

Interactive Whiteboards

Today we will talk about how education was taught in the past, how it is taught today and how it might be taught in the future. In particular we will look at an exciting new way of teaching subjects to students in classrooms using interactive whiteboards. Before we do, let's quickly go over some of the old fashioned ways lessons were, and current ways lessons are, presented in the classroom. To begin with in the past most schools taught their pupils using blackboards using mostly white and coloured chalk. In my day, it was like this! Books were also used. In some classes we had whiteboards using black or coloured marker pens. During the last decade this evolved into overhead projectors, where teachers could write on a clear plastic sheet that projected and magnified the written matter onto the whiteboard. Teachers or students could present whatever they had prepared on the clear plastic for overhead use. Listening devices included: the radio, reel to reel tape recorders, cassette recorders and CDs on CD machines. Today we use USB sticks on laptops or simply download material.

Moving on, in the last decade the internet has digitalised education. Emails are common practice for homework assignments. Increasingly today whiteboards are rapidly becoming interactive. In fact, digital whiteboards are an exciting way forward in teaching education, though there is still a lack of suitable content suitable for interactive whiteboards in non-English speaking countries. Today we are in the internet generation where students prefer sound, images, hyperlinks and colour. Using these on interactive whiteboards is far more attractive to students than text only. Visual communicators are one way forward and students remember visuals better than text (Oh dear – this lesson is text but it is via the internet! Still, a visual colour newsletter is available as well). Interactive whiteboards offer an enriched education and can improve education because they offer a rich learning environment. However, their success highly depends on the ability and the motivation of the teachers. New books have been and are being developed for pupils in some countries that combine interactive learning using whiteboards. Subjects include physics, maths and biology. Photos, short TV clips, and computer visualisations now make learning in the classroom much more fun.

Category: Education / Learning / Whiteboards

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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Education tools – past, present and future

How we were taught

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

How we are taught

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

How we could be taught in the near future

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

EXERCISES

1. Whiteboards: Think of three things you know about whiteboards. Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Whiteboards: In pairs think of five good reasons why whiteboards are useful. Then add five other useful classroom materials/gadgets. Write them below. Discuss together.

Good reasons	Other classroom materials/gadgets
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's roleplay 1: Discussion FM: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Interactive Whiteboards*.

1	A student
2	A teacher
3	A spokesperson from your country's Ministry of Education
4	A book publisher selling interactive materials

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

8. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Interactive Whiteboards**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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9. Let's roleplay 2: In pairs. You are in a school canteen. Start a conversation about: '*Interactive whiteboards*'. 5-minutes.

10. Interactive books: In pairs, think of three other subjects that might be good to convert to interactive learning – and why! Then add three interactive ways you would make the book more fun to use and learn from.

Subjects – and why	Interactive ways
1	1
2	2
3	3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class

11. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the different types of listening devices.
- 2) Today students prefer what?
- 3) Subjects include what?
- 4) What now makes learning more fun in the classroom?
- 5) What is there still a lack of?

Student B

- 1) Name two old fashioned ways of presenting lessons?
- 2) In the last decade what has happened?
- 3) Explain the sentence in brackets '*Oh dear*'.
- 4) Explain using an overhead projector.
- 5) What do interactive whiteboards depend on?

12. Publishers: Think of three economic/business and educational reasons why *publishers* should be encouraged to produce new types of books for interactive whiteboard learning in schools. Discuss together with your partner.

