Teaching English as a Second Language

Unit Four: ESL Materials, Media, and Technology
### The Production of Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publishing Companies</th>
<th>Government Agencies</th>
<th>Curriculum Development Teams</th>
<th>Classroom Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private language schools, ESL K-12 programs, businesses</td>
<td>Public school in a country with a centralized education system</td>
<td>Some universities, well-established private language schools, some ESL K-12 schools, and large corporations with language programs</td>
<td>Unsatisfied teachers!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-leveled skill building, cross-cultural communication, ESP, EAP, test prep, vocational skills, literature, etc</td>
<td>Specific focus</td>
<td>Specific focus and could be multi-leveled</td>
<td>Individualized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advantages of Commercially Produced Texts

- Saves time
- Well organized materials guides teachers lessons
- A balanced, chronological presentation of information.
- Detailed sequence of teaching procedures
- Provide administrators/teachers with a complete program based upon latest research and teaching methodologies
Disadvantages of Commercially Produced Texts

- Too many activities where students do ‘questions & answers”
- Reading selections often too easy
- Not motivating enough
- Not enough details in other aspects of language study
# Use Textbooks Wisely

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weakness</th>
<th>Student Difficulty</th>
<th>Ways to Overcome Problem</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The textbook is designed as the sole source of information.</td>
<td>Students only see one perspective on a concept or issue.</td>
<td>Provide students with lots of information sources such as trade books, CD-ROMS, websites, encyclopedias, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook is old or outdated.</td>
<td>Information shared with students is not current or relevant.</td>
<td>Use textbook sparingly or supplement with other materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbook questions tend to be low level or fact-based</td>
<td>Students assume that learning is simply a collection of facts and figures.</td>
<td>Ask higher-level questions and provide creative thinking and problem-solving activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbook doesn't take students' background knowledge into account</td>
<td>Teacher does not tailor lessons to the specific attributes and interests of students</td>
<td>Discover what students know about a topic prior to teaching. Design the lesson based on that knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading level of the textbook is too difficult</td>
<td>Students cannot read or understand important concepts</td>
<td>Use lots of supplemental materials such as library books, Internet, CD-ROMs, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The textbook has all the answer to all the questions</td>
<td>Students tend to see learning as an accumulation of correct answers</td>
<td>Involve students in problem-solving activities, higher-level thinking questions, and extending activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adapting Text

Why?
Unsuitable material level

Too difficult

Too long or short

Use of grammar or language

Explore relevancy

Adapt for specific use

Adapt to student learning styles
Authentic Materials

What are they?
Types of Authentic Materials Available

- Authentic Listening/Viewing Materials
- Authentic Visual Materials
- Authentic Printed Materials
- Realia Used in EFL/ESL Classrooms
Choosing Authentic Materials

- Have sufficient copies for all students
- Avoid using items with multiple pages
- Use materials that cannot be outdated easily
- Use materials that spark student interests
Using Authentic Materials

**Piano Student Questionnaire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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Rate the following on a scale of 1-5 (circle 1 for the least or worst up to 5 for the most or greatest):

- Your general progress over the past year
- The consistency of your practice over the past year
- The quality of your practice over the past year
- Average length of practice per week
- Average length of practice per day

Answer the following questions in relation to your piano study over the past year:

1. What do you feel was your biggest accomplishment?
2. What do you feel was your biggest challenge?
3. What did you enjoy the most?
4. What did you enjoy the least?
5. What was your favorite piece?
6. What did you like about the Let's Have a Ball theme?
7. Is there anything you didn't like about the Let's Have a Ball theme?
8. What areas would you especially like to focus on improving?

One scale of 1-5 (1 being the least and 5 being the most interested are you in the following areas?)

- Sight-reading - being able to easily play any written music that someone puts in front of you.
- Ear-reading - being able to play familiar tunes without using written music.
- Music Theory - having a good understanding of all the elements, terms, and symbols that make up music.
- Music History - knowing about composers and their music and the times in which they lived.
- Performance - preparing to a performance level and playing regularly for others.
- Ensemble - playing with other pianists - duets, trios, etc.
- Accompanying - being able to provide piano accompaniment for other instrumentalists or singers.
- Composition - learning composition techniques and composing your own music.

