Unit 9

Media: a Balanced Approach

Have a look at the cartoon and discuss the following: (1) What experiences (good and bad) have you had with the use of media in school and in the EFL classroom in particular? (2) How can media ('old' and 'new') be utilized in the EFL classroom? (3) What is your opinion regarding current trends involving the 'digitalization' of schools (e.g., using learning platforms such as Moodle, laptop classes, Blended and Mobile Learning, digital textbooks)?

STUDY QUESTION:
BOOK PAGE 198

Sample Student Answers

- **(1)** Using **interactive whiteboards**, *good*: students could explore options such as drawing pictures, interesting lessons; *bad*: teachers had trouble learning to use the whiteboard; many lessons were disrupted by technology problems

- Using **IT-suites**, *good*: introduced students to new technology, taught how to use main programs/internet, internet safety; *bad*: difficulty of controlling class, new technology excited students and distracted them from tasks

- **(2)** *Old media*: (e.g. English books), provide original language for learners, easy to use, very large variety to choose from. *New media*: (e.g. computers), can be used for interactive language learning programs

- **(3)** Digitalization of schools, *positive*: up-to-date with the modern world; *negative*: can cause technical problems (viruses, program errors, etc.) some teachers may find hard to handle

Unit 9

Media: a Balanced Approach

Collect and discuss tasks, activities, projects that could be carried out in the EFL classroom to facilitate media literacy and address the teaching objectives outlined above (pp.202-203).

STUDY QUESTION: BOOK PAGE 204

Sample Student Answers

- **Information:** could conduct internet research to find desired information and discuss the quality of the information available
- Using newspapers or books in the library to research certain topics
- **Communication and cooperation:** have the students write letters to pen-pals in English-speaking countries
- Arrange Skype meetings for the class with a native class in England/America to enable real life interaction
- **Production and presentation:** small group work to produce a PowerPoint presentation or a poster about a certain topic

- **Analysis and evaluation: comparing topical news on quality television channels and on shows or satiric websites (e.g.: *the Onion*, www.theonion.com)**
- **Reflection on media society:** discussing how various media and genres shape information, such as the topic 'race' in an encyclopedia, in pictures, reports, and comments on BBC and in the New York Times, in political speeches, in history books, discussion forums, etc.
- Discuss which media the students use and how they think these affect society
- **Legal issues, data protection, and protection of minors:** watch movies/ documentaries on these issues

Unit 9

Media: a Balanced Approach

Regarding the media repertoire at hand, how can these media be utilized efficiently and sensibly to facilitate activities, tasks, and competences? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using different types of media.

STUDY QUESTION: BOOK PAGE 209

Sample Student Answers

- Different forms of media can be used depending on the different tasks at hand – for reading/writing purposes, textbooks and literature can be used; for research purposes, the library and the internet would be useful; for presentations, white-/blackboards, OHP's or interactive boards

- **The body:**
  Advantages - offers many options to relate to learners, to explain vocab, and to clarify issues through facial expression, gestures, etc.
  Disadvantages - nervousness can undermine the uses of the body mentioned above

- **Pictures:**
  Advantages - a picture is worth a thousand words, easy to use for multiple purposes, stimulating discussions, illustrating a problem, clarifying complex relationships, etc.
  Disadvantages - can be interpreted differently by different people

- **Computer:**
  Advantages - multifunctional, can be used for different programs, games, research, internet, documents, etc. Easy to learn, easy to use.
  Disadvantages - possible problems, breakdowns. Need to be careful with internet safety, difficult to monitor students on individual computers

Unit 9

Media: a Balanced Approach

Reflect on the student statements (p. 211). Assess your technology-related instructional competences (see ch. 2.1.4) and discuss how these could be improved.

STUDY QUESTION: BOOK PAGE 211

Sample Student Answers

- As the majority of today's young people use the internet and chatrooms, it would be sensible to inform them how to use them safely

- Necessary to teach learners what to do in case of cyber-bullying

- Teachers should master media skills before using the media for teaching purposes

- 'I know how to search for specific information, have some experience with different computer games, but need to know more about standard office software.'

- 'I never used Apple products (iPads, iPhones, Macs): it would be helpful to learn how they work, how to use them efficiently.'

Unit 9

Media: a Balanced Approach

Have a look at these recommended websites and discuss how helpful they are for teaching and learning purposes:

➢ *Pictures, visuals, cartoons, comics:* commons.wikimedia.org, pixabay.com, search.getty.edu, openclipart.org, www.copyrightfreephotos.com, nieonline.com/aaec, www.gocomics.com

➢ *Audio and video files:* learnenglish.britishcouncil.org, www.history.com, www.pbs.org, www.open.edu, www.teachertube.com, www.youtube.com/education, www.englishlistening.com, ed.ted.com, explore.org

➢ *Games:* learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/games, gamestolearnenglish.com, www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/games

➢ *Learning platforms:* www.lo-net2.de, moodle.de, www.edmodo.com

➢ *Apps:* learningapps.org, www.helblinglanguages.com/mindtheapp

➢ *Comenius, Erasmus+, eTwinning:* www.kmk-pad.org/programme/alleprogramme.html, www.epals.com

➢ *Portals:* www.zum.de, www.lehre-online.de, www.teachingenglish.org.uk, www.educatorstechnology.com, sester-online.de, www.bildungsserver.de

STUDY QUESTION:
BOOK PAGE 213

Sample Student Answers

E.g. **www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/games:**

- Very useful website, large range of content, including classics (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

- Provides lesson plans with clear learning objectives

- Offers use of different media - online texts, short video clips, creative writing tasks, poems, songs, etc.

- Provides articles for the teachers as well as teaching tools and methodology