects and a host of other possibilities, too numerous to mention here.

**Why We Like It:** There's an incredible variety of resources available. In fact at first the choice seems almost unlimited, but it's amazingly useful to have them all in one place - especially when you're in a hurry. Make sure to browse when you have a bit of spare time, so you know how to navigate the site quickly and efficiently. Once you get the hang of the layout, you are

bound to keep coming back to look for more links.

**Further Commentary:** Like all online resources, teachers will have to be vigilant regarding correct use. The site opens in Catalan language, but is very visual - you should be able to work out quite easily which sites do what, and of course the linked sites themselves are not in Catalan!

The screenshot displays the EDU365CAT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'EDU365CAT' and the text 'Departament d'Ensenyament'. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a 'Crea' button. The main content area is divided into four columns: 'Animació', 'Les teves històries', 'Projectes', and 'Col·labora i crea'. Each column contains a grid of resource cards, each with a small icon, a title, and a brief description. The cards are arranged in a grid format, with each card having a small icon and a title. The background of the website is light blue with a pattern of small white dots. At the bottom, there is a footer with the text 'Col·labora i crea | Departament d'Ensenyament'.

# LEARNENGLISH KIDS

**Age:** Primary and Very Young Learners

**Level:** Beginners to Bilingual

**URL:** <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Free online games, songs, stories and activities for children to have fun and learn English.

**How We Use It: There are 5 sections:**

**Games** - on different topics and to practise vocabulary. Lots of fun!

**Listen and watch** – stories, songs, short videos, tongue twisters. Plus worksheets to download.

**Read and write** – become a member and write to the site (all comments are moderated to maintain a safe environment), print worksheets, videos with kids explaining vocabulary.

**Make** – tons of craft ideas with things to make and download.

**Speak and spell** – songs, stories and games to practise pronunciation and spelling based on a UK phonics literacy programme

Also, there's a new grammar section coming soon, and a parents' page with lots of information on how to

teach your child at home. There are links to tips for teachers on how to use the materials in class.

**Why We Like It:** LearnEnglish has everything you need to teach YLs in class and to help them at home. Children can work on their own or with an adult, but it won't feel like work! Kids love it. Parents love it. Teachers love it. Great for recommending to parents to use with kids at home.



# VOKI

**Age:** Juniors

**Level:** Elementary - Intermediate

**URL:** [www.voki.com](http://www.voki.com)

**Brief Description of Resource:** Voki is a website which enables you to create speaking avatars.

**How We Use It:** You can design the appearance of your avatar and then type messages which the avatar will say aloud. This is useful for younger students who are learning vocabulary used to describe appearance or who are learning to construct simple sentences. They can type what they want the avatar to say. You could even get students to create dialogues using their avatars. It's engaging and motivating for the learners, as they see their avatars speaking, and the avatars are really professional looking.

**Why We Like It:** It's colourful and lets the student get creative. It's fairly easy to use and it helps students practise their writing and vocabulary. It's

fairly easy to explain. Although the site looks a bit 'busy' and visually overwhelming, you can navigate through the bits you want and ignore the rest.

**Further Commentary:** The only thing really to recommend is for the teacher to have a clear idea of the activity they're going to do. Don't just get them to create an avatar without a linguistic purpose already prepared.

The screenshot shows the Voki website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'CREATE', 'MY VOKI', 'LEARN', 'LESSON PLANS', and 'PRODUCTS'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large green banner with the text 'Create Speaking Avatars' and 'Use them as an effective learning tool'. Below this, there is a list of benefits: 'Motivate students to participate', 'Improve message comprehension', 'Introduce technology in a fun way', and 'Utilize Voki as an effective language tool'. To the right of the banner, there is a section titled 'What is Voki?' with a list of features: 'Create customised avatars', 'Add voice to your Voki avatars', 'Post your Voki to any blog, website, or profile', and 'Take advantage of Voki's learning resources'. Below the banner, there are social media links for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The page is divided into several sections: 'Voki Blog Buzz!' with a 'Voki Top of the Month' tip, 'Voki Videos' with a video player, and 'What is Voki Classroom?' with a list of features: 'Students do not need to sign up!', 'Add and manage your Classes & Students!', 'Lesson pages automatically created!', 'Customized appearance & instructions!', and 'Get unlimited email support!'. At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information and a copyright notice.

# LEARNENGLISH TEENS

**Age:** 13-17

**Level:** Beginner to C2

**URL:** <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org>

**Brief Description of Resource:** British Council website with lots of high quality resources, activities and games to help teenagers improve their English.

