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TESOL News and information

Supporting professional development

This e-newsletter shares news and information for English language teaching professionals from the Trinity TESOL team. You can also download it as a **PDF**.

Teaching resources

Plug in to training with Teacher Training Unplugged

Trinity's been in touch with Anthony Gaughan of **Teacher Training Unplugged** to find out about latest developments and take a look at some new videos that have been added to his training website.

The website offers several discrete sections, each with its own interactive resources, including videos, podcasts, examples of learners' work, embedded reading lists, talks, interviews and more. One of the most recent additions to the blog section, for example, is a 'radio episode' on **teaching without using terminology**. Knowing how hard it is to help newly-qualified teachers avoid giving explicit grammar-only sessions, we can easily see how this resource, complete with the accompanying notes and example board-work, would make an excellent self-development tool.

A knowledge of how lexis and grammar 'works' is one of the many things teachers need to know, but it's something a lot of new teachers struggle with, especially when it comes to clarifying learners' language to hone accuracy. The step-by-step videos on the website, however, help make this an accessible area of learning for those without access to grammar gurus.

As well as techniques to help build teachers' knowledge of language, the site is full of practical teaching ideas to encourage creative learning. A good example of this is an article that offers **40 things to do with a text** as suggestions for integrating texts in the classroom! Other articles, for example, provide balanced views on the use of recording learners and discuss the effectiveness of certain types of teacher question.

In short, there's a great deal here for new and experienced teachers alike.

Language awareness

A puzzler...

Like all dedicated linguists, we at Trinity often talk about the finer points of language during our morning tea break. Recently we were speculating about how many times the same word could be repeated in a sentence. We started out by imaging the scenario of a sign writer writing a 'Fruit and Veg' shop sign, where the sign writer might write the words too closely together. Someone then might say:

"There's not enough space between 'Fruit' and 'and' and 'and' and 'Veg'." [five 'and's!].

We also considered a scenario about two imaginary students who chose past tense forms for a writing exercise:

"James, while John had had 'had', had had 'had had'; 'had had' had had a better effect on the teacher." [11!]

We tried to parse this but had to go to the internet to double check the phrase and clause-level parsing!

Can you do it without consulting the internet for help?

Professional development

Sharing ideas about best practice

As we can see from our story about Teacher Training Unplugged, there are so many free resources available online to help you, it makes you wonder how we ever got by without the internet!

However, it seems that when it comes to formalised study, lots of useful resources like e-books and journal articles are hidden behind pay-walls.

But not all of them! As well as being a powerful general search engine, Google has an academic search engine function (**scholar.google.co.uk**) - which is great for finding articles on topics you are interested in - many of which can be downloaded free of charge.

A great article to stimulate the grey cells is Tavakoli's '**Connecting Research and Practice in TESOL**' (RELC Journal. 46:1)

If you're looking for content for a staff development session, something to support your own growth as a teacher, or for help in a **DipTESOL** or Master's assignment, this is a fast and convenient resource to use.

Tell us what you think

If you'd like to tell us about resources that you find useful, or suggest other newsletter content of interest to EL professionals, get in touch with us via email at **tesol@trintycollege.com**.

You can also get in touch with Trinity through our **Contact us** page or via your **local Trinity representative**.

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