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USING TED TALKS AT THE ESL CLASSROOM

Today's ESL classroom does not have to imitate grandma's or gradpa's classroom. Adding technology to English classes helps to differentiate, modernize, and bring excitement to traditional content [3].

At the same time technology engages students and personalizes their learning. Technologies help students conduct research and create products, similar to the way in which digital-age workers respond to new situations by bringing together information to create timely documents that drive businesses to thrive. When instruction is active and students are engaged, learning increases.

Due in large part to the Internet, there are a plethora of easily accessible English language learning materials for teachers of English to choose from for use in classes. Yet, in many ways the internet is a double-edged sword, precisely for the same reason. With so much material readily accessible, teachers can find themselves overwhelmed by the sheer number of items that are available. Even worse, after finding something online which seems promising, teachers may struggle to come up with a way to have students use it so that it will be beneficial to them as they endeavor to learn English [2].

One of the most wide-spread tools for teaching English is TED Talks (www.ted.com). TED is a series of informative, educational, inspiring and sometimes jaw-dropping talks that present 'Ideas Worth Spreading'. In recent years, TED talks have grown into a global internet powerhouse of idea and information sharing. For teaching English as a second language, TED Talks videos of these conferences provide ample opportunities to develop and refine students' English speaking and comprehension abilities in an engaging and informative way. Ted has attracted many of the world's most important thinkers such as Larry Page, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Ken Robinson, and a few winners of the Nobel Prize.

There is an emphasis on informing, educating and opening people's eyes to new ideas, making them perfect for the classroom. Students love these talks and really appreciate it when teachers take the time to make a lesson out of them. Teenagers, being the «YouTube generation», also find them highly engaging and motivating.

TED Talks provide an engaging context from which students can improve English at school. There are thousands of videos to choose from, so there should always be something of interest. They can help students improve, not only their listening skills, but also improve their pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and writing [1].

A very helpful feature TED Talks offers on their website is listing the speeches into different categories based on «Topics» and «Duration» (0-6, 6-12, 12-18, 18+), «Languages» (these speeches have the transcripts written in more languages than simply English), «Events,» and one can even find a category for specific «Speakers.»

One of the amazing features of TED Talks is that almost every talk is subtitled in dozens of languages, including English. The fact that most lectures are available to watch without subtitles, with English subtitles, and with subtitles in many other languages makes them perfect teaching tools for ESL students of all levels. Each TED Talk has a transcript of a particular speech. Since each speech ranges in length from under 5 minutes to a maximum of 18 minutes (although some go beyond that time frame), teachers should make a decision as to whether a particular speech is too brief or long for the class they are teaching [2].

One of the most impressive things about TED Talks is that there are simply so many of them. At the time this article is being written, a quick check of the TED site reveals that there are «2500+ talks to stir your curiosity.» Based on feedback, received from students, they found listening to people speaking about various subjects each week to be both interesting and educational.

The videos and the lively discussions that inevitably follow help to improve students' listening comprehension and speaking skills and always introduce new vocabulary and grammar points. The talks, by their nature, are very intelligent but also casual, so they combine advanced vocabulary with colloquial expressions, challenging students without intimidating them. Putting on English subtitles lets students, who don't understand everything spoken in English, listen and read simultaneously, helping both their listening and reading comprehension at once. On top of that, TED's website provides transcripts of every talk. Teacher can print out the transcript and students can review the speech in text after watching it, catching or clarifying things they didn't hear or didn't understand while watching [4].

EFL students learn more effectively when they can listen to and engage with a variety of speakers and topics not found in textbooks. Students can spend time on their own, outside of the classroom, watching enriching videos that encourage them to hone their language skills.

In the following part some examples of exercises will be given. Most obvious is «listening». Students should be encouraged to listen 'actively'. Teacher should ask students to look at the title before they listen and try to predict what they are going to hear. They can also pause at different points and try to guess what they will hear next. Another useful exercise is «micro-listening» where they rewind and listen again and again to any sentences they didn't quite get until they fully understand, thereby getting used to connected speech and any other barriers that might prevent comprehension.

Learners listen for unfamiliar words and then try to guess the meaning from context. They can also look at the transcripts for extra help. Students can then note down their new words together with definitions, synonyms, antonyms and example sentences. In this way students can practice vocabulary for different topics [1].

Below every TED video is a comments section where people discuss the video and the issues that came up in the video. Students can enter these debates and practice their writing at the same time.

Today it is even easier to create lesson plans, because there already done exercises for different videos. Every teacher can use them at their ESL classrooms. Because of great interest towards TED Talks a great teaching resource www.ed.ted.com was created by different teachers from all around the world. There are published not only printable ready-made plans for lessons, but also on-line activities. Modern students enjoy working with computers and they will find it exciting, when teacher will tell them to do some exercises on-line.

So, TED Talks provide ESL students with an interesting and thought-provoking way to learn English. Teachers should discover the ways to enrich their ESL classroom with the spread of ideas, taking benefit from trending topics, and most importantly, teaching English through TED talk videos.

References:

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RHETORISCHE FIGUREN IN LIEDERN «WENN WORTE MEINE SPRACHE WÄREN» VON TIM BENDZKO UND «KREISE» VON JOHANNES OERDING

Das Forschungsproblem liegt daran, dass die Autoren beim Verfassen der Songtexten die rhetorischen Figuren nicht kennen. Infolge dessen haben sie Schwierigkeiten beim Komponieren der Liedertexten. Die rhetorische Figuren dienen dazu, um die Stimmung zu fördern oder die Wirkung der Phrase in Liedern zu verstärken.

Das Ziel der Forschung ist die Feststellung der rhetorischen Figuren in den Songtexten.

Rhetorische Sprachmittel ist vor allem auch dazu bei, die Aufmerksamkeit der Leser oder Zuhörer aufrecht zu erhalten [2].