

Use of Smart Phone: Teaching and Learning Revolution

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Abstract

Integration of technology in language learning has become common phenomenon. Teachers can make their teaching more effective by adopting technological advancement. Smart phone is one of the technological advancement tools which can be used for teaching and learning in the classroom.

There are many apps available for learning English like Dictionary, English Grammar, English Tenses, English Conversation, Business English, Idioms and Phrases, English Speaking, Hello-Hello English etc. Present article describes the features and implementation of few applications in the classroom teaching and learning.

Use of smart phones has brought revolution in teaching and learning because learning through this method has become interesting. It saves time. It can be used anytime anywhere. More practice is possible through repetition. Mistakes can be overcome by practice.

Key Words

Revolution, Smart phone, Teaching, Learning, Technological advancement, Apps, Implementation.

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Introduction

Integration of technology in language learning has become common phenomenon. Teacher will have to keep pace with the changing times and have to adapt technological advancements into his/her teaching methodology.

Use of smart phone has become common now-a-days. It can become effective technological tool of teaching and learning in the classroom. Before using it for teaching and learning it is necessary to know what smart phone is and how it works.

Google defines Smartphone as 'A mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touch screen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps'. (Google)

While techopedia defines smart phone as 'Smart phone is a mobile phone with highly advanced features. A typical smart phone has a high-resolution touch screen display, WiFi connectivity, Web browsing capabilities, and the ability to accept sophisticated applications. The majority of these devices run on any of these popular mobile operating systems: Android, Symbian, IOS, Blackberry, OS and Windows mobile.'

(<http://www.techopedia.com/definition/2977/smartphone>)

Advantages of Smart Phones:

Smart phones have number of advantages first they are light weight and have large display so reading or accessing content becomes very easy. Their instant on-off capability makes learning easy. Third their touch screen interface makes it user friendly. Fourth as they are mobile we can carry them anywhere. Fifth there are number of free or low cost apps available which are suitable for education. These phones can be used in a free time on public transport, in a queue, in a cafe ... wherever and whenever possible.

Different Smartphone Apps Available for Learning English:

There are many apps available for learning English. Some applications can be used off line and some are online. Present article focuses on offline application which can be downloaded freely.

English Grammar

This app is very useful to learn basic English. There are four levels of grammar learning beginners, elementary; intermediate and advance. One can select level as per requirement. In beginners level number of flash cards are designed which describe feelings, people health, illness, conversation, nationalities, phrases etc. which make learning easy. There are 191 lessons of grammar topics. When a particular lesson is

tapped it shows explanation of the topic so teacher can explain the topic with plenty of examples. After explaining a topic students can go through the test by touching on take the test, there are 10 questions in each test. So it is very easy to get immediate feedback of teaching and learning. (<https://play.google.com/store>.)

English Tenses

It is very useful application specially designed for learning tenses of English. There is explanation of all tenses when a required tense is touched it shows uses of the tense then shows forms of tense with the help of tables like positive, negative, interrogative, short questions and short answers. With the help of examples it shows common mistakes students commit in the use of particular spelling and tense. At the end of explanation there is a test of each tense in the form of multiple options. It is in the form of fill in the blank, choosing correct option form. (<https://play.google.com/store>.)

Useful Expressions

This application contains more than 700 common useful expressions or phrases which teacher can use to improve students English speaking skills and academic writing. Due to lack of vocabulary students fail in expressing their views or feeling they don't know which words are used to talk about weather, health, education etc. This application helps students to improve their basic conversation. There are 119 different expressions. (<https://play.google.com/store>.)

English Conversation

English conversation practice is very helpful application to practice English conversation for every one there are more than 2000 English conversation categories in three levels i.e. Necessary conversation for beginners, Elementary conversation and Advance conversations. It improves speaking and listening skills. It can be used offline or online for offline use we have to download audio files then can be listened offline. (<https://play.google.com/store>.)

Business English

It contains Business English related 19 listening and 19 reading topics, Business vocabulary and grammar section. Each topic has a practice test.

Grammar section contains business grammar test and error recognition and vocabulary test related with business topics like money, work and travel. Application does not cover business writing which students find some what tedious. Application is very useful in improving listening and reading skills it also improves business English vocabulary as all the topics are related with business like bank account, cutting costs, office stationery, business conversation etc. (<https://play.google.com/store>.)

