

mLearning: From theory to practice

<http://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/seminars/mlearning-theory-practice>



Gavin Dudeney

1. Part 1: Personal landmarks in technology
2. Part 2: Texting / The current market
3. Part 3: Mobile devices / Using them in class
4. Part 4: mLearning in action / High and low resource projects
5. Part 5: mLearning implementation

In this seminar, Gavin Dudeney gives a short history of the use of technology in education, followed by how the use of mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets, can be used for English language learning.

Session summary and objectives

This seminar provides English language teachers with a range of practical teaching and learning ideas on the use of digital devices, which can be easily implemented across a variety of levels and contexts.

Dudeney explores the issue of whether the use of phones in class is a good idea, or a bad idea. He examines the shift that takes place when learners are encouraged to keep their mobile devices switched on in class. He then shares a basic theoretical rationale for their regular implementation, considering both the pros and cons of such an initiative. He shares recent methodology research on the subject and then draws on his own personal consulting experience related to the implementation of a class set of iPads in a language school context in the UK.

Who is this session for?

Regardless of experience, this seminar will appeal to all teachers who are new to mobile technology for educational purposes but are interested in learning more about it; with practical ideas for the classroom.

About the speaker

Gavin Dudeney is a well-known speaker on technology in education. He has been a teacher, materials developer, IT manager and web/user interface designer for more than twenty years.

Before you watch

1. Make a list of all the ways you think mobile devices can be used for language learning.
2. To what extent do you think that you could (or should) consult students on the use of technology in the classroom?

Then, compare your notes with the suggestions Gavin Dudeney offers in the seminar.

Real life practice

We recommend you devise a survey about the use of technology for language learning to give to your students. You could ask questions like:

1. How much time each day do you spend on your phone, computer or tablet?
2. What apps have you downloaded?
3. What features of your phone do you like best/use the most?
4. Do you think you can use your phone to help you learn English?
5. How do you think the phone could be used to learn English during your lessons?
6. How could you use your phone to help you learn English outside the classroom?

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Keep it simple and practical. Consider which idea can be used in your lesson planning. Then share these ideas with other English teachers.

Top tips

1. Watch the seminar called 'A beginners guide to mobile learning in ELT' by Amy Lightfoot. Compare what Amy has to say about using mobile phones to what Gavin talks about in this seminar.
2. Compile a list of reasons why the use of technology aids learning - this will help you to focus on the positive aspects of using technology in the classroom.
3. When planning to use mobile digital devices more often in teaching and learning you also need to think carefully about contingency solutions for when things go wrong, or don't quite go to plan. For example, what will you do if students forget to bring their mobile phone to the lesson? What will your back up plan be? It's a good idea to work on these plans with your colleagues.
4. Remember technology has always been a part of education – mobile technology is simply the latest innovation.
5. And remember - everything becomes simple when you know how! Take one step at a time!

Join the discussion!

With your fellow teachers, discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with the points that Gavin raises in this talk.

- What ideas from the video will you take into your own teaching?
- How will you share your learning with other teachers?