

How to Use This Site

Description: ‘How to Use This Site *with Bethany Ely*’ is displayed on the screen.

Bethany Ely, ESL Teacher, Elk Grove Adult and Community Education: Hi! My name is Bethany Ely and I teach ESL for Elk Grove Adult and Community Education.

Welcome to Ideas for Teaching with Technology. We created this site for adult education teachers who are looking for effective ways of using technology with their students.

Effective teaching depends on knowledge of three areas:

First, the content you are teaching, such as basic skills, ESL, or high school math. Second, teaching strategies, like group work, pair work, pre-reading activities, or using manipulatives to teach math concepts. And third, technology, such as having students post their writing on a blog, or record their presentations via video and posting them on a Web site.

Technology plays a big role in our lives these days, and is an important component of basic skills. Our learners need to have access to technology and learn how to use it to communicate, and to find, manage and share information. There are lots of ways to integrate technology into lessons, and this site will help you find the ones that can work for you.

The site was created by adult education teachers. Teachers selected favorite ways of using technology, categorized them by program area, topic, CASAS competency or instructional standard, and keywords, and provided examples and teaching tips.

Here’s how it works.

Description: The screen shows the OTAN Web site. The Web site is navigated to follow Bethany’s verbal instructions.

From the home page, select your program area. There is *Adult Basic Education* or ABE, *English as a Second Language* or ESL, *General Education Development* or GED, and *High School Diploma*.

I teach ESL, so I’m going to select that program.

From here I can select the level. I teach Beginning High.

Next, I can select the skill. I want to do something with reading.

After that, I can select the standard, or in the case of ESL, the CASAS competency. I’m working on a health unit. I can select Health, or click on the word Health and select the competency. I’ll choose 3.6, Understand basic health and medical information, and click the Search button.

This shows 4 resources. The first one looks good – calling in sick. I’m going to click on the title.

The first line takes you to the main Web page. This site has a number of reading lessons. But the example below will take us to the reading lesson on calling in sick. We'll look at that in a minute.

The next box is *Activity Description*. This tells you what the lesson is about.

The *How-To* provides the steps for using this activity in the classroom and *Prep* tells you some things you may need to know before trying this lesson.

Teacher Tips provides suggestions from teachers who have used this lesson before.

More Ways gives you some suggestions for other ways you may use this lesson.

Keywords is another way to search the site, which I'll show you how to use in a minute.

Levels shows you all the levels that this lesson is appropriate for, which is nice information to know.

Now let's look at the example and see how it looks.

The level looks okay and the content is appropriate, but I'm not sure exactly how to teach this, so I'm going to go back to the *How-To* section where it explains the 7 steps in this lesson. There are pre-reading activities including a discussion question and vocabulary. There's an initial timed oral reading followed by 3 guided oral readings, comprehension questions with a writing activity, and a final timed reading. Those are all research-based reading instruction activities that I'm familiar with, so I'm going to use this lesson.

Now, I want to show you one more way to search, and that's with Keywords. You can see all the keywords and phrases that are associated with this lesson here. I'm interested in reading fluency, so I'm going to go back 2 screens to my original search and then click *Start Over*.

I have to select my program area again so I'm going to click ESL.

I can type "reading fluency" and since it's a phrase, I'll want to put it in quotes. And if I don't choose any other filters, I will see all of the ESL lessons that teach reading fluency.

I found 17 resources. That might be too many. If I go back, I still have "reading fluency" in the keyword search, and I can narrow my search to lessons on health.

Now I get 8. So that's how you use Keywords.

So that's how to use this site. I hope you find it helpful!

The OTAN logo is displayed on the screen and is dated 2012