

Use of podcasting in efl classes

Foreign language teachers always hunt for innovations and new ways of motivating students. New technologies such as podcasting are able to assist students in their studies.

Podcasting is a set of technologies for supplying audio or video programs over the Internet that can be cataloged and automatically downloaded. There are three kinds of podcasts: audio podcasts (MP3 files), enhanced podcasts (AAC), video podcasts (movies complete with sound). Podcasting allows anyone to post any production made by them on a website about anything. Students as well as the teachers are able to create a product to share with a potentially world-wide audience. The process of putting together an audio recording is extremely valuable and is certainly a cross-curricular experience. Subscribing to a podcast or downloading it entitles users to listen to the programs when they want, where they want, and how they want. Whatever personal device you may use to listen to podcasts, learning is certainly in hand. The intention for EFL students to adopt podcast technology for enhancing their foreign language learning is positively associated with relative advantage, complexity, interaction, and information literacy.

Podcasts have many educational advantages. Being available 24hs a day, updated on a regular basis by their creators, authentic and free, podcasts can allow us to differentiate, intensify and improve language and intercultural skills. Podcasts can help to develop autonomous learning and motivation, interdisciplinary projects and work on different know-how. Podcasts are the flexible, timesaving and convenient medium.

The main disadvantages of podcasting are: the cost of implementation, lack of a visual representation, inability to ask questions, equity access issues, difficulty in capturing peripheral sound, delays in availability and download times, additional time required to listen to podcasts, reduction in lecture attendance, and the need to transcribe.