



ED4562- Dr. Paula Kristmanson

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ESLFlow.com

Pros

This website is an extremely rich resource for ESL teachers, targeting a variety of levels, themes and topics. Written and maintained by Peter Snashall, a long term, full time ESL teacher in Thailand, this veteran language teacher spends much time sharing and connecting resources for other teachers' benefit. The greatest feature of this website is the informative and clear organization of the index found at the top of every page. There are indexes inside each category in the main index, so information is easily accessible since the categories are so well defined.

For me the visual organization is the most engaging aspect of the website, as often ESL sites are cluttered, distracting and hard to find vital information. At first glance of ESLFlow.com, I have a clear understanding of how the site functions. Advertisements are kept to a minimum, and the ads that are presents seem to be very valid in an ESL context. Another organizational highlight is that at the top of the homepage, you can go into one of three levels of material- Elementary, pre-intermediate, and intermediate.

This site is loaded full of great lesson plans, some of which are highly extensive, including carefully categorized, planned and articulated lessons taking you through phases of intro all the way to extensions. There are inventive and interesting graphic organizers, worksheets, and a plethora of visual images to support the topic or lesson.

Often the links provided on ESLFlow.com will take you to real organizations or websites that provide information straight from a valid source, such as health websites or accident prevention sites. These links present information in the 'realia' context and are beneficial to students by showing information in first-hand on-line settings.

The graphics found in the linking pages are often colorful, clear and inviting. There are many hand-drawn, cartoon-like graphic images, which are great for grabbing the attention of students, and the images are of a quality that is still appropriate for adults.

Besides featuring the main cornerstones of ESL education, (speaking, listening, reading and writing), and very clearly indicating them in the main index, there many other interesting categories to explore, such as “teaching with pictures, idioms and slang, games, and multiple intelligences”, to name a few. These are full of ideas, visuals, worksheets, and assessment tools- invaluable for a teacher on the run!!

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Cons

The con of having a website that relies on external links is that many of them are no longer active. Thirty to forty percent of the links were non-responsive, but the ones that are active make up for the hassle with their ample and practical content. It also seems as though there is no active link back to the main homepage, so once you go into the sub-sections of the site, the only way back is to move back through the pages you have already visited. In the end it seems a bit redundant.

On the whole I was very impressed with the layout, the content and the amount of information presented. I wish I had discovered this website when I was overseas teaching. It seems to cover many of the key topics with which all levels of ESL students are looking to become familiar.