『インターネットＴＥＳＬジャーナル』の開発とメインテナンス

The Development and Maintenance of The Internet TESL Journal

By Charles I. Kelly and Lawrence E. Kelly

Abstract: *The Internet TESL Journal* is the international monthly web-based journal for teachers of English as a Second Language and teachers of English as a Foreign Language and is hosted at Aichi Institute of Technology. This paper gives an overview of the journal from its inception to the present.

Introduction

The Internet TESL Journal <http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj> hosted at Aichi Institute of Technology has become the monthly web journal for teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL) and for teachers of English as a Foreign Language (EFL). This journal publishes articles, research papers, lessons plans, classroom handouts and other materials for ESL teachers. Contributions to this journal come from teachers worldwide. All materials published in the journal remain on-line and can be accessed easily through the Internet. In addition to its publications, this journal maintains a massive set of well-sorted categorized web links for ESL teachers and has various ongoing projects for the benefit of the Internet ESL community. In this paper we will use the term ESL to refer to both ESL and EFL. TESL refers to Teaching English as a Second Language.

A Brief History

The Internet TESL Journal was started in 1995 with Charles Kelly and Lawrence Kelly as the editors. Its original focus was to provide a web-based journal for English as a Second Language teachers. At first, it only provided articles, research papers, lessons, lesson plans and classroom handouts. Within a few months the page of links that was previously maintained by Charles Kelly on another server was taken over as a project of the journal. In mid-1996, the first project for ESL students was begun. This was the "Self-study Quizzes for ESL Students"

project. This has grown from the original six quizzes to over 500 quizzes. Other projects for students include the "Crossword Puzzles for ESL Students" begun in mid-1997 and the "Treasure Hunts for ESL Students" begun in early 1998. The projects for teachers include "Jokes for the ESL Classroom" and "Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom". Both of these began in 1997.

Web Design Guidelines

One reason for the continued success of *The Internet TESL Journal* is its web design. Before determining the web site design, a considerable amount of time was spent visiting a wide variety of sites. Most of the ESL sites at that time as well as many non-ESL sites were visited and studied.

After evaluating these web sites, *The Internet TESL Journal* established the following guidelines.

Keep it simple.
Anyone with basic computer skills, whether a native or a non-native English speaker, should be able to locate, read and use materials.

Keep it fast.
Since Internet access can be slow from certain parts of the world, pages should be kept to a minimum filesize to promote fast downloading times. Things to avoid include images, HTML table code and frames.

Make it usable on any computer.

The HTML code that is used should be limited to that which will work with any web browser.

Keep it focused.

The journal is aimed at ESL teachers. Material that is not of interest to a large majority of ESL teachers should not be included.

Increase the amount of useful material on the Internet for ESL teachers.

Publish materials that are useful and practical, keep previously published material available on the Internet and develop projects that encourage teachers from around the world to develop and share materials.
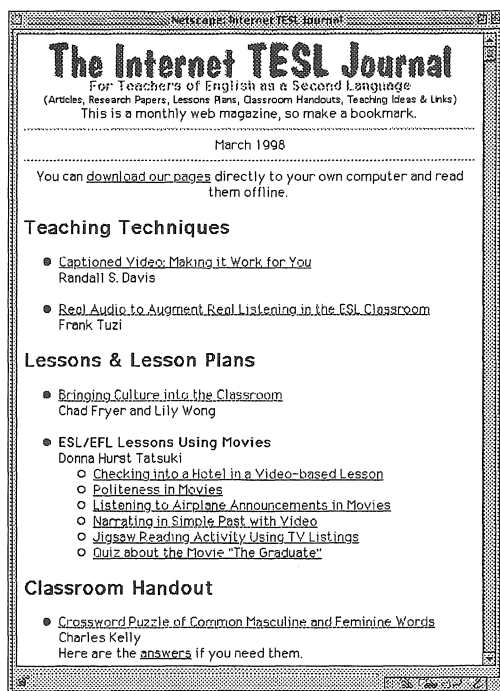

Fig. 1. Top of the March 1998 Main Page

The Sections of the Journal

Articles & Research Papers

Articles of interest to the TESL professional are presented. (Many contain clickable email addresses making it possible to contact the author.)

Teaching Techniques

Articles explaining ESL teaching techniques are published. This allows new and proven techniques to be shared by professionals.

Lessons & Lesson Plans

Lessons and lesson plans used successfully by ESL teachers are offered. These include such things as lesson plans for intensive courses and lessons on particular topics.

Handouts & Other Classroom Materials

Handouts that have been used successfully by teachers and other classroom materials such as seating charts and class evaluation forms can be found.

Book Reviews and Site Reviews

Reviews of books and sites of special interest to the ESL teacher using the web are here.

Useful Web Links for This Month

This section is designed to help a busy teacher find timely class material easily. This list of links often grows during the month as visitors submit new links. (Some examples are Valentine Day Links in February, St. Patrick's Day Links in March and Christmas Links in December.)

