

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

E ELT WEEKLY

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER

ELTWeekly eNewsletter Table of Contents

Thank YOU.....3

Tip of the week by Bhaskar Pandya..... 4

Featured article: “Tweet and Teach English” by Tarun Patel 5

ELT News - compiled by Rajesh Bharvad 12

Upcoming events..... 17

Book of the week: Materials and Methods in ELT: A Teacher's Guide by McDonough and Shaw.....19

Useful resources – compiled by Kaushal Kotadia..... 21

Feedback..... 24

Meet ELTWeekly Team..... 25

Thank YOU

Dear **Subscriber**,

At the outset, let us **thank YOU** for subscribing to the **ELTWeekly Newsletter**.

With the launch of this newsletter, we ensure the delivery of "Quality Content" every Monday - in your inbox.

We invite ELT experts from all over to contribute to this newsletter in the forms of articles, case studies, ELT tips and more.

Also we invite **YOUR suggestions** for the improvement of this newsletter.

Wish you happy reading 😊

Tarun Patel

Bhaskar Pandya

Kaushal Kotadia, and

Rajesh Bharvad.

Tip of the week by Bhaskar Pandya

After completing their schooling, in a college, students are often discovering a different relationship with other students and in such a situation "group work" allows them to interact with different classmates in a less stressful, collaborative atmosphere. Then they will also start defining their proper personalities and "role-play activities" can allow them try to express different feelings behind non-threatening, face-saving masks.

You can access a nice group work and role play activity by visiting this site:

<http://www.cambridge.org/us/ESL/letstalk/support/optional/l3u11oa.htm>.

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER
WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

Featured article: "Tweet and Teach English" by Tarun Patel

The Internet has brought in a "revolution" as far as information exchange is concerned. It has helped people reach any corner of the world "in fractions of a second", advertise online, sell their stuff and more.

Along with all these the education is the sector which has gained a big momentum with the evolution of Internet.

Google - the search giant has equipped the educators with superb tools which help us be "more" effective in the classroom. All the Google's educational tools can be explored at <http://www.google.com/educators/tools.html>. Google's tools help us even keep in touch and keep educating our learners from anywhere "online" :).

I will explore all Google for Educator tools sometime late, today I would like to share a new social networking application that could help us improve our students' English to a greater extent.

The name of the application is Twitter :)

Twitter is a privately funded startup with offices in the SoMA neighborhood of San Francisco, CA. Started as a side project in March of 2006, Twitter has grown into a real-time short messaging service that works over multiple networks and devices.

In countries all around the world, people follow the sources most relevant to them and access information via Twitter as it happens—from breaking international news to updates from friends.

Twitter is a free service that asks one question, “What are you doing?” Answers must be under 140 characters in length and can be sent via mobile texting, instant message, or the web. These short messages are called “Tweets”. Tweets can be read via email, instant messages, text messages on a mobile phone, or on the Web.

Educators and Twitter

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER

Teachers can utilize Twitter in several ways.

1. We can make timely announcements without the help of any Internet service. It hardly takes a second for a message to appear on Twitter.
2. We can have better connections with our learners.
3. It can prove to be a big time saver for the students as they don't have to visit the blog / website on a daily basis.

ELT and Twitter

Now comes the role of Twitter in helping our students be better users of English language.

How can I do that? The biggest problem with the ESL students is the correct usage of English language.

They are not able to use correct English as they “do not” use enough of English everyday.

This is how we can make them use English and improve upon.

Ask your students to answer the question “What are you doing?” on Twitter 15 times a day. Review all their answers everyday and offer corrections as and when required.

Your students will answer the question “What are you doing?” in these manners.

When he / she is reading, he / she would write “I am reading my textbook now”.

When he / she is chatting, he / she would write “I am chatting with my friend on Yahoo! messenger”.

When he / she is about to close the Internet connection, he / she would write “I am shutting down my computer now”.

In the above manner they would keep writing and with the correct usage of the English language they are bound to make the mistakes too. Correct them by posting their original answer as your tweet and the correct version of their sentence below.

This can definitely help improve the language usage of our students.

With Twitter we can easily help improve our students improve upon all kinds of language functions.

Here I would like to request you to read a case study in which a Saudi Arabian teacher explains how he experimented with Twitter and shares his research results. A link to this case study is given at the end of this article.

So friends, this is what I have discovered with this messaging technology, and I am sure that many of you would come forward with some better ideas 😊

Here are two videos showing the ways of using Twitter:

ELT

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER
WWW.ELTWEKLY.COM

Video#1: How to use Twitter



Visit <http://eltweekly.com/more/2008/12/08/tweet-and-teach-english/> to watch this video

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM

Video#2: Using Twitter for EdTech Networking

In this video Steve Dembo discusses Twitter as a networking tool for the educational community.



Visit <http://eltweekly.com/more/2008/12/08/tweet-and-teach-english/> to watch this video

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM

Other Twitter Related Links

* Twitter in Academia: A Case Study from Saudi Arabia

(http://test.elearnmag.org/subpage.cfm?section=case_studies&article=42-1)

* Twitter Tweets for Higher Education (<http://web20teach.blogspot.com/2007/08/twitter-tweets-for-higher-education.html>)

* Teaching with Twitter (http://www.slimcoincidence.com/blog/2008/02/teaching_with_twitter.php).

