

TOOLS FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

September, 2010

Online Tools for Teaching and Learning

Socialesl.com

<http://www.edtechisus.com/>

Here is an exciting new (so new, it is still being updated daily) website for TESOL professionals who would like to learn more about using online tools to “make the ESL learning process more dynamic, fun, cooperative and effective” (John Allan - site developer). Socialesl.com is the result of 2 years of researching web tools for teaching ESL - yes, this means someone else has spent hours and hours and hours sifting through countless websites so you don't have to! It has a huge variety of resources for ESL teachers who want to learn more about computer assisted language learning, or who are looking for new online resources. There is a free course on digital materials production, as well as numerous links to great websites for prepping class materials, using online activities in class, and learning about the 'how-tos' of C.A.L.L.

Here are just a couple of the great websites highlighted on socialesl.com.

SpellingCity.com

<http://www.spellingcity.com/>

SpellingCity is a free spelling site that has online spelling games, spelling review, and spelling quizzes. Teachers can choose the words that they want their students to practice. There are free teaching resources with lists and lesson plans for teaching high frequency words, compound words, and sound-alike words (their, there, they're), as well as printable hand writing worksheets.



Studystack.com

<http://www.studystack.com/>

Studystack.com is a storehouse of virtual and printable flashcards. Teachers can also create their own flashcards on this site, and then have students practice new vocabulary online with a variety of activities such as hangman, crossword puzzles, matching activities and scrambled words.

Quizlet.com

<http://quizlet.com/>

Another site for finding or creating flashcards is quizlet.com. This site has many similar features to studystack.com. For example, check out these great fruit flashcards.

<http://quizlet.com/2524391/esl-example-flash-cards/>

Upcoming PD Opportunities

September

Sept. 11 - The Power of Rhyme
YMCA CCRR, Coquitlam

Sept. 16 - Musical Experiences for
Preschoolers CCRR, Burnaby

Sept. 18 - Grammar Review
VCC Course

Sept. 20 - Nobody's Perfect Facilitator
Training for Child Care Staff

Sept. 27 - Teaching Vocabulary
VCC Course

October

Oct. 16 - BCTEAL Interior Conference,
Okanagan College, Kelowna

Oct. 23 - WAESOL Conference
Des Moines, Washington

Oct. 30 - Teaching Vocabulary
VCC Course



November

Nov. 5 & 6 - ATESL Conference
Edmonton, Alberta

Nov. 6 - BCTEAL PD Sessions
Vancouver English Centre

Nov. 20 - Using Games for Teaching
VCC Course

Nov. 20 - Westcoast Child Care Fall
Conference

Nov. 27 - TESOL Through Music
VCC Course

For more information about these and other PD opportunities, check out the events calendar on the ELSA Net website: <http://www.elsanet.org/resources.html>

More Online Tools for Teaching and Learning

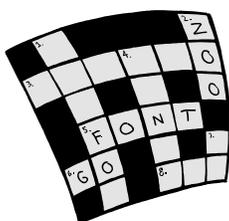
Quia.com

<http://www.quia.com/web>

The site allows you to create activities, flashcards, games, and quizzes that your students can do online. You can also create a class webpage!

Here are some sample activities created by other teachers for you to try with your class.

<http://www.quia.com/shared/eng/>



PurposeGames.com

<http://www.purposegames.com/>

Here is a very fun website that allows instructors to make educational quizzes and trivia games for their students. For instructors who don't have time to make their own games, this site also hosts a number of games that have been made by other users, such as the following:

Canadian Provinces

<http://www.purposegames.com/game/396/info>

Parts of a House

<http://www.purposegames.com/me/3879f70e>

Parts of a Bathroom

<http://www.purposegames.com/game/bathroom-for-english-learners-quiz>

Verbs & Prepositions

<http://www.purposegames.com/game/english-verbsprepositions-quiz>

Parenting Sessions: Multilingual Brochures for Parents

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre:

<http://www.wstcoast.org/parents/multilingual.html>

Topics include: children & play, helping children learn language, settlement and cultural adaptation

WelcomeHere:

<http://www.welcomehere.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=673&parentid=575>

Topics include: family routines, parents at play, promoting positive behaviour, connecting through stories



Tools for Teaching Multilevel Classes

Add Ventures Series

If you are finding that the levels of your students in your ELSA class are quite varied, the Cambridge Ventures series may be helpful. The Venture series has 5 different levels, from literacy to level 4 (CLB 1-6 according to the Cambridge website), of student's books, but it also has the accompanying *Add Ventures* multilevel worksheets. These worksheets give students more practice with the content and vocabulary of each lesson, but at three different levels: at level, below level and above level. The 3 leveled worksheets look very similar, and the answers are the same, so instructors don't need 3 different answer keys. For more information check out the sample units at: http://www.cambridge.org/us/esl/catalog/subject/project/custom/item2401751/Ventures-Add-Ventures/?site_locale=en_US¤tSubjectID=2489422



Resources for ELSA 4 & 5

ELSA Net has created two 'living documents' of online resources for levels 4 and 5. These documents list a variety of links to online videos, audio files and informational websites for each theme of the level 4 and 5 curriculum, which instructors can use to develop lessons. However, as the development of the internet is never 'finished,' the same is true for these resources. We hope that instructors and coordinators find the current links helpful, but will also continue to add their own links and lesson ideas as they go through each theme. If you have not received the *Level 4 & 5 Online Resource Lists*, or you'd like to share some websites that you have found particularly useful, please contact Carmen at carmen@elsanet.org