Free Tech Tools and Resources for EL Classrooms

The following tools and resources are all free (though some do have paid versions with additional features). They've all been vetted by veteran EL teacher and instructional coach, Amy Sturgeon, and presented during her session at the 2024 WIDA National Conference. Her presentation slides with live links can be accessed here and the various tools and resources she discussed are listed below with brief explanation. We encourage you to check them out and use what is helpful to you. Happy exploring!

Speaking Practice

- www.vocaroo.com
    - Simple to use
    - Ad-free
    - Record and save audio clips
- www.online-voice-recorder-com
    - Simple to use
    - Free, but does have some ads
    - Record and save audio clips as MP3
    - Can edit/shorten audio clips
- www.mote.com
    - Chrome extension
    - Free, paid version has additional functionality
    - Voice recorder to embed audio in Google
    - Student and teacher access
    - Students can replay clips for comprehension
    - Pause & resume features (note: ACCESS speaking assessment does not allow pause and resume or multiple attempts)
    - Mote Minutes training/PD on YouTube
    - Clips are shareable in multiple formats on various platforms
- Google Docs Voice Typing
    - Voice to text to practice clarity and fluency
    - Translation feature can be very helpful
    - Translation feature automatically creates a copy, leaving the original untouched

Writing Differentiation

- ClozeIt
    - Google Docs extension (add-on)
    - Creates fill in the blank worksheets with a word bank from any text

Resources for Writing/Speaking about Pictures

- Old or current dollar store calendars
- National Geographic Pic of the Day
- NY Times Pic of the Day
- Book giveaways or garage sales
- Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero: See, Think, Wonder

All Domains

- www.slowrevealgraphs.com
  - Great for discussion and critical thinking, prediction, description
  - Includes additional information on graph topics
  - Several types of graphs, grade levels, and content area topics
- www.anton.com
  - Website and app available for computer, iPad, phone, etc.
  - Free and ad-free
  - High quality graphics
  - Basic skills for language and content
  - Paid version offers ability to assign class assignments and monitor progress of individuals
  - Always adding new activities, topics, and rewards
  - For use at school and/or home, for any age and proficiency level (families can use it too)
  - Huge variety of subjects and access to all grade levels
  - Ability to change language to help aid newcomers (6 languages available)
  - Helps with new skills, preview, review, practice
  - Paid version allows assignment of tasks and progress monitoring
- StoryWorld
  - Early literacy program for K-2
  - For EL and non-EL students
- Diffit
  - Easy to use free and paid versions
  - AI to adapt or create reading passages
    - Summarize
    - Comprehension questions
    - Vocabulary words
    - Translatable and customizable
- Rewordify
  - Simplify text
  - Free access to many classics and free documents
  - Build vocabulary and comprehension

Translation

- Google Translate
  - Chrome extension best for websites, including LMS, allows you to set a language and choose options
  - App is best for speaking practice and includes translate hover and take a picture to translate features
  - [Website](#) has more features, best for allowing user to type, handwrite, speak, copy/paste, also allows translation of text within an image and can translate some documents and websites
- Translating image-based PDF scans can pose problems for translation software
- Google Slides must be saved as a PDF or PowerPoint prior to translating
- Canva has embedded translation features
- Deep L translator is the most accurate, but the free version is limited
- NYU Steinhardt Bilingual Glossaries and Cognates
  - Reputable content-area translations
  - Multiple languages, content areas, levels
  - Create unit-specific glossaries

- [QR Code Translator](#)
  - Make a sign speak any language
  - Build a page with your information, translate to any of 130+ languages via machine translation, download one QR code that stores up to 15 different language translations of your document.

Other

- [FreeTech4Teach](#)
- [Larry Ferlazzo's Websites of the Day](#)
- Free language learning
  - [MyLanguages](#)
  - [DuoLingo](#)
- [Omniglot](#) encyclopedia of languages
- Global Languages information at [MultiCSD](#)
  - Multilingual topics in communication sciences and disorders
  - Summarizes expert information for use in serving students from diverse linguistic & cultural backgrounds
- [Language Transfers](#)
  - Offers comparison of some languages to identify gaps/similarities/differences
  - Can search for "linguistic interference" and "cross-linguistic influence" for languages