Other

Available at: [www.musicmastering.com](http://www.musicmastering.com)
Developing the Questionnaire

- Give students opportunity to practice English
- Help students gain confidence
- Expose students to cultural differences/customs
- Help students develop their ability to find information quickly

1. Tour questions
   - easy m/c or fill in factual questions. Aim is to give students an overview of the materials
2. Cultural and Personal Choice Questions
   - one word or written answers
3. Challenging Questions
Types of Questions & Sample Questions
Handout 4A

Multiple Choice:

1. How many Navel Oranges can you buy for a dollar? a) 3 b) 4 c) 5
2. Which is the cheapest? a) orange juice b) grapefruit juice c) tomato juice

One Word Answer:

1. What country are the seedless grapes from? __________
2. On the back page it says Chilean Asian Pears for $1.00 each. What do you think "Asian pears" are called in Japanese? __________

Written Answer:

1. Why are the strawberries on the back page called California Strawberries?
2. How do you order coupons on the Internet for this store?

Lists:

1. You want to make sandwiches for your family. What would you buy?
   1. Stone Ground Wheat Bread - 2 loaves - $4.00
   2. ____________________________ - $ ______
   3. ____________________________ - $ ______
   4. ____________________________ - $ ______
   5. ____________________________ - $ ______
2. You are having a party for five friends at your house. You can spend only 50 dollars. What would you buy for the party?
   1. Cape Cod Potato Chips - 4 six ounce bags - $6.00
   2. ____________________________ - $ ______
   3. ____________________________ - $ ______
   4. ____________________________ - $ ______
   5. ____________________________ - $ ______

Factual:

1. How many large brown eggs can you buy for $1? ______
2. How much are two jars of Mayonnaise on page 77? $ ______

Analytical (multi-step):

1. How much do 10 ears of Florida Super Sweet Corn and 2 pounds (lb.) of Fresh Ground Round cost? $ ______
2. Which costs more, one lb. of Fresh Boneless Shark Steaks or one lb. of Whiting Fillets? ______

Personal Preference:

1. Look at the back page. What fruit would you like to eat? ____________________________ $ ______
2. What flowers do you want to give to your mother on Mother's Day? ____________________________ $ ______

Conversion:

1. How many ounces are there in a two liter bottle of Pepsi One? ______
2. How many grams of Florida Red Potatoes can you buy for five dollars? One pound is about 453 grams. ______

Red Herring:

1. One Florida Juice Orange costs $2.00. True or False (NOTE TO TEACHERS: The advertisement says one bag is $2.00.)
2. Which is cheaper, one lb. of Whiting Fillets or one lb. of Crunchy Clam Strip? ______

Obvious:

1. What is the name of this store? __________
2. What month is the Mother's Day Sale? __________

Challenging:

1. Find something that is cheaper in Japan than in the USA. ______
2. What can you buy in a glass jar that is usually sold in a plastic bottle in Japan? ______
Belmont Community Adult School
ESL Beginning High B
Student Questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
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When did you come to the United States? ________________

What is your current job? ____________________________

Do you use English at work? __ Yes __ No

What kind of work did you do in your home country? ________

What was the last grade you completed in your home country? ________________

Do you read for pleasure in Spanish? __ Yes __ No

Do you have a library card? __ Yes __ No

How do you practice English outside the classroom (check all that apply):

- __ Watch TV in English
- __ Listen to music in English
- __ Read the newspaper in English
- __ Speak with friends/co-workers in English
- __ Use the computer/Internet
- __ Look up words in the dictionary
- __ Other (______________)

What is your strongest area? __ Listening __ Speaking __ Grammar __ Writing

What is your weakest area? __ Listening __ Speaking __ Grammar __ Writing

Why do you want to learn English? ______________________

Write 5 sentences about yourself:

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________
Assignment 4A

Using some of the questions on the handout, design an ESL learning activity on a topic of your choice. Use authentic materials.
Other Ways to Use Authentic Materials

- Word search
- Crosswords
- Personalizing
- Pair practice
Using Authentic Materials

Advantages

• Provides teachers with opportunities to go beyond the text
• Can reinforce for students the direct relation between the language classroom and the outside world.
• A way to contextualize language learning
• A valuable source of ‘real’ language input

Disadvantages

• Takes time/effort to find & create the materials
• Difficult to make authentic materials/media comprehensible to students
• Some students will not accept authentic materials/media as a valuable learning source
Technology in the ESL Classroom

Low tech ➔ high tech
“Technology is anything invented after you born, everything else is just stuff.”

