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THE USE OF TED TALKS IN THE ELT CLASSROOM

With World English, learners experience the world through content and ideas from TED Talks [4], providing the motivation to talk about what is most important to them. They help to bring the world to the classroom and the classroom to life.

Technology, Entertainment and Design Talks (TED Talks) include real-world videos that help learners find their own voice in English. Moreover, they help to develop the skills they need to be successful in the global world.

Learn English with TED Talks helps learners understand and discuss powerful ideas from TED Talks in the classroom. Great ideas stimulate learning and inspire excellent communication [3].

The instructions given on the TED Talks website are also beneficial, as they lead the audience toward other videos discussing similar subjects, possibly offering contrasting perspectives.

Alex Warren, an in-house teacher trainer at National Geographic Learning, one of the presenters of the on-line conference "Double impact on your teaching" in his demo lesson "TED in action," describes how to *choose* and *use* TED Talks in the ELT classroom effectively [8].

Firstly, the length of the TED talk like 0-6 min is perfect because it is not too long and provides the necessary information and better students' perception.

Secondly, the teacher should make a choice. Moreover, there are some useful tools for choosing the appropriate TED Talk for the required level of English [2, 5, 6, 7].

Alex Warren focuses attention on **pre-viewing, while –viewing, post-viewing tasks**. He advises teachers to ask themselves a question before each step and then gives some useful tips for more productive work.

Question for teachers: What would you do to activate students' schemata and introduce the theme of the TED Talk to your students?

Pre-viewing tasks

Activate schemata/knowledge by:

- content from the title
- the synopsis to introduce the idea
- the video script
- the idea/topic to students' lives
- the topic to other resources (photos, texts)

Pre-teaching vocabulary

Question for teachers: What kind of comprehension tasks could you do with your students while viewing the task?

While-viewing tasks (First viewing should always be a gist task/checking predictions):

- *Split the talk into manageable chunks depending on the length*
- *Grade the task for the level*
- *Information Gap fill*
- *Ordering*
- *Short answers*
- *Multiple choice*
- *True/False*
- *Table completion*
- *Note-taking – differentiate*

Question for teachers: Having watched the TED Talk and done the comprehension activities, what follow-up activities could you do?

Post-viewing tasks:

- *Critical thinking (e.g., do a different project)*
- *Discussions*
- *Interview the speaker*
- *Retell/Explain the TED Talk*
- *Projects*
- *Presentations, etc.*

It is fundamental to note that using TED Talks in the ELT classroom helps to provide impressive bursts of information, encourage and motivate students, get them interested in case of precise preparatory work of the teacher. Furthermore, they help students to develop such life competencies as critical thinking, creative thinking, learning to learn, communication, emotional development, social responsibilities, collaboration, and to use advanced thinking skills in the face of more complex changes [1].

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