

Blog: English Teacher's Arsenal

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Abstract

Blogs are one of the finest ways to inscribe one's thoughts. Blogs not only pave a means for the creative writers to file their psyche but also help the teachers of English language to train their students in English, a foreign language, in a more animated way. In the present era, technology has become a part and parcel in the lives of everyone. English teachers can use blogs as their arsenal to sharpen the wits of the students. The teacher by posting an article in the blog can effectively and entertainingly enhance the LSRW skills of the students. With the help of blogs, the teachers of language can easily trap the attention of the students.

Keywords: English, learning, blog, animated, technology, entertainingly, LSRW skills

Introduction

People cannot live without communicating with others. Sharing our thoughts and opinions is inevitable as breathing. Learning English has become mandatory for the people all over the world. Students cannot deny English in learning as it is the global language.

Objective of Study

The main aim of this paper is to inculcate enthusiasm and interest among the students in learning a foreign language through blogs.

Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses for the study i) make students access technology ii) take students away from classroom atmosphere.

Research Questions

1. What is a blog?
2. How is technology inevitable in the modern era?
3. How does blog inculcate interest among slow bloomers as well as dynamic students?
4. What is LOC method?
5. What is the outcome of this study?

Discussion

A blog is a diary-type commentary usually presented as a list of entries in reverse chronological order. Blogs can publish personal or public articles and can focus on one narrow

subject or a whole range of subjects. Initially, blogging involves a personal web log, in which a person would register their thoughts that create interests in their followers and friends. Like most new innovations on the Internet, many entrepreneurs saw a marketing potential in having a blog, and blogging took off from there. Not only can a blog be used for marketing, but also, a blog can be used as an effective tool by the teachers to teach a foreign language. Blogs are different from the mobile applications that teach a foreign language. The major advantage that the blog has when compared to the mobile application is its quotidian modification.

In this emerging world of technology, we follow different technologies for specific tasks in our daily life. Moreover, technology has been running in our daily lives in all sectors, no matter what industry you are dealing with, it has an impact in an unquestionable manner. Today each and every member, regardless of age is aware of the technical devices. All over Technology acts as a useful servant. However, technology is emerging rapidly and there are no chances for a slow-down in the near future.

Interest to learn a foreign language can be inculcated in students through technology. Teaching a foreign language through blogs makes students access it from anywhere at any point of time. This is a great advantage for the students of all the tiers and ages. Whether the learner is 20 or 60 years of age, a slow bloomer or a dynamic chap, blogs attract them with its easy accessibility. Teachers are exposed to a constant barrage of methodologies that promise to improve both instructional strategies. Blogs are one of the simplest, easiest and the most impressive ways to teach a foreign language.

Many students hate the learning inside four walls. Some psychologists feel that the walls of the classroom act as a barrier for some slow bloomers as well as bright students to spread their imaginary wings. Creativity is considered a critical skill for the technology driven world of the 21st century and because it is not a stable trait, it can be taught, nurtured and increased. This principle describes specific methods of structuring assignments to increase creativity and ideas for how to model creative problem solving.

Creativity in the classroom can include opportunities for student-designed research projects, video projects, demonstrations and model building. To hold the attention of the learners, the instructor can use technology as their powerful arsenal inside as well as outside the classroom. Blogs also pave a way for the learners to be trained in a "Learning Outside the Classroom" (LOC) method. Teachers can effectively encourage teen-ager students to learn foreign languages using the media, because nowadays young people are growing up surrounded by new technological communication tools, such as blogs, social networks or communicators. An important factor influencing student motivation to learn is also the change of roles of teachers and students.

The possibility of updating blogs makes them a good communication tool. An unquestionable value of a blog is the ability to return to some parts of the content at any time and in any place, as long as a user has access to the Internet. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines a blog as an "online journal where an individual, group or corporation presents a record of

activities, thoughts or beliefs. Some blogs operate mainly as news filters, collecting various online sources and adding short comments and Internet links”.

Nowadays, it is widely acknowledged that teachers should support student autonomy and encourage learners to develop foreign language skills outside the classroom. Writing a blog entails not only posting texts, but also administrating the website, organizing and placing content. In other words, a teacher must be familiar with all the important functions, tools and possibilities of a blog in order to attract learners. On the Internet, there are many guides how to start and run a blog.

In blogs, instructors can teach an unfamiliar language in various ways. As a learning tool, blogs can be used to enrich vocabulary and kindle creativity to frame sentences. Even teachers can assign their assignments for their students through blogs. The origin of the words can be given with colourful presentation to attract students. For example, the prefix ‘trans’ for the word transport means ‘to carry’. This makes the learners to easily remember and correlate the terms with the prefix ‘trans’ and find the meaning. It also plays the role of clue to find the meaning of the words. This can also be taught in a confined classroom using audio visual aids. But they cannot be accessed by the students after they return home. Blogs that stand for easy accessibility help slow bloomers as well as dynamic students to utilise it at any time when the students wish to gain knowledge. The attentive time period of a person varies from one to another. Some may feel like studying in the early time of the day while others may find late night as the most attentive time. So in that case, blogs fulfill the time need of the students.

Pictures can be shown in the blog and the teacher can ask the students to write a note about it. This can be also taken for assignments. But for the assignments marks shouldn’t be given at first. This may discourage the interest of the students. In that case, small gifts can be given to the students in the class who have voluntarily taken part in it. Creating sentences from a mere picture will ultimately kindle the creativity of the students. Creativity will develop interest and that will end up in knowledge gaining. In Bright students, it leads to vocabulary building and regarding Slow Bloomers it will lead to the usage of grammatically correct form of a language.

Summation

It is difficult to organise the learning process and follow students’ progress, because of the significant heterogeneity of blog-viewers. Blogs should be, hence, treated as an additional source of knowledge where students can find some interesting facts, share their experiences or dispel doubts about language itself or learning strategies. On the whole, blogs can be used as a positive medium for slow bloomers as well as dynamic students.

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