

1. The Internet has opened huge gates to both, those who teach and those who learn and it is developing so fast that it is impossible to keep track of either what already exists or is being released. Even open access to various resources to be applied to educational purposes is like an ocean that there is no way to swim it over. Diverse range of podcasts, videos, self-guided courses, articles, quizzes, etc. provides users with huge support in their improvement journey. Therefore, ESL / EFL teachers are constantly challenged with how to tackle up-to-date and thought-provoking topics to implement in the classroom.

2. The pandemic trained all of us much and educator community is not an exception. Having been forced to introduce the transition, currently we have to admit that online classes are here to stay. The educators of Ukraine have to work in specific conditions due to Russian invasion and occupation. Not only are we to apply technology to classrooms, but also ESL / EFL teachers have to develop their teacher imagination skills which can help bridge the gap between offline and online worlds, as well as to help learners get distracted from stress caused by this awful war. That is why; we have been searching for approaches targeted at embedding various elements into our classes, since getting students more active has become as crucial as ever before. Therefore, we have had to turn to the practice of blended learning which is a fashion now. As a result teachers are better equipped than ever due to the fact they have to blend the best of digital and face-to-face learning.

3. Blended learning is commonly referred to as technology-mediated instruction, web-enhanced instruction, or mix-mode instruction. It is an approach to education that combines online teaching materials and opportunities for interaction via the Internet applying physical place-based classroom methods. There cannot be the only one model of blended learning, since the instruction developer is able to choose remote or in-person mix that he or she feels is the most relevant and best suited to the training program. Thus, the definition of blended learning gets far broader than just classrooms with videos or podcasts on the top.

4. All ESL/EFL classes are unique and incomparable, hence it is highly unlikely to tailor a class that will fit all your students' needs as well as will be able to reach many of them. An ESL/EFL teacher has to be prepared to face a lot of challenges. What are they?

- some really smart students;
- some sleepy students;
- students with learning difficulties;
- reluctant students;
- classrooms with only a whiteboard;

- classroom with so much technology that makes your head spin;
- outdoor classroom;
- different learning paces and places;
- other.

5. How then to diminish the impact of these factors on both effective teaching and effective learning? This is the moment when flipped classrooms come into play. In a flipped classroom students engage with materials outside of class to get prepared for an active learning experience when having the class. During the class, the focus is on getting semi-controlled and improvisation practice, utilizing the new language patterns and discussing the topic of the video to watch or the article to read assigned. In other words, the classroom is more about production rather than passive learning and ultimately, the precious classroom time is used far more effectively. There are many activities to be implemented into a flipped class such as: problem-solving tasks, debates, discussions, brainstorming, peer tutoring and feedback, and role playing, which contribute much to the development of divergent thinking. Here why, while planning to flip a class, ESL /EFL teachers concentrate all their attention on planning the activities that the students are supposed to do in class and on what they will have to do to prepare for that active learning in classroom. However, there are two other aspects to be taken into consideration while designing flipped class that require planning as well: how the activities will be introduced and how the teacher and the students will be aware of having been adequately prepared for in-class practice.

6. There appears a moment in every educator's career when they feel like getting away from traditional sets of text books and bring a little spark and creative atmosphere into the classroom. Most of our students have already become bored with traditional activities practiced. They have seen tons of printable worksheets and they have played considerable number of interactive language games. However, apart from the typical teaching websites, the Internet offers an infinite collection of resources which, when used in a creative way, can serve as useful tools to significantly increase our students' learning opportunities. Let us share the so-called tool kit of free Internet resources that would entail benefiting from an array of online teaching and learning resources.

7. YouGlish

<https://youglish.com/>

Do you sometimes experience difficulties finding an example sentence for an idiom or phrasal verb? How can you be certain your students understand its

meaning? YouGlish is a free online platform that allows you to search for specific words and phrases in a database of video clips from popular films, TV shows, TEDx presentations, etc.

Apart from facilitating the presentation of new vocabulary by demonstrating more than one context, it also allows students to hear how a word is pronounced, not in isolation like in most online dictionaries, but among other words. Students can hear it in conversations, highlighting such features of natural speech as contractions, ellipses or linking sounds.

8. Engvid

<https://www.engvid.com/>

Presentation – practice – production is must follow model when delivering most of EFL /ESL classes. It can be possible to cover all these stages by selecting proper lesson having explored this very resource that offers about 2000 video lessons created by experienced native-speaker teachers. Here you can find topics such as grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, as well as exam preparation recommendations and training for IELTS and TOEFL. Each video is categorized by level – beginner, intermediate or advanced – so, both teachers and learners find a video that suits them the most. The lessons are followed with the option ‘quiz’, therefore, users can see how well they have perceived the material and whether there is a need to watch the lesson again.

The results of student survey have demonstrated that in spite of conventional teaching approach dominating in terms of ‘talk and chalk’, engVid occupies one of the top positions of learners’ likes. So, we would urge you just to give it a try.

9. ESL Brains

<https://eslbrains.com>

Are you striving to focus on suggestive and fresh topics in teaching English and implement diverse activities based on real-life problems and solutions and get your students more engaged? ESL Brains is here to help you. It is a platform developed for English teachers who teach adult learners and you will be provided with teaching materials that include thought-provoking topics, stimulate critical thinking and spark discussions about the modern world.

Authentic videos are incorporated into most of the lessons and show the variety of real life English and introduction of catchy and up-to-date content can engage

learners more effectively and boost their language skills, while making the lessons interesting and insightful.

10. Hello World Bloomberg

<https://www.bloomberg.com/qt/series/hello-world>

If you have to design and teach the course of English for specific purposes - ESP, it is crucial to give response to the needs of students who, beyond the learning of the common language, require a practice regarding certain professional areas. Bloomberg will equip you with a valuable collection of the latest articles on Markets, Economics, Industries, Technology, Politics, etc. It can be of a great help while designing an ESP lesson plan aimed at introducing new vocabulary, developing the tasks on reading comprehension and working out discussion sets.

Ashlee Vance a reporter for Bloomberg, the host of Hello world invites you to set off for a journey that stretches across the globe to get acquainted with the so-called 'tech-freaks' among inventors, scientists and technologists shaping our future. Each episode uncovers the ways in which the local culture and communities have influenced their approach to technology; therefore it can contribute much not only to ESP classes, but also to Country Study courses. Neither learners, nor teachers have been indifferent to this exciting videos.

11. English Club

www.englishclub.com

Whether you are a private tutor, or a University professor who teaches English in a large classroom, English Club can save your time. All of us have many different approaches to teaching English. Some teachers prefer the whole-language approach, while others prefer to separate skill training based on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Here you can find the most appropriate for your style of teaching.

Since many students find the interface of this resource not so much attractive, but teachers can definitely benefit from using it in terms of making learning fun. Your students will be more encouraged to learn English with songs, jokes, puns, riddles and games.

Disclaimer: the authors are unaffiliated to the mentioned above resources and do not get any remuneration for writing about them. We recommend these resources solely because we have been using them and continue benefiting from such use tracking progress of our students. It is mere experience sharing.

12. All in all, implementing the flipped classroom approach incorporating the recommended resources has reflected in the following advantages. Students

- take control of their learning process and become more autonomous;
- are able to study on their own pace;
- are exposed to practice English outside the classroom, which helps create a habit of doing it more often;
- become more confident and prepared for language production;
- acquire more independent learning culture.

The disadvantages are:

- poor or no Internet connection;
- teacher anticipation issue on how well the students are prepared for the classroom.