**How We Use It:** The website is designed for teenagers to use independently at home, but it can be used in class to introduce them to the site – for example, they explore the site very happily in pairs. With younger teens the vocabulary activities can be used as a whole class to present new lexis, and Sushi Spell as a fun game at the end of class. Teachers can also download printable versions of all the worksheets – there are some great reading activities and listening with video clips. The reading from the magazine section can also be set as homework too.

**Why We Like It:** It's just great to see a website of this quality that caters specifically for teens. The magazine section has

authentic blogs by young people from the UK, the topics are perfect for teenagers, and there's loads of juicy authentic language – It's really to be recommended for C1/C2 levels. For lower levels there's grammar, vocabulary, graded reading and listening (in English Skills Practice) and there are more challenging authentic video clips in Videozone. There's a really friendly atmosphere between users – nice seeing them use English genuinely to comment and chat.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the LearnEnglish Teens website. At the top, there is a purple navigation bar with the British Council logo and the text 'LearnEnglish Teens'. Below the navigation bar, there are several content sections:

- A large featured article with a soccer ball and a player, titled 'Short stories and poems Read a story about a footballer'.
- A 'Find Us On' section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.
- A 'Learn English Mobile' section with a 'Listen' button and an image of a young man and woman.
- A 'Videozone' section with two video thumbnails: 'Wingspan jump' and 'How to Train Your Dragon'.
- A 'Popular Videos' section with three video thumbnails: 'Waze UK: Can anyone search to sing?', 'Time Out London: Rockstar', and 'Competition and surprise activities'.



# ENGLISHCENTRAL

**Age:** Junior, Teens, Adults

**Level:** Intermediate, Advanced, Proficient

**URL:** <http://www.englishcentral.com>

**Brief Description of Resource:** A website where students can choose from a range of videos to practise their English and improve their pronunciation skills.

**How We Use It:** Teachers can use it in class for in-depth study of vocabulary and pronunciation or recommend it to students as a self-study resource. Apart from the specialised activities

you can do with the videos on the site, don't forget that there are loads of more traditional listening activities you can do with the videos as well. Also, one advantage of using web resources is that many of the tasks can be set as homework activities or project work, with students reporting back in class. You don't necessarily need connectivity in the classroom to exploit the resource successfully.

**Why We Like It:** It's fun to use, there's a good range of videos that covers different topics

and interests. Students can record themselves mimicking the dialogue in the video and see how well they can match the original. They can slow the dialogue down, analyse how different syllables are pronounced and look up words they don't know. A unique and very complete tool that has all kinds of possibilities. Try it out yourself beforehand, and make sure you understand how all the functions work.



# PUZZLEMAKER

**Age:** Primary - Adult

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Free online puzzle maker that you can use to create word searches, crosswords, etc.

**How We Use It:** With higher level groups you can create crosswords which help recycle vocabulary covered over a unit. You enter the missing words and then write a definition for each one, which gives quite good practice in itself. You can add a competitive element by having them do the crosswords in small groups, which kids and adults alike love.

Lower level primary groups can do word searches to recycle or present vocabulary. You can add pictures and the students have to find the corresponding words in the grid – a great filler for fast finishers or lexical reinforcement activity.

**Why We Like It:** The website itself is very easy to use and creating the activities is a

simple task. As you enter all the words / definitions yourself, you can tailor the content to each particular class and really focus on what you want them to learn or what has been covered in class. If you have access to enough computers, you can get the students into small groups and have them create their own puzzles and set a challenge for other groups, which they find fun and motivating.

**Further Commentary:** Go to it and have a look!

The screenshot shows the Discovery Education website's Puzzlemaker tool. The top navigation bar includes links for Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Students, and About Discovery Education. The main content area is titled "Puzzlemaker" and features a large blue banner with the text "CREATE YOUR OWN PUZZLES" and "PUZZLEMAKER". Below the banner, there are several sections: "Welcome to Puzzlemaker!" which describes the tool as a secure generation tool for teachers, students, and parents; "Like it? Buy it!" which offers a purchase option; "Make a puzzle now! It's free!" which lists puzzle types such as Word Search, Extra Cross, Scramble Puzzle, Fill-in Pictures, Math Squares, Plans, Letter Tiles, and Cryptograms; and "Try a Free Made Puzzle" which provides a preview of a puzzle. On the right side, there are promotional banners for "Sign Up to Receive Our Newsletter" and "Don't Miss It!" with a calendar of events. The bottom of the page includes a "Sponsored Links" section with various educational resources.

## STORYLINE ONLINE

**Age:** Primary upwards

**Level:** Pre-intermediate upwards

**URL:** [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

**Brief Description of Resource:** Collection of stories read by famous actors, from the Screen Actors Guild of America.

**How We Use It:** You can use one of these stories as a 'calmer' or 'settler' activity, but also in a very active way. Sometimes you can just get the kids to listen to a story and read it as they listen (younger groups especially). Other

times, you can get students to take notes on vocabulary, grammatical structures, stress, intonation, and so on. Learn or study also how to structure stories. Or learners can do the accompanying activities. They can they do reviews or make posters based on the stories, or try story reconstruction activities, such as storymapping.