Economic/business	Educational
1	1
2	2
3	3

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class

13. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: ***Interactive Whiteboards***. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

14. Let's write an e-mail: Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: ***Interactive Whiteboards***. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

15. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Interactive whiteboards _____
- b) Blackboards _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How effective is whiteboard learning?
- 3) What is the most fun way to learn something in the classroom?
- 4) What advice would you give publishers who are preparing interactive whiteboard learning materials?
- 5) Do schools in your country offer interactive whiteboard learning?
- 6) Are your country's education materials keeping up with the internet and the interactive whiteboard revolution?
- 7) In the future what role is there for the teacher in the classroom?
- 8) Do you send your teacher your homework via email? Explain!
- 9) Do you use interactive materials in the classroom? Explain.
- 10) Why are video clips and photos so important in the classroom?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you consider learning physics, maths and biology in English? Why? Why not?
- 3) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 4) Did you use blackboards when you were at school? Explain.
- 5) Why is the internet so important in today's world?
- 6) Do you think there is a classroom revolution going on?
- 7) Is the future dictated by educational budget? Explain.
- 8) How do you think history might be taught in the future in different countries?
- 9) Will interactive whiteboard learning become the norm?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! When I was at school...

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Discuss the following...

20 things about when you were at school...
--

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Interactive Whiteboards

Today we will talk about how (1)_____ was taught in the past, how it is taught today and how it might be taught in the future. In particular we will look at an exciting new way of teaching (2)_____ to students in (3)_____ using interactive (4)_____. Before we do, let's quickly go over some of the old fashioned ways lessons were, and current ways lessons are, presented in the classroom. To begin with in the past most schools taught their pupils using blackboards using mostly white and coloured (5)_____. In my day, it was like this! Books were also used. In some (6)_____ we had whiteboards using black or coloured marker pens. During the last (7)_____ this evolved into overhead projectors, where teachers could write on a clear plastic sheet that projected and magnified the written (8)_____ onto the whiteboard. Teachers or students could present whatever they had prepared on the clear plastic for overhead use. Listening devices included: the radio, reel to reel tape recorders, cassette recorders and CDs on CD machines. Today we use USB sticks on laptops or simply download material.

Moving on, in the last decade the (1)_____ has digitalised education. Emails are common practice for homework assignments. Increasingly today whiteboards are rapidly becoming (2)_____. In fact, (3)_____ whiteboards are an exciting way forward in teaching education, though there is still a lack of suitable content suitable for interactive whiteboards in non-English speaking countries. Today we are in the internet generation where students prefer sound, images, (4)_____ and colour. Using these on interactive whiteboards is far more attractive to students than (5)_____ only. Visual communicators are one way forward and (6)_____ remember visuals better than text (Oh dear – this (7)_____ is text but it is via the internet! Still, a visual colour newsletter is available as well). Interactive whiteboards offer an enriched education and can (8)_____ education because they offer a rich learning environment.

matter

decade

whiteboards

subjects

chalk

classrooms

classes

education

interactive

text

improve

hyperlinks

digital

students

internet

lesson

GRAMMAR: edited

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Interactive Whiteboards

Today we will talk about how education was taught in the past, how it is taught today and how it (1)___ be taught in the future. In particular we will look at an exciting new way of teaching subjects to students in classrooms using interactive whiteboards. Before we do, let's quickly go over (2)___ of the old fashioned ways lessons were, and current ways lessons are, presented in the classroom. To begin with in the past (3)___ schools taught their pupils using blackboards using (4)_____ white and coloured chalk. In my day, it was like this! Books were also used. In some classes we had whiteboards using black or coloured marker pens. During the last decade (5)___ evolved into overhead projectors, where teachers (6)___ write on a clear plastic sheet (7)___ projected and magnified the written matter (8)___ the whiteboard. Teachers or students could present whatever they had prepared on the clear plastic for overhead use. Listening devices included: the radio, reel to reel tape recorders, cassette recorders and CDs on CD machines. Today we use USB sticks on laptops or simply download material.

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in
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can
and
for
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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings:
Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

1	particular	11	digitised
2	education	12	devices
3	assignments	13	whiteboards
4	practice	14	interactive
5	though	15	motivation
6	visualisations	16	subjects
7	quickly	17	increasingly
8	current	18	exciting
9	blackboards	19	hyperlinks
10	coloured	20	suitable

LINKS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interactive_whiteboard

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjdNPMZJbLs>

<http://smarttech.com/SmartBoard>

<http://teachers.net/gazette/JAN02/mabell.html>

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