Highlights of Previous Issues

All previously published articles, research papers, lessons, lesson plans and handouts are available and linked off the main page for easy access.

Projects Designed for Teachers

Jokes for the ESL Classroom

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~ckelly/sub/jokes.html

Jokes that have worked well in the classroom have been submitted by teachers and students. This currently has over 120 jokes. Teachers who use jokes in the ESL classroom to teach culture, grammar and vocabulary will find these jokes funny and useful. Jokes submitted by visitors to the page are automatically added to the page.
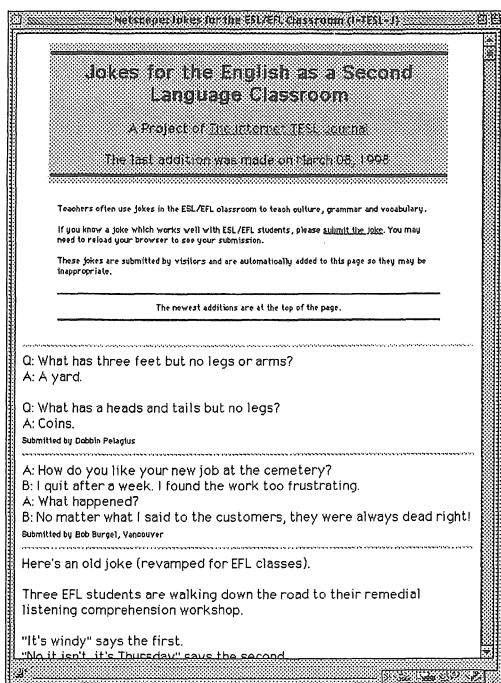
Fig. 2. Jokes for the ESL/EFL Classroom

TESL/TEFL/TESOL/ESL/EFL/ESOL Links

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/ESL3.html

This is a large collection of web links related to English learning and English teaching. It can be browsed by category or searched by using the search engine. In addition to the complete list of links, there is also a page of recommended links for ESL teachers who are new to the Internet. This is the central location where the Internet ESL community registers sites. Links that are submitted on-line automatically appear on the "What's New" page. This allows ESL teachers to register new sites and for others to easily find the newest sites on the web. After these new links are visited by *The Internet TESL Journal* staff, they are added to the main searchable database.
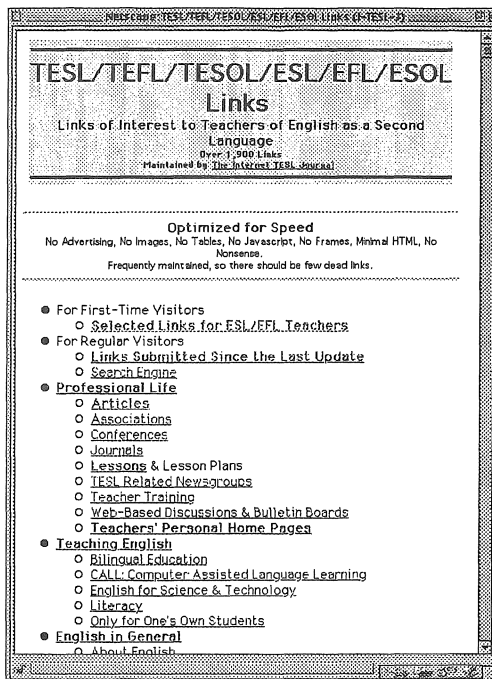

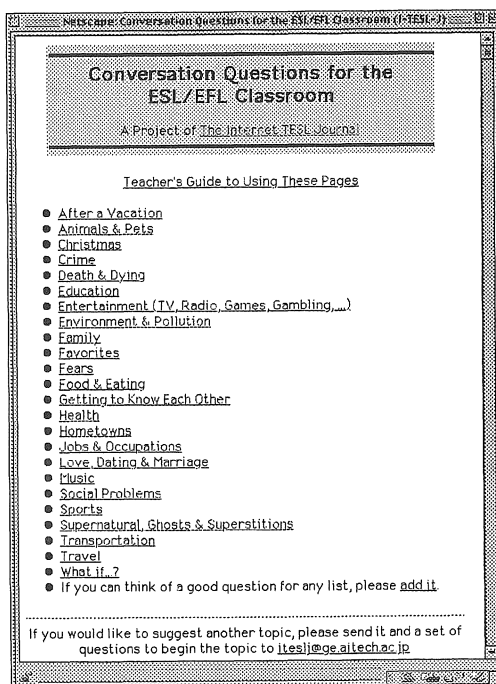Fig. 5. Main Page of TESL/TEFL/TESOL/ESL/EFL/ESOL Links

