

Wikid!

Using wikis with ESL learners

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What is a wiki?

- “Wiki” is a Hawaiian word for “quick”.



Picture source: http://www.lopedevega.es/donlope/wiki/index.php?title=What_is_a_wiki%3F

What is a wiki?

- The most famous wiki in the world:



- Wikipedia = wiki + encyclopaedia

Picture source: <http://www.wikipedia.org/>

What is a wiki?

- “A collection of Web pages which can be edited by anyone, at any time, from anywhere”
[-wikiwikiweb](#)
- A very, very easy-to-make website
(if you can type your name, you can make a wiki)

Q: How easy is it to make a wiki?

A: If I can do it . . .

- No esoteric computer knowledge needed!
- I use www.wikispaces.com (and there's an undo button!)
- Wikispaces uses a visual text editor: WYSIWYG.
- You can also use wikitext (simplified HTML).
- All you need are a username, a password and a valid email address.

Web 1.0 or Web 2.0?

- Wikis are designed to:
 - be interactive
 - support collaborative learning
 - be part of the two-way web: read-write
- **but**
- wikis can also be used as read-only.
- Wikis can be used any way you want.

Why use a wiki with ESL students?

- Wikis are easy to set up and manage.
- Wikis are easy for students to access and navigate; all they need is the URL.
- Wikis can be left up after the class ends.
- You can put whatever content you choose on your wiki.
- Wikis are free (and Wikispaces now offers free ad-free wikis for higher education.)

What can you do with a wiki?

- Post links you've used in class for students to review, as well as optional links for students.
- Upload sound files and pictures.
- Post computer lab / ongoing assignments.
 - learner autonomy
 - accountability
 - time management
- Create a resource for students after your class ends.
 - self-directed learning
- Align computer lab learning with the CLB outcomes
 - following instructions
 - Essential Skills
 - computer use
 - document use

What does a wiki look like?

These are some of my wikis:

- <http://linc5-spring2011.wikispaces.com/>
- <http://linc5.wikispaces.com/>
- <http://teslcanada2011.wikispaces.com/>

This is not my wiki, but it's a good example of what a wiki can look like, if you want to go beyond the basics:

- <http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/>

Sheri Rhodes was here last month talking about wikis:

- <http://srhodes.wikispaces.com/>

Let's do it. Let's fall in love with wikis!

- To join wikispaces.com, you need three things:
 - a username
 - a password
 - and a valid email address.
- You must choose a name for your wiki, and you need some content.
- You can create a wiki in less than 5 minutes.
 - <http://www.online-stopwatch.com/large-stopwatch/>



Wiki help

- **From wikispaces:**

- <http://sandbox.wikispaces.com/>
- <http://pdpresentertoolkit.wikispaces.com/>

- Wikispaces offers detailed help right on the wiki, as well as online help.

- Email me at bonnie.nicholas@norquest.ca.

Thank-you!