

Using Apps, ESL Blogs and other Technology in the ESL classroom

Saturday, November 8th, 9:00am-10:50 pm

Public Safety Education Center- 321 Chapanoke Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603

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I. What does our EL/Civics grant do?

- **ESL blogs:** <http://eslblogs.waketech.edu>
- **Mobile technology:** iPads & Lenovo Tablets
- **Citizenship classes:** Saturday mornings, North Campus and West (Millpond) Campus
- **Speakers:** nationally-known ESL figures & frequent presenters at TESOL International

II. Your Experience (prior knowledge)

- Do you use “technology” with your ESL class? To plan lessons?
- Have you used our ESL blogs? The “new” Topic Blogs or “old” site-specific blogs? Both?
- If so, how? (during class? for lesson planning?)
- Did you find other useful websites on our ESL blogs? Which sites?

III. Wake Tech’s ESL Blogs

➤ 1 Central Blog <http://eslblogs.waketech.edu>

- Links to all other WTCC ESL blogs
- ESL class registration dates and locations
- Websites suggested by WTCC ESL instructors at Convocation, Sept 2014*
- Student resources & Instructor resources*
- Email Sign-up

➤ 5 ESL “Topic Blogs”

For STUDENTS (4 blogs)

1. English Language
2. Civics, Culture & Community
3. Job Skills & Opportunities
4. Computers & Technology

For INSTRUCTORS (5th blog)

5. Teacher Resources – lesson plans, web resources, WTCC ESL information

IV. Activity: Navigating the ESL Blogs

Click on: eslblogs.waketech.edu/navigating-the-wake-tech-esl-blogs/

OR

Go to: eslblogs.waketech.edu

-> scroll down to menu titled "Instructor Resources" on the left sidebar

-> click on the link at the top of that section, entitled: "Navigating the WTCC ESL Blogs"

On a separate sheet of paper, write down the answers to the questions #1-12

V. iPads & Apps

iPad BASICS

- power, volume, rotate/mute, "home button", folders..., swipe up for volume & brightness, to close a window- swipe up, close all your apps when finished

INTERNET BROWSERS

- Safari (Apple, standard)
- Puffin – for FLASH sites (e.g., Ventures, Starfall, USA learns...)

Bookmarks (Favorites) on Puffin & Safari: Central Blog, ESL blogs, Site Blogs, "Go To"
If adding a bookmark, please put it in the "Go To" folder in both Puffin & Safari.

ORGANIZATION of Apps

- All Apps are on the home screen
- Apps are grouped in folders, by topic
(Vocabulary, Grammar, Listening, Reading, Phonics/Pronunciation...)

VOCABULARY Apps

- **OPD (Oxford Picture Dictionary)** - free version.
- **Vocabulary in Use** – paid version, Elementary Level (more levels may come)
- **Bitsboard** – "Premium" (paid) version – unlimited access to boards for a year
 - enter with "WTCC user"
 - Bits are words - OR a phonics concept (sound) OR a grammar concept
 - Bits are grouped in *Boards* – can be used in various games scenarios to learn
 - *Collections* are related boards

BITSBOARD – A list of key “Collections” that are being downloaded to our iPads:

1. English 101-109, 201-205
2. Word families (same ending or beginning sounds)
3. First 1,000 words
4. Prepositions
5. Action words
6. Adjectives
7. Emotions
8. Phonics

A more detailed list can be found at:

<http://eslblogs.waketech.edu/esl-technology/tablet-apps/bitsboard-collection-info/>

OR - go to eslblogs.waketech.edu -> click on Computer & Technology blog -> under Tablet Apps, click on “Bitsboard – Collection info”

For more detailed information on BITSBOARD: <http://bitsboard.com/>

- Click on **GAMES** in top, right corner
- Contains information on “Getting Started” and using 18 Bitsboard Games

GRAMMAR Apps

- **Grammar in Use** (from R. Murphy textbook) - free version, Basic Level
- **Grammar Test** – free version (1 “glitch” –Past Participle activity = Past Perfect)
- **Comparative Adjectives** – free version

LISTENING Apps

- **Learn English by Listening** - free version

PHONICS Apps

- **Phonics Studio** – good visuals with sound
- **Phonics Genius** - large range of sounds

READING Apps

- **iBooks** – free books through iTunes

TRIAL Apps

- **Madlibs**

Other useful programs on the iPad (besides Apps)

WRITING tools

- **Email** (can be done on Yahoo, Google, etc. from the Safari or Puffin browser)
- **Pages** (Apple's word processing program , similar to *MS Word for Windows*)
- **Messages** – iMessages

IMAGING tools

- **Video Camera** – many uses: recording students speaking; pronunciation feedback
- **Camera** – still shots can be used for many activities – one ex: writing prompts
- **Face Time** – one ex: authentic communication with someone in another class

V. Activity: Incorporating the Technology into your ESL Lessons

Choose 1:

- 1) Blogs/Internet: choose a blog post or a web resource (preferably one that is unfamiliar to you); use it to create an activity or part of a lesson plan
- 2) iPads: choose one of the apps to explore; use it to create an activity or part of a lesson plan for an ESL class

VI. App & Website Sharing

Which of the iPad apps did you like best? Which are you most likely to use with your class?

Have you used other apps on an iPad, another tablet, or a smartphone? (iPhone, Android, Windows)
If so, did you like those apps? Which ones?

Are there other ESL websites that you like to use for lesson planning or with your class?
**Which do you use most often?*

What other ESL technology-related topics would you like to have training on?