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## **GET INTERACTIVE: TEACHING ENGLISH WITH VIDEO**

*Liliana COLODEEVA*

*dr., conf. univ. inter.*

*Universitatea de stat ‘B.P. Hasdeu’ din Cahul, RM*

**Abstract:** *Today, in the era of technology, videos serve as powerful resources because many students are visual learners. Furthermore, teaching with video integrates listening, speaking, and reading skills. Therefore, the goal of the present paper is to discuss a set of methods of teaching English to EFL learners with the help of video. The paper introduces popular platforms and web2 tools which help create interactive and engaging videos for students.*

**Keywords:** *teaching with video, web2 tools, online platform, vlogging.*

The year 2020 brought to the learning environment what most teachers were afraid of, but still, what lots of teachers were patiently waiting for – the need and opportunity to teach and learn online. In this scenario, teaching with video becomes a necessity as well.

Learning and discovering new things have always been a characteristic aspect of human nature. All a teacher wants is that the students are motivated learners, whilst all the students want is that the classes to be interesting and interactive. Having said that, making such classes and creating the content which would captivate students’ attention is the primary objective of the teacher.

Teaching with video is a great way to captivate students’ attention due to the fact that the internet provides a myriad of apps and web2 tools to create efficient and interesting teaching videos.

The major advantage of teaching with video is that the students can watch the video material that is most relevant to them at the most convenient time and place. If one missed something or did not understand something, they can always go back and watch the teaching video as many times, as necessary.

Teaching with video can roughly be divided into teaching with one’s own video and teaching with someone else’s video, for example from such providers as YouTube or TED-Ed. Both teaching ways can be quite engaging as long as the planning for the lesson was done properly. This paper aims at considering teaching English to EFL learners with both, self-created and borrowed videos. Moreover, the paper will provide a review of most useful resources for teaching with video available in the year 2020.

The first and easiest variant is definitely taking an existing video and adapting it to the needs of your students. The Internet offers a considerable number of tools and platforms for this purpose. Further, the most frequently used web sources are take into consideration.

**YouTube** is a platform that places at disposal videos made by professional and amateur teachers, as well as videos created by professional teaching organisations. The videos can be

watched online or downloaded. Besides, there are videos uploaded by popular vloggers who are native or non-native speakers of the English language. The following are some YouTube channels to benefit from for both teachers and learners of the English language:

1. *English with Lucy* [4] – a vlogger of British origin and impeccable RP, Lucy has dozens of mini-lessons on English grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. The videos are short and interactive and are well structured and professionally presented. Videos from English with Lucy include advice on how to stop translating in your head, what are common words people pronounce incorrectly, and what is the meaning behind some of the interesting English idioms and phrases common in the UK.
  2. *Rachel's English* [5] – a vlogger who helps non-native speakers of the English language to understand the cultural and lexical specificities of American English, as well as improve American pronunciation. Rachel's videos are professionally structured and all of the videos are captioned. Rachel uses everyday conversation topics and famous movies in order to teach American idioms and popular expressions.
  3. *MmmEnglish* [6] – a channel held by a coach from Australia, Emma, who helps to build the skills and confidence in speaking fluent English. Emma focuses on teaching both everyday English and business English conversations.
  4. *Billie English* [7] – an Oxford House teacher trainer from Barcelona who provides hundreds of short clips on English grammar and pronunciation, as well as Cambridge exam tips.
  5. *BBC Learn English* [8] – a service run by the British government; videos on various topics, news included, are produced by a team of experts and posted daily on their YouTube channel.
  6. *LearnEnglish Teens* [9] – a British Council's channel for teenage learners of English which offers authentic videos oriented to practice listening and speaking skills; besides, a lot of their material includes grammar topics and recommendations for exam preparation.
  7. *Speak English with Mr Duncan* [10] – a self-proclaimed English addict; Mr. Duncan is actually a funny British YouTuber who has got some exceptional videos to help other 'addicts' learn the English language. In his videos, Mr. Duncan addresses various interesting topics such as Brexit, European Union, Black Friday, Autumn Equinox, Overcast weather, etc.
- **Edpuzzle** is a free educational platform that allows the teachers to produce interesting activities with videos and track students' activity. Teachers can find videos on the platform on a wide variety of sources, add questions to videos, and assign them to their classes. Edpuzzle might seem sophisticated to some teachers but it is actually pretty easy to use and operate with. Besides, with Edpuzzle teachers will always know how many students really watched the video, how much time did they spend on it and how many correct answers did they get.
  - **TED-Ed** is a platform which has a generous library of original animated videos on various subjects: the arts, literature, technology, business, health, science, education, and

others [11]; it provides an international arena for teachers to create their own interactive lessons and to help “curious students around the globe bring TED to their schools and gain presentation literacy skills”. TED-Ed global network measures more than 250,000 teachers [12].

- **Coursera** is a massive open online course platform (MOOC) founded in the USA; Coursera works with universities and other organizations all over the globe to offer online courses and certifications in a variety of subjects. All the courses provided by Coursera can be joined for free and the material of the course can be successfully used in class. The videos within the courses are professionally designed and delivered by university professors; in addition, the videos are paired with scripts and quick understanding tests.

Another variant of teaching with video is the solution to create a video of your own. And again the internet nowadays conveys many options to make a video tutorial or instructional videos. The important aspect of this method is that in order to create qualitative videos the teacher should pay careful attention to the devices involved in the video-making process: camera and microphone. The technology is only great and engaging when it is of good content and quality. Some of the most popular and easy to use tools in the 2020 are:

- **Loom**, a video recording tool/Chrome extension that helps to get messages across through instantly shareable videos. With Loom, one can record their camera, microphone, and desktop simultaneously and then share the videos online [13]. Loom allows teachers to record their lessons and annotate the screen by making markings and providing feedback, as well as edit and trim the videos. It is a useful device to create videos for the students who did not attend an important class or for those who are studying online.
- **Screencastify**, is another Chrome browser extension intended to use if one needs to record the screen, face, or voice. The videos can be edited and shared across the web. Screencastify is really easy to use according to teachers’ reviews and has made their lessons more powerful [14].
- **Flipgrid**, a tool that allows creating classes with individualised tasks where teachers and students have to make videos, with cameras on or off, and there is a possibility to comment on the videos with another video; Flipgrid makes formative assessment more student-centred.

Other online video-making platforms that can be helpful in creating interesting instructional videos are InVideo, Animoto, Kizoa, Biteable, WeVideo and ClipChamp.

Regardless of the chosen method of teaching with video, it is important to plan the pre-, while- and post-watching activities in order to make teaching with video captivating and appropriate to the needs and the level of each student.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the great authentic resource in Moldova, the AISE platform, [15] which has a considerable number of tutorials in the Romanian language created by teachers for other teachers in order to ease their work with new apps and web2 tools. The platform offers tutorials on Animaker, PowToon, Blabberize, Animoto, Wand Education, Kizoa and Flipgrid among others. The platform works in collaboration with a popular Facebook page ‘Online Educational Platform’ [16] organized by Daniela Munca-Aftenev who gathered thousands of

teachers from Moldova, and recently from Romania too, in order to help teachers to master teaching with technology.

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