

Using the internet for teaching english

The Internet is very useful for teaching English. Teachers can use it for gathering information for their classes, including teaching plans and materials for classroom use. They can subscribe to mailing lists related to TEFL/TESL, and exchange information with other teachers. They can subscribe to electronic journals or newsletters either by e-mail or using the World Wide Web (WWW) and keep up with new trends of English teaching, finding new or interesting publications. They can consult with publishers on teaching materials.

There is a wide variety of ways that the Internet can be used in the classroom. Teachers can organize 'keypals' exchanges, and students can exchange letters with their keypals and have the experience of corresponding with people from all over the world. Students can use a mailing list, IECC-Survey, to conduct surveys for class projects. They can subscribe to student lists to exchange ideas with other students around the world. There are many learning materials on the WWW, and students can use them to study English. They can read news in English using either e-mail or the WWW. Students' newspapers or newsletters can be posted on the WWW.

Using the Internet for English teaching is new, and there are few books and papers on the subject, though there are many resources on the Internet. We need to explore ways to find materials on the Internet and experiment with using them to improve our teaching. Teachers can use the Internet for gathering information. For example, Martin Luther King is the topic for a class, you can use search engines to look for information related to him. There are many sites that have information about him, including ones with his photos, information about his life, and the texts of his speeches. There is even a web page made to teach about the holiday celebrating his birthday, which has materials for teaching and quizzes.

If teachers need additional teaching/learning materials for the class, they can find quite large a number of materials on the web. There is a huge amount of material for listening, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Teachers can select appropriate materials for students' interests and level of English proficiency. There are some teaching plans which include materials that may help teachers to teach their students. It is a good idea to go over those materials when teachers have free time, and classify the ones that interest teachers according to their topic or how teachers might use them. Since there is a huge amount of material available on the web, there should be many useful materials for students, if teachers look for it.

Useful information for classes teachers obtain on the WWW is easy to present to the class, if there is a computer which can access the World Wide Web and a large monitor or device to show it. The World Wide Web makes use of multiple media, and many resources are very realistic, colorful and attractive.