Alan Kay
“It’s when people stop thinking of something as a piece of technology that the thing starts to have its biggest impact.”

The Guardian, Nov. 4, 2006
Low Tech
High Technology

WORKING WITH TEXT
Martians invade earth

Incredible as it may seem, it has been confirmed that a large martian invasion fleet has landed on earth tonight.

First vessels were sighted over Great Britain, Denmark and Norway already in the late evening from where, as further reports indicate, the fleet headed towards the North Pole and Santa Claus was taken hostage by the invaders.

Afterwards they split apart in order to approach most major cities around the earth. The streets filled as thousands fled their homes, many only wearing their pajamas.
Worlde  (wordle.net)
Wallshisher  (wallwisher.com)

Wallwisher
... a new way to communicate
Scribble Maps (scribblemaps.com)
Mind Meister (mindmeister.com)
Glogter (glogster.com)
Working with Audio
Vocaroo - The premier voice recording service.
Text-to-Speech (kakomessenger.com/voki.com)
Voxopop  (voxopop.com)

A voice-based e-Learning tool!
Voicethread (voicethread.com)
Working with Video
Double-click on any word for an English definition, or translate:
Youtube (youtube.com)

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTTwBm4znAE
Other Useful Websites

Used by ESL teachers around the world
Dave’s ESL Café  (eslcafe.com)
The ESL Wonderland (eslwonderland.com)

The ESL Wonderland

Resources for Students & Teachers
Advanced Composition for Non-native Speakers of English (eslbee.com)
Thinkfinity.org (http://community.thinkfinity.org/index.jspa)

- Sponsored by Verizon Foundation
- FREE educational resources, lesson plans, training, interactive games and more at Verizon Thinkfinity.org.
Khan Academy
(http://www.khanacademy.org/)

- An online library of over 2,400 educational videos
Encyclopedia.com has more than 100 trusted sources, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, and thesauruses with facts, definitions, biographies, synonyms, pronunciation keys, word origins, and abbreviations.
Problems Teachers Face with Materials, Media, & Technology

“I am forced to teach from the book.”
“Let the textbook do the teaching.”
“How do I locate useful websites for my students?”
“I am forced to teach from the book.”

Problems
- Stringent administrators
- Lessons provided and supervisors make sure they are followed

What to do?
- Adapt by using pictures that correspond to a reading
- Have friends record a natural conversation based on language in a text
- Play scrabble with words from the text
- Negotiate with administrators for an ‘Authentic English’ day
“Let the textbook do the teaching.”

**Advantages**
- Saves time
- Provides structured guidance for new teachers

**Problems**
- Can trivialize the learning experience for students

BE CREATIVE: USE AUTHENTIC MATERIALS, MAKE LEARNING REAL
Assignment 4B

Explore one of the websites given in this unit and prepare a teaching activity using one of the technologies provided. Prepare a demonstration of this activity and how it can be used in an ESL teaching environment.

Teaching Tool Website References

1. www://fody.com
2. www:// wordle.net
3. www:// wallshisher.com
4. www:// scribblemaps.com
5. www:// mindmeister.com
6. www:// glogster.com
7. www:// vocharoo.com
8. www:// kakomessenger.com/voki.com
9. www:// voxopop.com
10. www:// real-english.com
11. www:// youtube.com
12. www:// eslcafe.com
13. www:// eslpartyland.com
14. www:// eslwonderland.com
15. www:// thinkfinity.org
16. www:// encyclopediapedia.com
17. www:// eslbee.com