**Why We Like It:** All stories come with subtitles and activities to do, before, during, and after reading. They can be used for various levels.

They're good stories, inoffensive and usually with an upbeat, optimistic ending. Higher levels who think the stories are going to be childish are often surprised at the quantity of new vocabulary to be found. One Proficiency class wrote two sides of A4 on a story read by Al Gore! Each story is very visual and the readers are professional actors who have obviously practised beforehand. Kids often leave the class in a relaxed and calm way and they usually ask for a story again.

**Further Commentary:** The only thing to make sure of is that you know exactly which story you're going to use and what activity you're going to do.

**STORYLINE ONLINE**

CHOOSE A STORY...

- THE RAINBOW FISH
- HARRY THE DIRTY DOG
- TO BE A DRUM
- GULI GULI
- SEBASTIAN'S ROLLER SKATES
- MORE STORIES!
- ALL STORIES - INDEX

**WELCOME!**

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation is proud to bring you *Storyline Online*, an on-line streaming video program featuring SAG members reading children's books aloud! Each book includes accompanying activities and lesson ideas.

Click on any book at the left to get started.

This program has been made possible by a grant from the Screen Actors Guild.

**NEW! PLEASE!**

THANK YOU, MR. FALKER  
READ BY JIM KACMAREK

Thank you to Mr. Falker

BUY THESE BOOKS NEWSLETTER VIEWER COMMENTS PRODUCTION CREDITS HELP/FAQ

DID YOU KNOW? YOU CAN HELP! YOU CAN HELP! YOU CAN HELP!  
You can help us maintain our efforts to make hearing and visual impaired users more comfortable in enjoying the Online.

DOES YOUR SCHOOL RECK YOU? VISIT US ON [Facebook] [Twitter] [YouTube]

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL!

## SAFESHARE.TV

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** Teachers

**URL:** <http://www.safeshare.tv>

**Brief Description of Resource:** A tool to crop YouTube videos to create activities.

**How We Use It:** SafeShare.TV is a tool that has two primary functions. The first is to enable you to share YouTube videos using a direct URL that frames the video without the advertising and other distracting features that might cause students to wander off into less suitable materials or for their attention to wane.

The second and perhaps even more useful function of SafeShare.TV is that it enables you to crop the video clip so that only a particular segment is shown. This is particularly useful when you want to build activities or tasks around clips that focus students on particular linguistic features.

**Why We Like It:** Using YouTube videos with students can be really great, as learners are naturally engaged by moving images, and authentic film clips especially provide tons of contextual clues to language usage and meaning.

But finding a video with the exact language you want, and at a suitable length for your planned activity, without too many other distractions around it, can be really difficult. That's why SafeShare.TV is so useful for teachers, and the choice is only limited to what you can find or upload to YouTube.



# VISUALS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** Beginner to FCE

**URL:** <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/v/visuals>

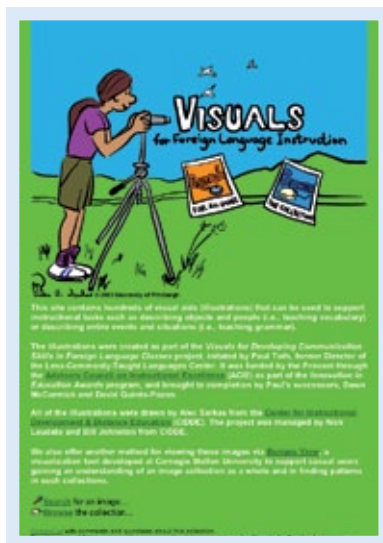
**Brief Description of Resource:** Illustrations created for developing communication in ESL.

**How We Use It:** The hundreds of illustrations contained on this site can be used to support instructional tasks such as describing objects and people (i.e. teaching vocabulary) or describing events and situations (i.e. teaching grammar). After you've chosen a topic, just open an image and then click on the 'next' option and you'll have a series for review in class. There are also pictures with blank dialogue bubbles. You can also zoom in on an illustration and then pan across it so one illustration can be studied in detail.

**Why We Like It:** This resource is great because it is fairly new and provides a catalogue of images that are ideal for use on the Interactive Whiteboard. The 'Day in the Life' series of images (that shows activities throughout the day along with a clock in the corner of the page) is highly recommended. Many of the situations in the images are related to vocabulary presented in course books. For example, 'professions', 'clothes', 'sports', or 'transportation' are all good for

junior classes. If you type in 'conversations', you pull up images with dialogue boxes that can be used for greetings, exclamations, making requests and other language functions.