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM T ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER

ELT News

English as a second language is a challenge – NewTimes.com

Cody Xu came to Ridgefield last year when his family moved from China. He was 15, spoke Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese, but could only count to 10 and say a few words in English.

"I wondered if other students appreciated how well I knew the subject when I'd answer in class," Cody said recently, noting his poor command of English made it impossible for him to fully convey his knowledge,

"Then, as I was in classes more and picked up more and more English, it became more comfortable" to take part in class discussions, he said.

Although he might still ask to have some thingd repeated, he seems to have an easy time learning R languages. He is studying Japanese this year as a sophomore at Ridgefield High.

Read the complete news item at http://www.newstimes.com/ci_11156074?source=most_email

WWW.ELTWEKLY.COM

**Can Obama's New Requirements Keep Pace with English Language Learner Student Needs? –
PRWeb.com**

Professional, Interactive Teacher Training Programs key to equipping Educators with Tools to meet the goal of President-elect Obama's Accountability for Limited English Proficient Student Graduation Plan

Phoenix, AZ (PRWEB) December 7, 2008 -- As President-Elect Obama transitions into the White House, one major area of focus is the state of education in the United States. While many changes are planned with respect to the No Child Left Behind Act, a key focus area is the graduation rates of English Language Learners. In his comprehensive plan to reform education, Obama believes that schools should be held accountable for the success of their ELLs.

Proper teacher training is vital to the success of this program for the Obama administration. However, there has historically been a disconnect between teacher preparation programs and what it really takes to teach students who are learning a second language.

Read the complete news item at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/12/prweb1712024.htm>

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

Rethinking global Englishes in the context of globalization – The Jakarta Post

The rapid spread of English worldwide sends an obvious signal -- the English language is protean and fluid as today's living language.

So fluid and flexible is English that it pervasively permeates global, regional, national and local levels. The notion of Englishes has emerged, demonstrating the vitality of English which grows and develops mainly as a local language variety.

Although closely tied to the processes of globalization, it is too simplistic to account for its spread from the sole context of globalization, Americanization, imperialism or world Englishes and homogeneity

Read the complete news item at

<http://old.thejakartapost.com/detailfeatures.asp?fileid=20081207.F03&irec=7>

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

Universities urged to improve English language skills for students - VietNamNet Bridge

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Training Banh Tien Long has asked universities to help students improve their English so that they can use it confidently and competently by 2015.

Mr Long made the statement at a seminar held in Hanoi on December 5 with a focus on English language training for students at universities in Vietnam. The event was co-organised by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Global.

Mr Long said that to improve the quality of teaching and English language skills, universities should attach more importance to upgrading infrastructure and English teaching facilities. In addition, teachers should improve their teaching methods and their knowledge to encourage students to get involved in studying English.

Read the complete news item at <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/education/2008/12/817255/>

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM

'We plan to come more often to India' – The Financial Express

INTERVIEW : GENA NETTEN, SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER, ETS

Gena Netten is the senior marketing manager at ETS (Educational Testing Service), a non-profit organisation, which conducts the world-famous Toefl (Test of English as a Foreign Language), GRE (Graduate Record Examination) and scores of related tests was in India recently for ETS' four city 'Go Anywhere' India Tour. An MA in Applied Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language from the university of Minnesota, Natten, a Toefl veteran, has been with ETS for fifteen years. In New Delhi, Natten met up with FE's Vikram Chaudhary, where she talked about ETS, Toefl and her India experience. Excerpts:

Tell us about the various standardised tests ETS develops in the US for K-12 and higher education?

The list is very long, though some of the main assessment tests for K-12 are the Middle Grades Assessment, the Major Field Tests and so on. Then we have Praxis Series, which is a set of validated assessments that provides accurate and reliable information for the use of state education agencies when they make licensing decisions.

Read the complete news item at <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/-We-plan-to-come-more-often-to-India-/395397/>

Upcoming events

[National Conference on “Technology in ELT”, January 29-30, 2009](#)

Organized by Department of Communication Skills, Charotar Institute of Technology, Education Campus Changa

Place: Education Campus Changa, TA - Petlad, Di - Anand, Gujarat, India.

Conference blog: <http://nctelt.wordpress.com>

[APAC ELT Convention: 'Teaching the Next Generation', Barcelona, February 26-28, 2009](#)

Few of us would have believed - 20 years ago - when the use of internet and web-related applications started to enter our lives, that our profession would be so affected by this new development.

The spread of internet has been very influential in the consolidation of communicative language teaching and in the introduction of humanistic approaches which require shared responsibilities between teachers and students and imply a shift in power relationships in the classroom.

Visit <http://www.apac.es/elt-convention/> for more details

[ELT Conference 2009 - English - British Council - Colombia, April 23 - 25, 2009](#)

Topic: "Perspectives in Bilingualism: Current views and trends"

Where: Universidad de La Salle, Sede Chapinero, Bogotá, Colombia.