Hello Hello English

Hello hello English is a language course with 30 lessons. All lessons are conversational based on realistic dialogues and situations. It also shows translation of the lessons and word in native language so it becomes very easy for learner to understand. It is available in English, Hindi, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian and Indonesian languages. (<https://play.google.com/store.>)

Using Apps for Teaching and Learning in the Classroom:

If teacher and more than half of students in the class have these phones, teacher can comfortably use these applications with one phone between two students.

English Tenses

Teacher can use this app in class room to avoid monotonous way of teaching grammar by using chalk and talk. First of all teacher can give students information about its use. After explaining tense form, teacher can give examples of it. Then tell students to make few sentences using the same form. Once the idea is clear to them, tell them to take a test. For making good score it is very important to read instructions very carefully. App is designed in such a way that when we touch the correct option it shows green colour and if it is wrong it shows red colour. If answer is wrong then tell students to tap explanation it takes student back to the particular form of tense which students have already studied. If their answer is correct then tell them to tap next it will take to new question. Students enjoy doing such activity.

In this way with the help of this app immediate feedback of teaching can be taken.

Useful Expressions

In classroom teacher can tell students to select a particular topic from the list. It will introduce the topic and then there are at least 10 phrases or expressions which express the same thing in a different manner. For example it shows different ways to say hello, goodbye or ask someone's help etc.

E.g.

If someone wants to learn thanking people –general expressions for thanking are, thanks, thank you or thank you very much. But this app shows thanks, thank you very much, I really appreciate it, you have made my day. How thoughtful, I am most grateful; I would like to express gratitude.

Teacher can take maximum benefit of this app in improving students speaking skills. Teacher can make group of ten students and instruct students to tap particular topic and read all the expressions and try to remember them, for one expression they will get one point so students will concentrate on it and will try to score maximum points. If anyone fails to express give second chance for the same topic.

English Conversation

This application can be used in classroom for improving speaking skills. Teacher can use it as a role play activity as in conversation there are two or more characters make group of students as per the requirement of topic Give them five minutes to read and memories the conversation. Assign them their role and allow them to do conversation in the class room.

It can also be used to improve listening skills by using earphone. There is a facility of normal speed and slow speed. Teacher has to give students topic for listening, allow them to keep speed as per their convenience. Give them few minutes to listen meanwhile teacher can frame questions from the topic and ask them questions. Students will be able to answer as topics are very small.

With the help of this app students will be able to do conversation with others without hesitation and with practice they will be fluent in English speak

Business English

If teacher wants student to do listening exercise there is no need to find script, No need to record and frame questions all these things are readily available. Teacher has to make students familiar with the use of application .Tell students to select topic then instruct them to tap on the topic it will display test. On the top of the test there is play button at the bottom there are four buttons script, check, answer, and finish. Teacher can instruct students to go step by step i.e to read the script at first then read all the questions carefully there are three questions in each test. Play audio and select correct answer, check it .If the answer is correct it will show green colour and if answer is wrong it will be red. Once the test is over press answer button it will show all correct answers then press finish to go on menu.

Same thing can be done for reading exercise there are ample of business related topics with three questions in each test. Application covers topics like job offer, economic report, company reports; staff training etc. tests in the form of fill in the gaps or selecting appropriate answer from the options.

It is very interesting application when student work on this app in class they are totally involved in it as all the words are related with business they find some words difficult to understand in such a case they can take the help of Dictionary application. While using this app in classroom teacher has to be only facilitator that is if student find any difficulty to understand teacher has to explain it. Students can give test check their answer see the correct answer. If students will practice only two tests every day they will learn at least 10 new words related to business.

Conclusion

Use of smart phone in classroom has brought transformation in the traditional education model. Students and teacher are getting rid of traditional chalk and talk method. Increasing popularity of smart phone has made teaching and learning very interesting. It saves time. Students can use these apps anywhere and anytime. If there is any confusion it can be cleared easily. Teacher becomes only facilitator. More practice is possible through repetition. Mistakes can be overcome by practice. However it has certain limitations, programming of application recognizes only apostrophes' (can't) in negative sentences. Sometimes two same options are given tapping one option shows right answer while other shows wrong. Some applications don't follow the rule of first letter capital in sentences in options given for answer. Application developers need to take care of all these things while programming.

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