**Further Commentary:** Just make sure you have a clear plan and know exactly what type of activity you're going to do with the visuals before you spend time finding them - start with a topic not the images!



# PHOTRANSEEDIT

**Age:** All except the very young, as they are more used to a Phonics approach

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://www.photransedit.com/Online/Text2Phonetics.aspx>

**Brief Description of Resource:** An automatic online phonemic transcriber.

**How We Use It:** You can use this site for all your classes - for example during delayed error correction slots: when monitoring, if you spot any pronunciation areas that give cause for concern, enter the words and/or phrases into the transcriber and with one click of the button you have the phonemic script. You can either show both the normal script and the phonemic script on the screen, or cut and paste just the phonemic script into Word for your error correction slot. Or you can use it to quickly put up words in phonemic script at the beginning of class to recycle vocabulary, e.g. through a board race or bingo / hangman activity.

**Why We Like It:** It is very good for encouraging students to note down individual sounds and stress in new vocabulary. If you use blackboards and chalk a lot, it is easier to have the script perfectly represented, rather than poorly drawn 'schwas' written in

chalk! It does American pronunciation as well as RP which at times is closer to other teacher accents. The downloadable version, which you can install on your PC or laptop, is a more powerful version with more functionality, where you can transcribe whole texts or songs into the phonemics, and thereafter devise activities to exploit the script.

**Further Commentary:** Students can also use it themselves if they want to practise at home.

The screenshot shows the PHOTRANSEEDIT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site name "PHOTRANSEEDIT" and a logo for "Foto Copter". Below the navigation bar, there are several menu items: "Home", "Phonemised Online", "Phonemised Desktop", "About PhonemEdit", and "Links". The main content area is titled "TEXT TO PHONETICS" and contains the following text: "Text2Phonetics is a PhOTransEdit Online application that transcribes small English texts into broad phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Click here to know how you can add a transcriber to your web site or blog." Below this text, there are four numbered steps: 1. Select pronunciation type of the output transcription:  Received Pronunciation (RP)  General American (GA) 2. Type the text you want to transcribe (max 300 chars):  3. Click the Transcribe button to get the transcription:  4. Customize the output transcription:  Keep spaces  Remove stress  Use IPA symbols  Show Comments

## QUEST FOR THE REST

**Age:** Junior and Senior

**Level:** Beginner - Pre-intermediate

**URL:** <http://amanita-design.net/thequestfortherest>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Online game to rescue little people, resulting in a lovely song.

**How We Use It:** Put the website up on the interactive whiteboard, the teacher keeps the pen. Ask students to describe the scene (feeding in relevant bits of vocabulary as you do so). Students then tell you what they think you should do, e.g. “press the green man”, “try

the bird”, “click on the lizard”. You’re in control though, so only follow their suggestions if the sentences are correct and well pronounced. At higher levels, insist that they have to give you an idea of what might happen, e.g. “press the green man, because I think he’ll move”. Clicking on things will move the little people through three scenes to the final celebration song.

**Why We Like It:** It generates lots of opportunities to practise conditionals or the future (phrases with modality like will/might/may/could) while students think that they are focusing on something else entirely - a fun game with great visuals! (And they tend to enjoy the challenge, too.)

### **Further Commentary:**

Try it yourself first, so that when they get stuck (and they will, no doubt about it) you can give them tips. Keep hold of the pen yourself, so you can decide if the phrases and pronunciation are good enough to follow the learners’ instructions.



## VISIESLAND

**Age:** Senior, Teens, Adult

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://www.visi.es>

**Brief Description of Resource:** This is a personal website that has a mountain of useful pages all in one place.

**How We Use It:** It is a real time-saver as you can make crosswords, word searches, quizzes, games (wheel of fortune, blockbusters, jeopardy, etc.). It is good for classroom resources but also has a teacher section which looks at course books, methodology, and so on, and gives teaching tips as well.

You can use the site when you want to make an exercise based on specific vocabulary so as to recycle it. It can also be shown to teachers on teacher training courses, as a resource that can save a lot of time looking around for different sites that do different things! Also, check out the new YouTube videos for grammar presentation. Some of them have explanations in Spanish or Catalan.

**Why We Like It:** When teachers have a ton of preparation to do, this can save a lot of time. It has everything on one easy-to-use site.

