



## Role of Internet in Learning English

### KEYWORDS

**Dr.Karnaty Sreenivasa Reddy**

Department of GESH School of Engineering and Technology Sri Padmavati Mahila University  
Tirupati -517502 Andhra Pradesh

**ABSTRACT** *Everyone is well aware of the importance of learning the English language. The easy access to computers and internet for everyone and the increasing number of well-based English courses has encouraged and helped a lot of people to study English. Though the internet use in language learning has brought certain advantages, simultaneously, it carries some disadvantages also. So the aim of this paper is to study the practical benefits and difficulties observed while using the internet by a language teacher in the classroom.*

### INTRODUCTION:

In today's technologically based fast moving world, one must be able to understand and be flexible while recognizing the needs to learn. For communicating at global level English is the most accepted medium. Knowledge of the English language keeps one abreast of the world. This leads to limitless personal and business opportunities. Being able to speak in English also widens one's horizon globally.

Today, there is huge amount of language learning materials besides the traditional grammar and course books and dictionaries. The application of English technology has developed a new field for autonomy English learning which is becoming more and more popular at home and abroad. Learning English on the Internet can create efficient and high-quality achievement in personal or mass English learning.

### LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH INTERNET IS BETTER THAN CLASSROOM TRAINING IN THE SENSE THAT:

It is very practical to learn English online because it can be pursued at any place and one does not have to drive to school. One can save travel time and expenses. Moreover, most of the English courses offered are free of cost for everyone to take advantage of.

Learning English online allows one to study English independently at one's own pace, and also allows one to take lessons at own speed depending on one's aptitude and availability.

Since there are a lot of available online English courses to choose from, one is not limited to the knowledge of one teacher alone. One can learn from a number of online teachers and training modules from across the globe.

Learning in this way exposes us to different English concepts that are applied in real business operations. In this respect one gains a variety of ideas and knowledge that can't really be learnt from books. Moreover it is very interesting.

While using the internet for research information and interaction with other learners, one can enhance navigating skills through the computer and web technologies. These

skills are critical and essential requisites in the present century business and social life that require working with colleagues globally and across all time zones.

Using internet can also enhance research skills and cross-cultural learning by providing a better understanding of foreign countries and cultural differences as well as enhance students' cross-cultural communication skills.

### ADVANTAGES:

Some more advantages of computer and internet assisted language learning are:

- Multimodal practice with feedback.
- Individualization in a large class.
- Pair or small group work on projects.
- The fun factor.
- Exploratory learning with large amounts of language data.
- Real-life skill-building in computer use.

Internet also facilitates students of English learners to:

- Correspond in English by e-mail with other classes in other classes in other parts of world.
- Develop individual-pen-pals to write at out of class time.
- Communicate in real-time chat rooms.
- Share opinions and ideas across cultures on sports ,music, food, hobbies, etc,
- Conduct international surveys for class work.
- Read and listen to up to date news.
- The focus on listening and speaking activities with gradual and increasing emphasis on reading and writing proves to be helpful. Grammar and vocabulary need to be taught in meaningful contexts, and students need to be given enough opportunities over time to use the language they have learnt. It has been found that students, who used the internet more, got higher scores and grades.
- For developing listening comprehension one can use a multiple-choice or fill-in program exercise with a cassette recorder or the latest multimedia containing a recorder. In addition to the normal feedback given after a wrong answer, the computer also lets the learner hear the relevant part of the tape again. Another simple technique is to use a tape with a test-reconstruction program which enables learners to reconstruct a summary of a recorded anecdote on

screen with the help of the help of the tape.

- The internet is also platform for experiencing and presenting creative works such as essays, poetry and stories and for providing supplemental language activities in specific areas of language learning. There is less teacher and more learner talk in computer classes.

#### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING:**

The World Wide Web makes it possible for students to tackle a huge amount of experience. In such a way, they can learn by doing things themselves. They become the creators not just the receivers of knowledge. Information is presented in a non-linear way and users develop more flexible thinking skills and choose what to explore.

#### **MOTIVATION:**

Computers are most popular among students as they are often associated with fun and games. Student motivation is therefore increased, especially whenever a variety of activities are offered.

#### **ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:**

Network-based instruction can help pupils strengthen their linguistic skills by positively affecting their attitude towards learning and by helping them build self-instruction strategies and promote their self-confidence.

#### **AUTHENTIC STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:**

All students can use various resources of authentic reading materials either at school or from their home. Those materials can be accessed 24 hours a day at a relatively low cost.

#### **GREATER INTERACTION:**

Random access to Web pages breaks the linear flow of instruction. By sending E-mail and joining newsgroups, EFL students can communicate with people they have never met. They can also interact with their own classmates. Furthermore, some internet activities give students positive and negative feedback by automatically correcting their on-line exercises.

#### **INDIVIDUALIZATION:**

Shy or inhibited students can be greatly benefited by individualized, student-centred collaborative learning. High fliers can also realize their full potential without preventing their peers from working at their own place.

#### **INDEPENDENCE FROM A SINGLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION:**

Although students can still use their books, they are presented with opportunities to escape from canned knowledge and discover thousands of information sources. As a result, their education fulfils the need for interdisciplinary learning in a multicultural world.

#### **GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING:**

A foreign language is studied in a cultural context. In a world where the use of internet becomes more and more widespread, an English Language teacher's duty is to facilitate students' access to the web and make them feel like citizens of a global classroom, practicing communication on a global level.

#### **DISADVANTAGES:**

- No doubt internet is one of the most powerful tools for teachers to help students, but as the wealth of available resources is infinite, students face problems

in effectively handling such large amounts of information.

- Another problem is the unfamiliarity with the applications and handling of internet.
- In other words, little experiences on the internet is an anxiety source for both language learners and teachers.
- Further, connecting to the internet might take a long time, it might break down in the middle of communication and it might be expensive.
- It should be borne in mind that the internet does not mean the end of the blackboard, the course book, the tape-recorder or the OHP; but it does provide tremendous opportunities, stimuli and resources for not only teachers but also for students.
- Since the internet offers all types of the topics, some of them are not unsuitable for school children. Though serious precautions are taken today, this is still an important problem for parents and children.
- The teachers should assist their students so that they can discover and learn most according to their level of linguistic competence. Teachers should be responsible for the evaluation of all the web tools offered in a language class.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

So from the above study it can be concluded that the internet being the most available, flexible, practical way and a treasure of vast knowledge, can be utilised for the purpose of developing good communication skills. A teacher and learner can better utilize it by the application and sharing of real-life experiences and situations within a healthy learning environment. So it is advisable to take internet and use of technology as it allows for a great number of opportunities to communicate in the target language.