

So You Have a Computer, But Your Students Don't

by Ravneet Parmar

Most teachers have access to at least one computer in a teacher's room to use for daily lesson planning, record keeping, and other researching needs. Many schools, institutions, or organizations also have a computer lab for students. Nevertheless, there are still institutions where resources are scarce. This article lists 10 free websites that teachers can use to access and print out materials for use in their classrooms. These materials can be used as individual lessons or extension materials for any lesson plan.

1. <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>

All various-level lessons are based on stories currently in the news. Each news story comes with a lesson plan and a downloadable MP3 file for listening practice. Students will definitely improve their listening skills as well as their comprehension.

2. <http://www.holidays.net/>

This site provides information about each holiday celebration, including its history and related activities. The material on the website can be modified for teaching all four English skills.

3. <http://www.eslcafe.com>

This is a popular site for information and advice about teaching abroad. You can find a lot of information and resources here, including a very helpful printable source of games and teaching aids. The forums that share both positive and negative experiences abroad are very active and are a good way of finding out about a particular school or country. There are also message boards for people who are posting as well as looking for jobs, plus links to a huge selection of the top TEFL websites.

4. <http://eleaston.com>

Go to this site for great teaching resources, with links to materials for teaching such topics as country profiles, holidays, libraries and museums, sports, pronunciation of the country's language, and teaching ideas, as well as links to online courses in English and other useful ESL websites.

5. <http://www.manythings.org/tesl/>

This website contains interesting things for ESL teachers, including useful materials, tips, techniques, and tools. You will find examples for making your own quizzes, handouts, and links.

6. <http://www.123listening.com>

This website contains listening and matching worksheets for beginning ESL students.

7. <http://www.mes-english.com>

This website provides free printables for teachers of young learners, grades K–6, but can also be used for teaching literacy skills to adults. These versatile printables include a large collection of flashcards, worksheets, handouts, phonics materials, ESL games, certificates, stickers, and more.

8. <http://www.toolsforeducators.com>

This website contains online tools for teachers to make custom worksheets and materials with images: word searches, crosswords, board games, spelling and writing worksheets.

9. www.eslflow.com

ESL Flow offers a wealth of teaching ideas and lesson plans for ESL speaking, listening, grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing classes at the elementary, pre-intermediate, and intermediate levels. Learning activities are catalogued according to content theme, language skill, level of difficulty, and other criteria that allow teachers to choose activities to match their needs.

10. <http://iteslj.org/links/TESL/>

The Internet TESL Journal is a monthly web magazine for teachers of English as a second language. It includes lesson plans, classroom handouts, discussion boards, teaching tips, and much more.

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