**Further Commentary:** Go to it and have a good look round. You'll be surprised!

For Teachers	For Students
• ESL TEACHERS RESOURCES	• STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH
• EFL TEACHERS	• STUDENTS LEARNING SPANISH
• VISI'S WORKSHOPS AND COURSES	• STUDENTS AT ILLICA'S SCHOOL
• ICT- WEB SPECIAL	• LEARNING BOX EXERCISES
• DOWNLOADABLES	• GRAMMAR CANAL
• VIDEO TUTORIALS	• CAMBRIDGE & CEP EXAMS
• VIEW MY PORTFOLIO 	• VISI'S NEW CHANNEL AT SHOW ME 
• COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM	• LISTEN & WATCH





# TED

**Age:** Seniors (Yls 15+), Adults

**Level:** FCE / Higher / Advanced / Proficiency  
General English and/or ESP / Business

**URL:** www.ted.com

**Brief Description of Resource:** Authentic lectures about 'ideas worth spreading'.

**How We Use It:** TED talks are on a wide variety of topics and can be used for authentic listening practice in the classroom,

as a base for discussion, for introduction of a topic, or for teaching presentation skills. Talks are searchable by topic, or by a range of 'the most' categories (e.g. 'the most inspiring', 'the most humorous', etc.). They last between 5 and 20 minutes, meaning that they are suitable for watching in class, or for students to watch by themselves outside of the classroom.

**Why We Like It:** The talks are topical, interesting and there is a huge variety of ideas. There is a lot of interesting vocabulary on different topics, learners are given the

opportunity to listen and understand an authentic text, and there is something of interest to almost everyone, from scientists to poets.

**Further Commentary:** Make sure you watch the videos in advance! You don't want to get caught out by specialised lexis or controversial opinion!

The screenshot shows the TED website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'TED ideas worth spreading' and a search bar. Below that, a table lists various categories like 'Talks', 'Speakers', 'Transcripts', 'TED Conferences', 'TED Events', 'TED Ideas', 'TED Conventions', 'TED Talks', and 'TED Inspire'. The main content area is titled 'Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world' and features a grid of video thumbnails. Some visible thumbnails include 'Candy Chang: Before I die I want...', 'Rob Legato: The art of creating life', 'Timothy Ferriss: Design for people, not assans', and 'Jon Rose: Strange answers to the psychopath test'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'From the TED Blog' and 'TED Conversations', along with a 'TED Ed' logo.

# CLEVERBOT

**Age:** Juniors, Seniors and Adults

**Level:** Intermediate upwards

**URL:** <http://www.cleverbot.com>

**Brief Description of Resource:** A secure online conversation practice programme – students need to work fast to reply and converse with a computer.

**How We Use It:** Start a simple conversation by introducing yourself and asking about the daily life and thoughts of the computer. The programme works on a range of levels, depending on the subject matter introduced by the student. What can make it really fun is that the computer may not always know that it is a computer and can get confused! This is part of the experience, and means the students have to be on their toes all the time, because the answers can be unpredictable. Like a normal person, the computer will contradict itself or object to ideas put forth by the student.

**Why We Like It:** It constantly challenges the student, allowing the student to practise natural conversation, and not just reproduce standard conversations practiced in

class. I like the fact that the programme is safe – there is no real person behind the computer's conversation, so it's ideal for younger learners, unlike many sites where children might have to engage with adults they don't know.

**Further Commentary:** Try it yourself, so you know what kind of conversations take place. When you're confident, either use it in class if you have the technology, or ask learners to do it at home and keep a record of their conversation. They can print transcripts.



The screenshot shows the Cleverbot website interface. At the top, there is a globe icon and the text "Cleverbot" in a colorful font. Below this is a search input field with a blue border. Underneath the input field are three buttons: "Think About It", "Think For Me", and "Thoughts So Far". Below the buttons is a navigation menu with links: "cleverbot", "cleverness", "contact", "the creator", "the app", "being it", and "clever them on YouTube". Below the navigation menu is a section titled "For speech input by Chrome Beta" with a link to "Testing Tello: voted 12% and then 22% funny!". Below this is a section titled "ALWAYS HERE" with a link to "Cleverbot learns from real people - bring it out next week! In partnership with Babbel". Below this is a section titled "EMERGENCY ADVICE" with a link to "Visitors never get to a funny, funny! (WARNING: it's real) - the AC knows many things - use ONLY WITH COURTESY". Below this is a section titled "© 2012 Tello Explorer - All rights reserved - Conversational access is granted with humans using the Cleverbot.com interface directly". Below this is a section titled "Spanish ear training" with a link to "Spanish Immersion TV Very addictive. Extremely effective" and a link to "www.LaManTV.com". In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "MONKIE D".

# LINOIT

**Age:** Senior, Adult

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** [www.linoit.com](http://www.linoit.com)

**Brief Description of Resource:** Platform for teacher / student communication.

**How We Use It:** This resource is great for using with classes you only see once a week, to communicate with students between classes. You can use it to post homework tasks (which can include links to websites, videos, etc.), and as a space for students to ask any questions related to class work. You create a group, and invite the students in your class to join (it is a closed group, and you are the administrator, so non-members can't view it). You can then create as many different 'canvases' as you like, which are like pin boards. You and the students can then post 'stickies' on them. You can create canvases for generating ideas for projects, canvases for students to respond to discussions or

questions, for posting photos for students to practise FCE speaking tasks, and for posting links to useful websites.

