

ONLINE ENGLISH TEACHING TECHNOLOGIES IN SCHOOLS

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Since computers started to be introduced in language learning (and in education in general), in many cases we can see that the use of technology has enabled teachers to re-think what they are doing.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a tremendous shift in the way that users integrate technology into their personal lives. These changes have taken time to filter down into the educational sector, but slowly teachers have realized the need to adapt their practice to the new trends in teaching.

With English reportedly the most commonly learned second language around the world, let us explore how information and communication technologies can be used to support the process of English language learning: Video conferencing continues to be a highly efficient way of inviting visitors into classrooms and for enabling learners to collaborate with each other at distance. In certain situations this can be one of the few methods available for exposing learners to native English speakers and for facilitating cultural exchanges.

Online dictionaries, online grammar quizzes which learners use frequently.

Online conferencing tools that allow users to make telephone or video calls and conduct group conferences using their computer, and Skype is one of the better known and is widely used. It also allows screen sharing, which means that the teacher or students can show Word documents, slide presentations, or websites on their screen to the other participants in a Skype session, to talk about them or explain something.

Some software offer an additional set of tools, like text-to speech synthesis as a user types, word prediction and contextual vocabulary, that can be inserted into a document at the click of a mouse.

Many English teachers now use the internet in their courses, set online homework, and use it to find materials and ideas for their lessons, even if only occasionally. Some have become online teachers. Others also use it for their own professional development as a 'virtual staffroom' to connect with colleagues around the world, share ideas, participate in webinars or conferences, or write and read blogs.

For more efficient computer use it is advisable to draw the teaching staff and most conscious students to submit proposals for the introduction of online education technologies.