

Using Information Technology in English Language Teaching in Primary Schools



<http://education.yuik.com.hk/>

- Click into Training
- Browse the material
- Try the Message board

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Course focus:

- Promoting interactive English language learning through IT
- Using IT-supported language arts resources for the interactive learning and teaching of English
- Using Internet resources and web-based tools to support project-based English language learning and teaching
- Experiencing the design and presentation of lesson plans that integrate IT in the learning and teaching of English

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1.1 Modes and approaches in IT supported English learning and teaching in the primary language classroom

- Task based learning
- Project based learning

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Task based learning

- using authentic material and situations in activity designs for a range of communication purposes

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Project based learning

- emphasis on the “experience”, “knowledge” and “interpersonal” strands, which define the purposes of learning English.

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IT as a tool to facilitate Interactive Learning

What is IT and what is IT good at?

- assist our communication : E-mail, conferencing, synchronous chat, video-conferencing, audio-conferencing, discussion lists, newsgroups, web-browsing, Multimedia and illustrative presentations...

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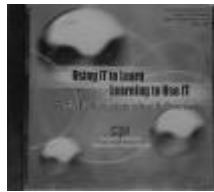
IT's benefits:

- Mega storage
- Systematic retrieval
- Personalisation / SALL (Self Access Language Learning)
- Anytime anywhere
- Speedy collation, sorting, and processing of information; searching, analysis, assessment

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Reference:

- "Using IT to Learn. Learning to Use IT - Promoting English Language Learning through IT at Primary Level" produced by English Section, Education Department (2001)



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IT skills

Ability to use IT to seek, absorb, analyse, manage and present information critically and intelligently.

- **Key Stage One (Junior Primary)**
- Learners will learn to
 - operate computers in schools
 - input Chinese characters with a handwriting recognition device
 - use multimedia resources to support learning with the help of teachers
 - communicate and handle information with IT tools in learning activities

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- **Key Stage Two (Senior Primary)**

- Learners will learn to
 - use a number of software packages for different purposes
 - input Chinese characters with devices and the aid of an input method
 - access information via computer networks and other media
 - process information using IT tools

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Activity

- How IT can be infused into the English Language Curriculum ?
- Link 3: (Handout)
Allocation for KS1 or KS2

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1.2 Promote interactive learning

- Strategies:
- Focus on interactivity. What is it?
(Of people) communicate and work together.
(Computing) allowing a continuous exchange of information between a computer and a user.
- Discussion:
Rating the degree of interactivity among different kind of IT activities

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Example Sites

- <http://www.ssgps.edu.hk/>
- <http://www.canossahk.edu.hk/>
- <http://www.tcn.edu.hk/>
- http://wcs.hkcampus.net/~wcs-ddd/eng_corner.htm
- <http://www.pbps.edu.hk/>

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1.3 Principles of selecting software packages and Internet resources

- Evaluating CALL Packages / Software Programs

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Kinds of CALL Packages

- Tutorial / Courseware
- Language arts and electronic storybooks
- Language games
- Language practice
- Phonics and pronunciation
- Tools Software
- ...

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What criteria would you use to decide what software to purchase or use in the classroom/computer lab?

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Criteria for Evaluating CALL Packages

- Purposes
- Instructional design and pedagogical soundness
- Content
- User flexibility
- Technical soundness
- Other: Peripheral readiness

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Purposes

- Objectives (fit into my curriculum?)
 - Demonstration
 - Motivation – for students to learn
 - Consolidation
 - Remediation work

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Instructional Design & Pedagogical Soundness

- Teaching strategy appropriate for student level and in line with recent developments of English language learning and teaching
- Presentation clear and precise
- Readability and difficulty level appropriate for students
- Graphics fulfil important purposes (motivation, information) and not distracting to learners

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Content

- No grammar, spelling or punctuation errors on the screen
- Content authentic, accurate and up-to-date
- Exhibits a sensitive treatment of moral or social issues
- No racial or gender stereotypes

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Content (con.)

- British / American / Australian English?
- Language level
- Interactive with multimedia elements
- With authoring component?
- Teaching guide / instruction booklet / help file is useful

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User Flexibility

- User has control over movement within the program e.g. can go from screen to screen, exit program when desired, read text at desired rate, etc.
- Can turn off sound, if desired

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Technical Soundness

- program loads consistently without error
- program does not break, no matter what the student enters
- program does what the screen says it should
- Network compatibility
- Requires Microphone / Headphones?

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Peripheral readiness

- Hardware - e.g. Language Lab, MMLC, classroom internet connection and projection.
- Software – e.g. compatibility with the environment and other platforms
- Liveware – Teacher's readiness

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New CALL Packages Selection Criteria Checklist

- Software Function
- Possible Teaching Objectives
- Usability
- Technical
- Language Focus
- Compatibility with school curriculum
- Cost Effectiveness

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1.4 Intellectual Property Concerns:

- Visit www.wto.org
 - i. the Copyrights and rights related to Copyrights
 - ii. industrial property
- a minimum period of 50 years after the death of the author
- For H.K. visit www.info.gov.hk/ipd
- photocopying guidelines (issued September 2002)

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1. Multiple copies of a work may be made by or on behalf of a teacher giving a course.
2. Copies made for the purpose of distribution to students for teaching, discussion or classroom use. Students may retain the copies for subsequent reference.
3. Copies of any work should only be made and used for one course in a not-for-profit educational establishment.
4. The number of copies made should not exceed one copy per student in a course.
5. There should not be more than 27 instances of copying made for one course in one academic year.

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- Be aware of related laws and guidelines. Many old texts can be used freely (as IP rights are time-limited)
- For website materials, always read related instructions. You will find many of the resources can be used freely.

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Relevant to language arts resources

- a) articles in periodicals, poems (>250 words); stories or essays (>2,500 words), artistic works, musical works: not more than 3 works may be copied from the same author for one course in any one academic year.
If the above works are contained in a collective work, not more than 9 works may be copied from the same collective work for one course in any one academic year; and
- b) In other cases, not more than 3 excerpts may be copied from the same author for one course in any one academic year.

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If the material cannot be reproduced, what will you do?

- Read / use it on-the-spot
- Quote it (part of it, not the total piece) and give credit to it clearly
- Rewrite it for use and give credit to it clearly. This can work for text, but usually not for audio and visual clips.
- Check some websites' "disclaimer" Judge what you can do

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- International Conference on Computer in Education : ICCE2003 (2-5 Dec., 2003) in Hong Kong Convention Centre hosted by Hong Kong last year. <<http://www.icce03.org/program.htm> >
- One of the speech: "Copyright or Copy wrong"

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1.5 Browsing useful software packages and Internet resources

- Discussion: ideas for Integrating a CALL package into your English lessons
- A) Electronic storybooks for shared reading activities
- B) Phonics and pronunciation packages to enhance students phonological awareness
- Identify the learning objectives
- Choose materials
- Select / decide complementary activities
- e.g. construct meaning through prediction of story ending, describing their favourite characters, expressing feelings about the story..
- With or without a computer ...

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Practice:

- Use - CALL Packages Selection Criteria Checklist
- In groups of two or three, review of a couple of software packages
 - a) How would you grade them?
 - b) How would you like to use them in your lessons?

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References for ELT software:

- <http://www.amazon.co.uk/>
(A good place for reviews of International Educational software)
- Visit EMB's ITERC Educational Software Library
- Visit public libraries

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Report and evaluate

- Fill in the form before you leave.
- To bring back / email to education@yuikee.com.hk a list of English Language Learning Software that your school has purchased and your brief comment on them.

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