**Why We Like It:** It's easy to set up, and you can use it for anything. It looks good, and it's easy for students to interact with you and with each other. You, as the teacher, are the administrator, so you can control the messages that are posted.



The image shows a screenshot of the Lino website interface. At the top left is the Lino logo, followed by the text "lino Sticky and Photo Sharing for you". In the top right corner, there are links for "Signup", "Login", "Help", and a language selector. Below the header, there are three main sections: "Ideas" (a canvas with colorful sticky notes), "Discussions" (a canvas with a video player and sticky notes), and "Sharing Photos" (a canvas with several photos). Below these sections is the text "Colorful Collaboration with lino." and a subtext "lino is a free sticky & canvas service that requires nothing but a Web browser." A prominent orange button says "Free Give it a shot! No signup needed". At the bottom, there are images of a laptop, a smartphone, and a tablet, all displaying the Lino interface.

# ESLHQ

**Age:** Primary / Junior - some activities could be adapted for other age groups

**Level:** Beginners, Elementary

**URL:** <http://www.eslhq.com>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Online site for teachers; ideas for classes; ready made worksheets; make your own worksheet; forum.

**How We Use It:** This site contains a wealth of resources of all kinds for teachers of English. It's great for ready made worksheets and for designing your own flash cards, worksheets and board games. It's also good for last minute substitution classes and ideas for fast finishers.

**Why We Like It:** The resources are very attractive to both teachers and children with lots of new ideas for games for different types of classes. It looks at various different ways of presenting language in a way that a child would enjoy, e.g. crafts, music, games, etc. You can also comment on the worksheets

to say how you have used them, adapted them or added ideas for getting more out of them. It's easy to navigate and although you have to register it's free. There is a very helpful forum where you can discuss with fellow teacher ideas, problems and suggestions. It also constantly uploads new worksheets.

**Further Commentary:** This site is for teachers.

The screenshot shows the ESLHQ website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with categories like Home, Worksheets, Make a Worksheet, Flashcards, Games, Learning Tools, Activities, Links, Forums, and Tools. Below the navigation is a search bar and a user login section. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Brain Training Games:** A section on the left with a list of cognitive skills: Intelligence, Memory, Attention, Focus, Speed, and Language. Below this is a 'Play Games' button.
- Featured Discussions:** A central section with three discussion threads:
  - Teaching 8 year old with no english knowledge:** A thread from June 14, 2012, discussing strategies for teaching a young child with no English.
  - Teaching 4 & 5 year olds:** A thread from June 05, 2012, discussing teaching methods for young children.
  - Teaching ESL to kids, 2 to 3 years old, in Laos:** A thread from June 16, 2012, discussing teaching ESL in a rural setting.
- Right Sidebar:** Contains 'More Resources' (Lesson Plans, Phonics Books, Short Reading, Grammar Activities), an 'Advertisement' for 'Award Winning English Language Schools' with a photo of a woman and a child, and a 'FAQ' section with several questions and answers.

## ONLINE DICTIONARIES

**Age:** 14-16, Senior, Adult

**Level:** Upper Intermediate/Advanced (B1/C1)

**URL:** <http://www.iodceonline.com>

<http://oxforddictionaries.com>, etc.

**Brief Description of Resource:** Dictionaries with word blogs, photocopiable resources, puzzles and games, bilingual audio support, and so on.

**How We Use It:** Choose from a variety of activities, or take an article ('Healthy Eating' / 'Green Packaging' / 'Global Recession', etc.) containing key vocabulary you wish your students to learn. You can let students read articles with you to clear up any misunderstandings and then they consult dictionaries for key words, noting explanations and usages in their notebooks. For example: 'Healthy Eating' words consulted: 'shortage', 'malnutrition', 'famine', 'nutritious', 'nourishing', 'junk food', 'wholefood', etc. Students build up quite an impressive list of words and sentences using some of these articles, but there are all kinds of other activities and resources too.

**Why We Like It:** Students can read short, interesting articles and then learn lots of new words used on a variety of themes. They also learn from each other by exchanging vocabulary items and explanations, which can compliment a particular module or unit in their course book. A further advantage is improved speaking and writing. The resources cover all aspects of vocabulary, including pronunciation, in a fun way, and can be used in the class or at home: very straightforward and easy to use, with virtually unlimited resources available.



