

# Integrating Technology into ESOL literacy classes

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## What Works

Technology	Example Activities	Advantages
Typing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using Typing Tutors</li> <li>• Separating words correctly and typing them (word will highlight incorrect spellings to help them)</li> <li>• Simple journaling (spell check)</li> <li>• alphabetizing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learn fundamental computer skill</li> <li>• review and practice new words/ vocab words</li> <li>• practice basic literacy skills like space between words</li> <li>• reinforcing spelling</li> <li>• practice with alphabetizing</li> <li>• immediate feedback (typing tutor, spell check)</li> </ul>
Interactive Vocabulary websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• matching</li> <li>• multiple choice</li> <li>• click and listen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforces basic vocabulary</li> <li>• Mouse practice</li> <li>• Immediate feedback</li> <li>• Connecting sound and print</li> </ul>
PowerPoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story templates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important reading and writing skills such as retelling a story, summarizing, making connections between text &amp; self, organizing ideas for writing.</li> <li>• Pride of presentation - writing own books.</li> </ul>
Clip art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making flashcards</li> <li>• Story reaction or retell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforcing vocabulary:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making PPT presentation</li> <li>○ Print out flashcards for study.</li> <li>○ Cut up for matching, concentration.</li> <li>○ Print out and have students cut up pictures and paste on bingo boards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Important reading skills such as retelling a story.</li> </ul>

## What Doesn't work

Technology	Example Activities	Disadvantages
All purpose ESL websites, like Dave's ESL Cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies by site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too easy to click onto commercial products that require payment.</li> <li>• Too much to see/ do - overwhelming</li> <li>• Too many clicks to get to what you want</li> <li>• Pop-up ads confuse students</li> </ul>
Course Management Tools, like Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> <li>• Chat</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students confused by multiple login screens (once for the computer, once for the CMS)</li> <li>• Too many clicks to get to what you want</li> <li>• Too many steps - for example to post a discussion message in Blackboard:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Log onto the computer</li> <li>○ Open web browser</li> <li>○ Go to correct URL</li> <li>○ Log onto CMS</li> <li>○ Click on correct course</li> <li>○ Click on discussion board</li> <li>○ Click on forum wanted</li> <li>○ Click on thread wanted</li> <li>○ Read message &amp; click reply</li> <li>○ Type reply</li> <li>○ Spell check (optional)</li> <li>○ Click submit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Things that require a lot of typing in a short period of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chat rooms</li> <li>• Typing long texts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of my students cannot type and get easily frustrated when they can't finish or can't keep up.</li> </ul>

## Suggested websites

### Vocabulary practice:

- <http://acacia.cnice.mecd.es/~agip0002/auro/inicio.html> (has sound, too!)
- <http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/200/vocab/>
- <http://iteslj.org/v/ei/>
- <http://www.geocities.com/pccprep/colors.html> - color vocabulary
- <http://www.languageguide.org/english/> not quizzes but a good on-line "picture dictionary"
- <http://www.eslbears.homestead.com/matching.html>

### Typing tutors:

- [www.senselang.com/](http://www.senselang.com/)
- <http://www.mrkent.com/typingtutor/index.asp>

### Mousing:

- <http://www.dewittcommunitylibrary.org/images/Mousercise/page1.html>
- <http://www.seniornet.org/howto/mouseexercises/mousepractice.html>

## Obstacles and suggestions:

Students have problems starting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walk around to help, pair students up. Use overheads or computer projections to demonstrate what you are doing.</li></ul>
Students don't know how to log on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give students login sheet and have them fill in their user name and password and keep it in their notebooks.</li><li>• Keep a master list of user names and passwords.</li><li>• Talk to your technology team about a generic login to have students use as a back-up.</li></ul>
Students have trouble with mouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have them practice mouse exercises on Internet</li></ul>
Students have problems finding assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Save any templates to a network drive so that every student goes through the same procedure to get to it.</li><li>• Save any templates to disks, one per student, so that every student goes through the same procedure to get to it.</li></ul>
Students have problems saving their file correctly/ keep losing work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure you check students' work before they shut down computers.</li><li>• Save any templates to disks, one per student, so they can save simply by clicking FILE &gt; SAVE.</li><li>• Go around at the end of class and save students work on a master disk.</li><li>• Help students save a copy of their work to a network drive at the beginning of class. Later, they will just need to click FILE &gt; SAVE to save an updated version.</li></ul>

Students are lost on the Internet

- Use a browser that blocks pop-up ads
- Monitor students to make sure they are not getting distracted by clicking on other links
- Bookmark URLs or have URLs saved in one file on the network drive or desktop so it easy to get a student back to the correct place if they are lost.