Proposals for sessions should fall on one of the following topics in relation to Bilingualism:

- Issues in EFL, ESL, CLIL, Content Based Learning, immersion programmes, and international curriculum (IB, CIE etc)
- Global views: Intercultural communication, culture and identity, English as a global language
- Evaluation & Assessment: Benchmarks, testing, and the role of International Exams
- Spanish and English coexisting in the bilingual classroom
- EFL teachers in Content-Based learning classrooms
- Teacher development for non ELT specialists
- Non native English-speaking teachers: challenges and paradigms
- Effective practices in the elementary, secondary and higher education classrooms
- Research in bilingualism in the context.

Visit <http://www.britishcouncil.org/colombia-eltconference.htm> for more details

Book of the week: “Materials and Methods in ELT: A Teacher's Guide by Jo McDonough and Christopher Shaw” - Rajesh Bharvad

Materials and Methods in ELT, Second Edition offers a comprehensive and practical introduction to central themes in the principles and practice of Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language.

This book offers a comprehensive and practical introduction to central themes in the principles and practice of Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language.

It features a number of new sections, including task-based learning, the use of the internet, and teacher-research, as well as new samples from current teaching materials.

It also includes an appendix with a selected list of key websites for teachers and students.

This second edition has been completely revised and updated.

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM

Reviews for Materials and Methods in ELT book

“I have been recommending this book for some years to overseas teachers of English who are interested in evaluating the appropriateness of current approaches to ELT for their own classrooms. The second edition is both more comprehensive and more detailed and is a highly accessible resource for individual teachers or course tutors.” Tricia Hedge, University of Warwick

“This edition thoroughly discusses and illustrates the central pedagogical issues in ELT, with an especially rich emphasis on contextual factors in diverse educational settings.” John Sivell, Brock University

“I have been recommending this book for some years to overseas teachers of English who are interested in evaluating the appropriateness of current approaches to ELT for their own classrooms. The second edition is both more comprehensive and more detailed and is a highly accessible resource for individual teachers or course tutors.” Tricia Hedge, University of Warwick
“This edition thoroughly discusses and illustrates the central pedagogical issues in ELT, with an especially rich emphasis on contextual factors in diverse educational settings.” John Sivell, Brock University.

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

Useful resources - Kaushal Kotadia

[Writing.Com Community](#)

Writing.Com is the online community for writers and readers of all interests and skill levels. Whether you're an enthusiastic, creative writer looking for the perfect place to store and display your writing online or a casual reader searching for a good story, Writing.Com is the website for you!

Free Writing.Com memberships are available to everyone. Each membership includes an online writing portfolio, numerous writing tools, email services and the chance to meet and bond with fresh creative minds, just like you! No other website services the Writing world better than we do.

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER

To explore more, visit <http://www.writing.com/>

[CAMBRIDGE English Language Teaching Podcasts](#)

The CAMBRIDGE's new series of podcasts by Richard Cauldwell helps students with their English pronunciation and listening. Focusing on one word every month, this series provides examples of the ways the word is pronounced on its own and in natural speech.

The podcast is accompanied by an audio script and a worksheet, and there is a separate audio file including all the examples from the worksheet.

To explore more, visit http://www.cambridge.org/elt/resources/skills/pron_podcasts.htm

ESL Monkeys

Mary and David have created ESL Monkeys to make ESL a much more practical and accessible subject for teachers, schools and students worldwide.

ESL Monkeys offers the following services:

Job Search: Search for ESL jobs worldwide.

Job Post: Post an ESL job vacancy!

Post a Resume: Looking for a job? Increase your chances by posting your resume online and allow schools to search for you!

Lesson Plans: Browse for OR submit your own lesson plan.

Find Books: Download FREE ESL books! Find ESL teaching books, text books for schools and English learning books online for purchase and delivery!

Community Forums: Discuss certain issues or ask questions online! Have other teachers, students or schools answer them!

Word of the Day: Learn or teach a new word or phrase everyday!

And much more!

INDIA'S FIRST ELT WEEKLY eNEWSLETTER
To explore more, visit <http://www.eslmonkeys.com/>

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

Feedback

YES, We Want To Hear From YOU!

Since this is our first ELT initiative, we need your feedback in order for us to continue to improve our publication for you.

- * We want to know how you like it.
- * We want to know what you want to know about.
- * We want to know the topics you want.

Send us an email with your suggestions, testimonial or enhancement.

Send all emails to:

info@eltweekly.com

Also you can leave your feedback at <http://eltweekly.com/more/feedback/#respond>

WWW.ELTWEEKLY.COM

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM

ELTWeekly Team

The **ELTWeekly** Newsletter is an initiative of Tarun Patel, Bhaskar Pandya, Kaushal Kotadia and Rajesh Bharvad - a young team of English teachers.

All four are working as Communication skills teachers in an Engineering college.

Bhaskar and Rajesh have earned their M.A., & M. Phil. degrees in English Literature.

Kaushal is reading for his Ph. D.

And Tarun is working on his M. Phil. dissertation.

You can write to the ELTWeekly team at eltweekly@gmail.com.

WWW.ELTWEELY.COM