The screenshot shows the Oxford Dictionaries website. At the top, it says "Oxford Dictionaries" and "The world's most trusted dictionaries". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Dictionary", "Better writing", "World of words", "Puzzles and games", "For children and schools", and "For learners of English". The main content area is divided into several sections: "Already a subscriber?", "Not a subscriber?", "What kind of writer are you?", "Oxford Dictionaries AudioBook", and "Oxford Dictionaries Quizzes". The "What kind of writer are you?" section features a large image of a clock face with the text "Once Upon a Time" overlaid. The "Oxford Dictionaries AudioBook" section features a book cover for "STEPHEN KING". The "Oxford Dictionaries Quizzes" section features a list of quizzes with brief descriptions.

# ELT-RESOURCEFUL

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** Teachers

**URL:** <http://elt-resourceful.com>

**Brief Description of Resource:** A blog on sharing tips and ideas for creating materials.

**How We Use It:** This blog is written by a materials writer, Rachael Roberts, who shares

tips and ideas on developing materials and activities. You read the entries and think about how you can incorporate one or two interesting ideas into your lesson planning, e.g. listening while reading. Also good is reading the #ELTChat summaries, e.g. on Multiple Intelligences. One of the most interesting and relevant entries this year was on Assessment for Learning: a new way to meet individual learner's needs? Rachel also includes a lot of references in her posts, which can obviously be useful.

**Why We Like It:** The good thing about blogs is that you can receive notification of new posts by email, plus the posts are short so you can read and think about them on the Metro, e.g. on a smartphone. Also great is the fact that she includes a lot of useful links to

other bloggers and articles so you get even more food for thought or ideas.

**Further Commentary:** This site is for teachers at any stage in their career and even if you don't find her posts interesting, you can follow the links to plenty of alternative blogs and resources.

**elt-resourceful**

HOME ABOUT EVENTS PUBLICATIONS WEBINAR

resources

Full of tips and ideas for creating ELT and ESOL materials

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

**A new class: building a learning environment together**

Many of us are starting new terms and working with new groups. We probably already know what the learners are expected to achieve in their time with us, and the pressure is on.

It's tempting to dive straight in, but any new group will need to work through interpersonal issues before they can function effectively as a group (and as individuals within the group). We can ignore these issues, but that won't make

Top Posts & Pages

Click to follow this



# MANSION INGLÉS

**Age:** Adults

**Level:** Students (up to B2) and Teachers

**URL:** <http://www.mansioningles.com>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Portal for English language learning.

**How We Use It:** This site is intended for anyone who wants to learn, maintain or improve their English. The web content is adapted at different levels. The training courses are for various levels, and the grammar can be studied without any prior knowledge or only a basic knowledge of the language. The site map specifies the appropriate level for each section. Teachers can also find plenty of supplementary materials to use with students in any area of this website, as well as ideas and resources specific to language teaching section 'Teachers'. This site is in continuous development, with content being updated regularly, so that it gradually expands the material published.

**Why We Like It:** The fact that the resources are constantly updated is crucial in order to maintain student interest. The video section adds authentic and original learning material to the site. The links to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube appeal

to those who are motivated by all aspects of social media. The resources for teachers are also very complete and up-to-date.

**Further Commentary:** This site is run by a British Council teacher from our Valencia teaching centre.

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'Mansion Inglés'. At the top, there's a navigation menu with 'Inicio', 'Aprender', 'Profesores', and 'Contacto'. Below that, a banner for 'CURSO DE INGLÉS MULTIMEDIA ONLINE GRATIS' features a graduation cap and a building. The main content is organized into several columns and boxes. On the left, there's a 'Mapa del Sitio' (Site Map) with a tree structure. The central area has boxes for 'Gramática' (Grammar), 'Vocabulario' (Vocabulary), 'Escritura' (Writing), and 'Escucha' (Listening). To the right, there's a 'Materiales' (Materials) section with icons for 'Gramática', 'Vocabulario', 'Escritura', and 'Escucha'. At the bottom, there's a search bar and a 'Boletín MEC' (MEC Newsletter) section. The footer contains '© 2011 Mansion Inglés' and 'Diseño: M. J. J. J.'.

## FODEY

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** Teachers

**URL:** <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Newspaper clip and animation generator.

**How We Use It:** For making realistic texts.

**Why We Like It:** This site provides a wealth of possibilities for language presentation and reading. The newspaper articles look particularly realistic - lots of YL classes are fooled, anyway!



## ENGLISH ONLINE

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Vocabulary and grammar games.

**How We Use It:** Probably best used as a fun self-access resource.

**Why We Like It:** There's a lot of variety, with hundreds of games. If you don't like one try another. Also, you can find games at your level. Start with The Grammar of Doom – a ten level challenge with spooky graphics.



