EFL & Social Networking

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Problems

- Schools: Reform ↔ Restructuring
- In the traditional approach to writing instruction, the student writes for the teacher only, “like a soloist with an audience of one.”
- Knowledge, competence, access to information, accuracy components, comprehensible input ... = language acquisition?
- Watching videos (YouTube). Listening to English language Radio Stations (BBC Radio 4; BBC Learning English.com). Reading online magazines and news sites = passive comprehension practice
The Role of Technology

- What is technology? Alphabet

- Backward design (EFL):
  - Desired Results
  - Assessment
  - Learning Experiences (?)
Technology can change the nature of learning (1)

- Active / passive students
- Motivation for students
- Support to activate prior knowledge and to make links between new information and what they already know
- Additional contextual support to make sense of new information and language
- Students “learn “ technology
Technology can change the nature of learning (2)

- Opportunities to speak, read and write in English
- Access information in different forms
- ICT creates opportunities for learners to refine, develop and store their language work
- ICT provides learners with increased opportunities and motivation to communicate in English
- Encouraging learners to use tools like online thesauruses, spelling and grammar checkers can help learners become more independent.
- ICT can be a great stimulus to working, thinking and talking collaboratively
Technology can change the nature of learning (3)

- "Technology allows us to reduce contact time between teacher and student, while maintaining quality of instruction and achieving comparable learning outcomes (Hoopingarner, p. 231)"
- A classroom wiki, blog or ning is accessible to parents
- Learners teach each other
Technology can change the way teachers teach

- a wide range of teaching materials
- access to pedagogy and expertise via the internet
- opportunities to work collaboratively
- opportunities to share good practice, resources and professional development
- access to resources that are culturally and linguistically diverse
- innovative tools with which to integrate language and curriculum learning aims.
Web 2.0/Social software

- Web 2.0 is a term which describes the changing trend in the use of World Wide Web technology and web design that aims to enhance creativity, information sharing, and, most notably, collaboration among users.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0
- Blogs
- Wikis
- Social Networking
Social Networking

• Social Media Revolution
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8
A wiki is a collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. The collaborative encyclopedia Wikipedia is one of the best-known wiki.

a collaborative website that allows students to post work, make comments or critique the work of others, and make revisions in a group setting.
Ideas for WIKIs

- You can upload student work for collaborative editing

- You could use a wiki as a sort of learning record which all the students could contribute to.
  [http://britishfoodi.pbwiki.com](http://britishfoodi.pbwiki.com)

- You could use it to create your own online course book
  [http://britishhumour.pbwiki.com](http://britishhumour.pbwiki.com)

- You set up collaborative assignments such as Webquests

- You could upload or link to videos or images and set group or pair work tasks for students to do.
  [http://englishgag.pbwiki.com](http://englishgag.pbwiki.com)

- Project work tool
  [http://iwanttoknow.pbwiki.com](http://iwanttoknow.pbwiki.com)
Blogs

- A blog (a contraction of the term "Web log") is a Web site, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video.
Ideas for blogs

- Reflective or writing journals
  http://central.hcrhs.k12.nj.us/americanstudies/
- Assignment submission and review
  http://101.freshmancomp.com/
- Dialogue for groupwork
  http://2mgems.blogspot.com/
- Share course-related resource
  http://www.learnenglishindublin.com/daily_blog
Blog vs. Ning (matter of emphasis)

- Blog (Journal): writing, reading, listening, speaking, interaction (comments)
- Ning (Personal Social Network): Interaction
Ning vs. Facebook group

- Ownership
- 👈🏾 single, uniform design and rigid layout
- Integrating into external website
- Full control over the look and feel
- Any language
- Pulling in external widgets and feeds
- You have the option to make money (ads, domain)
Ning Sites

- The English Companion Ning: http://englishcompanion.ning.com/
Remember

- Methodology ↔ Technology

- "a computer is not a substitute for a teacher, and it cannot transform a bad teacher into a good one (Hoopingarner p. 232)"
Enjoy and use technology to support instruction