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LANGUAGE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES. DRAWING ON THE RESOURCES OF THE INTERNET

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Modern industrialized countries are undergoing a transformation from industrial societies to information and communications societies or knowledge-based societies. Almost all spheres of life are affected by these radical changes, which, however, also offer new opportunities.

The education sector is both affected and challenged by this change. New content-related and structural requirements have to be met by initial and continuing training but at the same time the new media offer new opportunities for processing and presenting knowledge and for organizing the teaching process. Self-directed and assisted learning will be thoroughly transformed by the new media. Digital processing of knowledge becomes increasingly important, and new forms of teaching are emerging. Fresh impetus is given to the vision of self-directed learning at any place. Modern information and communications technologies are opening up new training and continuing training options which enable participants to independently organize their learning, thus adapting to quickly changing qualification requirements. Web-based learning breaks up traditional structures of learning and combines initial and continuing training more than in the past in terms of content and organization.

Broad application of information and communications technologies in the education sector and a multimedia-based teaching approach offer an opportunity to

- better prepare young people already at school for the requirements of the knowledge-based society in their private and professional lives and familiarize them early on with multimedia-based learning,
- develop further the tried and tested, internationally recognized dual system of vocational education and training,
- better prepare employees for changes at the workplace and on the labour market and include them in the organization of corporate development processes,
- facilitate self-directed site-independent learning, which benefits mainly those men and women who, due to family duties, illness, old age or other circumstances, want to learn at home,
- introduce new, cooperative forms of teaching and learning.

How you can use the Internet for language learning

The Internet is a tool which has great potential in the language learning, but its effectiveness in practice depends to a large extent on the way it is exploited by teacher and students.

The great advantage of the Internet over earlier CALL is the fact that it is not necessary to learn how to use a large number of programs. The Internet can be used effectively with only two pieces of software—a browser to allow access to the pages of the Web, and an email program. Of course, there is plenty of other software available, and you or your students might want to learn how to use additional software for purposes such as conferencing, creating Web pages, or manipulating graphics.

The amount of technical training students need will vary from institution to institution. Computers might be set up in such a way that students only need to be able to switch on the computer and click on an icon; or they might need to specify a certain server and log in with a password before they can get started. What is important is to have a clear idea of what skills students will need to get connected and to carry out tasks on the Internet. Teachers often *assume* that their students have these skills, but it is vital to be sure that this is in fact the case.

Focus on language

The wealth of language

A wide variety of techniques for using the Web to practise and learn both vocabulary and grammar can fruitfully be applied to the vast amount of language available on the Web. These techniques are often difficult or impossible to use in any other medium. The Web is, for instance, a source of large numbers of examples of vocabulary or grammar. These can provide a simple means of checking the frequency of a word or phrase, or even whether it is used at all, and can provide examples of contexts for a particular item.

Topics

The Web is a rich source of information and material on virtually any topic that your students might be interested in working on. Theme-based work can often be designed around particular Web pages or sites. Students can find pages on topics they would like to explore for project work, and this variety of choice can increase the student's motivation and his or her personal commitment to the task.

Text types

The Web also provides examples of a wide variety of text types, such as descriptions, instructions, narratives, advertisements, and dialogues, and these can be especially useful for practising vocabulary and grammar in a range of contexts.

Culture

The nature of the Web is such that students will frequently encounter information about other cultures, and some of the Activities in this chapter lend themselves easily to work on cross-cultural comparisons.

Resources

The Internet can also be a useful source of more conventional language-teaching resources. Custom-made ESL or EFL materials can be especially useful for practising language at the word or sentence level. Many other kinds of texts can be downloaded and used as the basis for grammar or vocabulary activities in the classroom.

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ОБ ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИИ ПРИКЛАДНЫХ ПРОГРАММ В ПРЕПОДАВАНИИ ФИЗИКИ

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Добиться необходимой глубины и прочности знаний, отвечающих конечным целям подготовки ученика можно при систематическом использовании персонального компьютера (ПК), как основного технического средства обучения. С помощью ПК иллюстрируется лекционный материал, проводятся лабораторные работы, повторяются и закрепляются знания по предмету. Наиболее активно используются следующие прикладные программы: "Физика в картинках", "Открытая физика", "ORBITS", "Энциклопедия Кирилла и Мефодия", "Электронный репетитор по физике".

Программа "ORBITS" включает в себя материал о планетах Солнечной системы, малых телах и Солнце. В ней даны сравнительные характеристики различных небесных тел, показано их внутреннее строение. Пользователю предоставляется возможность простым нажатием клавиши "сломать" картинку, а затем из отдельных получившихся кусочков собрать целое. С помощью приема "мозаика" закрепляются знания о структуре небесных объектов. Программа написана на английском языке, что позволяет проводить межпредметные связи, расширяет кругозор учащихся, пополняется их словарный запас научных иностранных слов.

В приложении "Физика в картинках" есть книга "Механика", а в ней страница "Законы Кеплера". Работая на данной странице, можно проиллюстриро-