# MOVIE SEGMENTS TO ASSESS GRAMMAR GOALS

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://moviesegmentstoassessgrammargoals.blogspot.co.uk>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Independent blog to practice grammar points via excerpts from popular films.

**How We Use It:** This site contains a large selection of film clips which have been selected for their relevance to particular grammar points. The clips are categorised by level and age and are accompanied by activities for both before, during, and after viewing. There are printable worksheets and lesson plans which can be adapted according to learner needs if necessary.

**Why We Like It:** This resource is particularly useful for lifting dry grammar activities off the page and engaging younger learners. The film clips are usually dynamic and entertaining and are updated on a regular basis. It can inspire you to create your own materials based around films, and you'll find that such activities prove a

hit with young learners or adults of all levels. You can definitely find a clip to suit every audience!

**Further Commentary:** Naturally, teachers should check clips for suitability for levels and ages as those on the website may not always correspond with the group in question. Make sure the subject is appropriate before you begin.

*Movie Segments to Assess Grammar Goals*

MOVIE SEGMENTS TO ASSESS GRAMMAR GOALS CONTAINS A SERIES OF MOVIE SEGMENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO ASSESS OR PRACTICE GRAMMAR POINTS THROUGH FUN, CHALLENGING EXERCISES. HERE YOU WILL FIND THE MOVIE SEGMENTS, THE LESSON PLANS, PRINTABLE WORKSHEETS WITH ANSWER KEY FOR EACH ACTIVITY, AND THE TIPS TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN GRAMMAR ACTIVITIES WITH THE DVDs YOU HAVE AT HOME. NEW ACTIVITIES ARE POSTED REGULARLY. TEACHING GRAMMAR WITH MOVIE SEGMENTS IS INSPIRING AND HIGHLY MOTIVATING.

Sep 1, 2012

**ANGELS + DEMONS: PASSIVE VOICE**

I like both the movie and the book. The story is far-fetched, but well told and interconnected. The scene I selected is perfect for the students to practice the passive voice.

Followers

Members (1000)

Follow by Email

FeedBurner FeedCount

# PREMIER SKILLS

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** <http://premierkills.britishcouncil.org>

**Brief Description of Resource:** Helping students to communicate in two of the world's global languages – English and football.

**How We Use It:** Students can play vocabulary games and practise their reading with stories about soccer on and off the pitch. Watch videos with exercises, do listening activities and grammar exercises. There's also a section for teachers where you can find great resources: short activities which you can drop into any lesson; full lesson plans and worksheets across a wide range of themes; longer projects for teachers with more time; a growing encyclopedia of motivating information on players.

**Why We Like It:** There's a great variety of resources suitable for student self-

study as well as for the classroom. There's a strong emphasis on community with regular competitions that students can be involved in and an interesting blog section where they can post comments.

The screenshot shows the Premier Skills English website. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'On the Pitch', 'Off the Pitch', 'Fans', 'Fun', 'Blog', 'Coaches', and 'Teachers'. The main header features the 'PREMIER SKILLS ENGLISH' logo and the British Council logo. Below the header, there are several sections: a featured article titled 'Tackling men's health' with an image of soccer players, a 'Email Lessons' section, a 'TEACHERS' section with a red arrow, and a 'COACHES' section with a blue arrow. A 'Your comments' section displays three comments from users named Jack, with their profile pictures and timestamps. At the bottom, there is a 'What's in Premier Skills English?' section with three small images.

# ONESTOPENGLISH

**Age:** All Ages

**Level:** All Levels

**URL:** [www.onestopenglish.com](http://www.onestopenglish.com)

**Brief Description of Resource:** A very comprehensive resource covering all teaching skills, topics, and lesson plans based on grammar or vocabulary.

**How We Use It:** You can set homework tasks or additional work for students in need of support, find FCE and CAE exam-type prep tasks, or just sign in and get access to lesson plans, games and worksheets. The Macmillan dictionary buzzword activities are also great.

**Why We Like It:** It's just so useful for supplementary materials. It's been going for years and the variety of materials for all kinds



of teaching is really extensive. There's also a one stop CLIL section useful for teachers of Bilingual classes.

## THANKS

...to the following for their contributions

Anne Foreman, Anne Fairfield, Deborah Bullock, David Barnett, Sally Trowbridge, Jo Gore, Catherine Bethune, Francesca Wilson, Ruth McNamara, Jan Byrne, Alec Reid, Sam Bradford, Jennie Gant, Catherine McLellan,

Lesley Denham, Marla Dixon, Zoe Owen, Michael O'Brien, Roy McAvoy, Michaela Bowyer, Tom Stutter, Richard Pickup and John Liddy. Thanks also to Martin Goosey and Llanos Gomez for editing and collating the texts.



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