Using Cell Phones in the ESL Classroom

2013 Florida Literacy Conference
Captiva, Florida

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- How many have cell phones?
- How many have basic phones? Smartphones?
- What do you do with your cell phone?
- What problems do cell phones cause in your classroom?
- What's your school policy about cell phones?

Workshop Agenda

- Informational Scavenger Hunt
- Camera Activity
- Using Dictionaries and Translators
- Text Talk
- Sharing Session
- Wrap-up

Informational Scavenger Hunt

- Work together in groups. Use your cell phones to find the answers to the questions in the handout.
Captiva Scavenger Hunt

☐ What is the temperature on Captiva right now?
   www.weather.com

☐ What is the most commonly found shell on Captiva?
   www.sanibelcapitivaonline.com/sanibel-shelling.htm

☐ What day is Wildlife Drive closed at the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge?
   (239) 472-1100

☐ What is the secret message on my voice mail?
   (716) 849-6727 Ext. 141

Close-up Pictures

Advantages to Close-up Pics

☐ No reading
☐ Encourages conversation
☐ Negotiating for meaning
☐ Visual/Aural/Kinesthetic
☐ Uses realia
☐ Higher-order thinking skills
☐ Promotes socialization
☐ New vocabulary and descriptive language
Alternatives or Extensions

☐ Don’t use zoom – just photos
☐ Do a scavenger hunt (list words or give pictures for non-readers)
☐ Homework – do photos of home/community
☐ Use existing photos in phone
☐ 20 Questions or riddles

Using Dictionaries

Can you understand the following? What apps or websites would you use to help? What words would you look up?

Tissueplasminogen Activator vs. Alteplase for Ischemic Stroke
In this phase 2B trial involving 75 patients with acute ischemic stroke, tenecteplase was more effective than alteplase in achieving reperfusion and clinical improvement at 24 hours. Bleeding complications were similar in the two groups.


Google Translate

Use the Google Translate app or website (translate.google.com) to translate the following into English:

Mi estas tre felic, ke vi venis al ĉi tiu ateliero!

I am very happy that you came to this workshop!
Text Talk

Do you understand these text messages?

- CU L8R
- Brk
- ARFK
- IN 4 ME, IM L8, SOZ
- KF
- RNKY
- LUV2R
- RND
- Zzzzz
- TMB
- O/V/E
- EZ
- BTW
- CU 2 NITE O 2MORO

See you later
Bakoff
As far as I know
Wait for me, I'm late, sorry
Keep in touch
Are you sleep?
Love you with all my heart
Have a nice day
Bokku
Text me back
Ring me
By the way
See you tonight or tomorrow

Good for Text or Bad for Text

Read the contents below and discuss with a partner whether you think it's a good idea or a bad idea to use text messaging in this situation. Why or why not?

- To ask somebody out on a first date
- To wish a friend happy birthday
- To set up a time to meet with your child's teacher
- To tell your teacher you will be absent
- To give a student his or her grade or test score
- To remind parents that it is an early release day
- To thank someone for a job interview

Cell phone Sharing Session

- How do you use cell phones in the classroom?

Be prepared to share your group's responses.
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Resources for Using Cell Phones in the ESL Classroom

General

• http://llt.msu.edu/vol14num2/stockwell.pdf - This article, Using Mobile Phones for Vocabulary Activities: Examining the Effect of the Platform, written by Glenn Stockwell, appears in the June 2010 issue of Language Learning and Technology. It reports on a study that compares students using mobile phones to students using desktop computers to complete vocabulary activities.
• http://mobileesl.blogspot.com/ - a blog by David Read, and ESL teacher, about using cell phones, tablets, and other mobile devices to learn English.
• http://busyteacher.org/6955-7-great-esl-cell-phone-activities.html - Some basic and easy ideas for using cell phones in “What You Can Do with a Cell Phone: 7 Great ESL Activities” on the Busy Teacher website.
• http://iteslj.org/questions/telephone.html - a long list of questions to stimulate discussion about cell phones and their use. It is part of Conversation Questions for the ESL/EFL Classroom, a project of The Internet TESL Journal.
• http://mlearninginadulted.wikispaces.com/ - A very useful wiki, Using Mobile/Cell Phones in Adult Education Classes, collected by MLearninginAdultEd. It has many different ideas by adult ed teachers.
• http://www.phonescoop.com/glossary/ - A very extensive glossary of cell phone terms.

Texting

• http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/essential-uk/texting-all - BBC World Service Teaching English. This website, entitled, Texting for All, contains several activities to use in the classroom. It is UK-oriented, but most activities could be used internationally.
• http://www.floridaliteracy.org/FLCNews131.pdf - This Spring 2012 edition of the Literacy News put out by the Florida Literacy Council contains an article, Tips to Teach Reading and Writing, that has several suggestions for texting with students. The article is written for tutors, but most could be used by classroom teachers as well.
• http://iteslj.org/questions/texting.html - a small set of questions to stimulate discussion about texting. It is part of Conversation Questions for the ESL/EFL Classroom, a project of The Internet TESL Journal.
• http://www.buffalonews.com/business/moneysmart/article781057.ece - Article in The Buffalo News, “Text for Free.” It includes pros and cons of several different free text messaging services.
Some Free Educational Apps

Barcode Scanners – barcode scanner and reader
Calculator – calculates!
dictionary.com – dictionary and thesaurus that also pronounces
DocsToGo – opens MS Office Documents and allows you to do some editing with them.
Dragon Dictation – voice-recognition translates spoken word into text.
English Idioms Illustrated – gives illustrated pictures of idioms and explains where they came from.
Google Earth – You can explore the world with this app. Search for locations, find geographic landscapes and directions.
Google Translate – Translate words and phrases between more than 60 languages. You can speak and hear translations.
Google+ - A social network app that allows you to do multiple person video conferences.
Grammar Express – free versions of verb tenses, parts of speech, prepositions. It has quizzes and explanations
hangman – has many easy, medium, and hard word lists, in addition to SAT, TOEFL, and vocabulary-specific word lists. Can play with 1 or 2 people.
Idioms Lite – multiple choice quizzes on idioms from categories, such as negotiations, food, clothes and colors, etc.
iflash – for making and viewing flashcards.
Kindle – allows you to download books from to read. You can search for free Kindle books at amazon.com.
MyScriptCalculator – allows you to perform mathematical operations (from simple addition to complex formulates) by using your handwriting.
MyWordBook – Learn, practice and review vocabulary. It comes with pre-installed interactive flashcards or you can add your own.
pdf-notes – allows you to highlight and make notes on pdf documents.
Read4English – allows you to read and listen to a variety of books. Highlights sentences as they are read.
Skype – allows you to make video computer-to-computer calls for free or computer-to-landline phones inexpensively.
Speak Text – speaks websites, documents and keyed in words and phrases. Also translates and speaks into many languages.
SpeakingPal English Tutor – Provides interactive video dialogs to improve English speaking skills.
StoryKit – User creates an electronic storybook.
Study Flash – lets you add pictures from your mobile camera to flashcards.
The Weather Channel – look for weather conditions now and in the future.
USA Learns – Mobile version of USA Learns desktop version (usalearn.org) teaches English vocabulary
Use Your Handwriting – lets you use your finger as a pen to make notes.
Words with Friends – a game like Scrabble that you can play with friends or find people from the app to play with.
Captiva Scavenger Hunt

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