Fig. 4. Main Page of Conversation Questions for the ESL/EFL Classroom

Conversation Questions for ESL Students

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/questions/

This is a collection of over 500 questions on 24 topics that can be used for conversation practice. A few of the topics are animals and pets, Christmas, family, health, sports and social problems. Individuals may add their own questions so the database of usable questions continues to grow. A page for teachers explaining how to use these questions is provided.
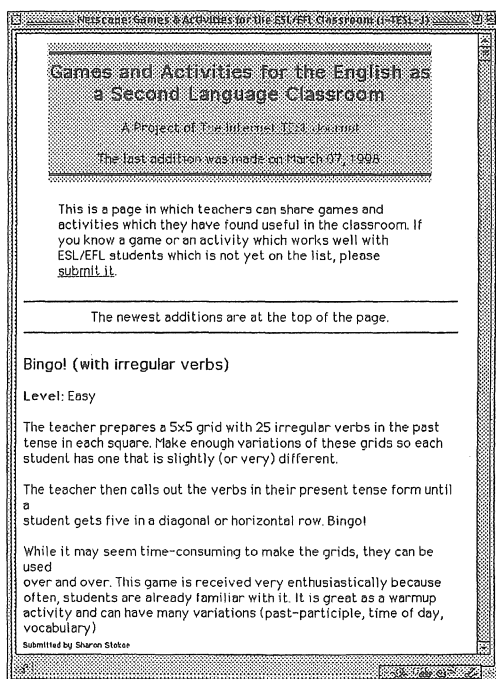
Fig. 3. Games & Activities for the ESL /EFL Classroom

Games and Activities for the English as a Second Language Classroom

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~ckelly/sub/games.html

This is a list of games that teachers have found useful in the ESL classroom. Since submissions are automatically added to the page, this page is continually growing.

Projects Designed for Students
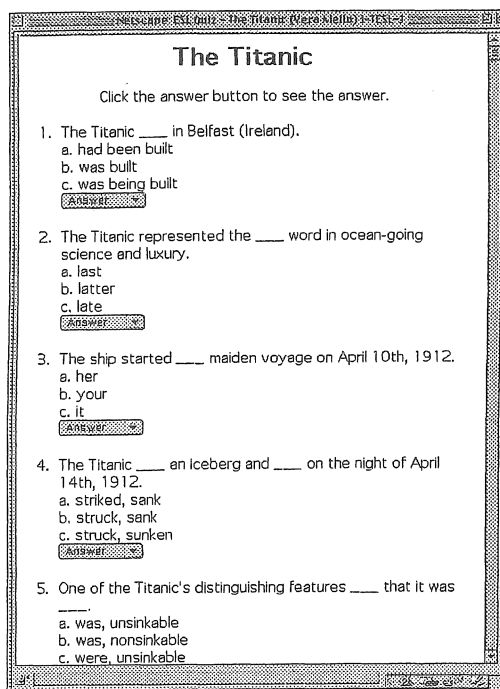
Fig. 6. A Sample On-line Quiz

Self-Study Quizzes for ESL Students

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/quizzes/

Self study quizzes provide students with over 500 quizzes produced by ESL teachers. The subdivisions include new quizzes, holidays, reading, trivia, culture, sports, writing, grammar, idioms, phrasal verbs & slang, scrambled words and vocabulary. An answer button under the question allows students to instantly see the correct answer. Interested individuals can contribute to this collection of quizzes. Links to other quiz pages are also provided. New quizzes are regularly added.

Fig. 7. A Sample On-line Crossword Puzzle

Fig. 8. A Sample ESL Student Guides to the Internet

Crossword Puzzles for ESL Students

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/cw/

This collection of over 30 crossword puzzles covers a variety of subjects related to language learning. The puzzles are identified by level (easy, medium or difficult) and contain between 7 to 26 words. A hint button helps the student who has difficulty with a word and the answers can be viewed on any browser or checked automatically with a JavaScript-enabled browser. Since interested individuals can contribute to this collection, new puzzles are continually added.
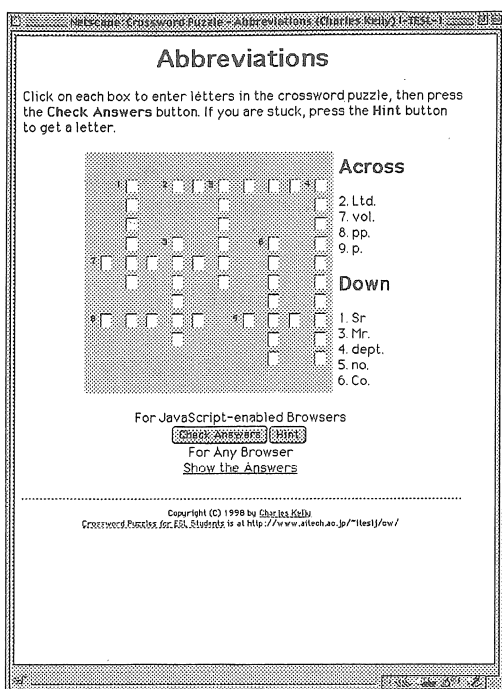
Selected Links for ESL/EFL Students

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/ESL.html

Some of the more interesting sites for students of English as a Second Language are listed here. It is a good starter page for students and directs students to content-based sites on the web. Self-study quizzes, games, puzzles, grammar, and writing are just a few of the topics covered. It is set up so an ESL student can easily navigate through the page.
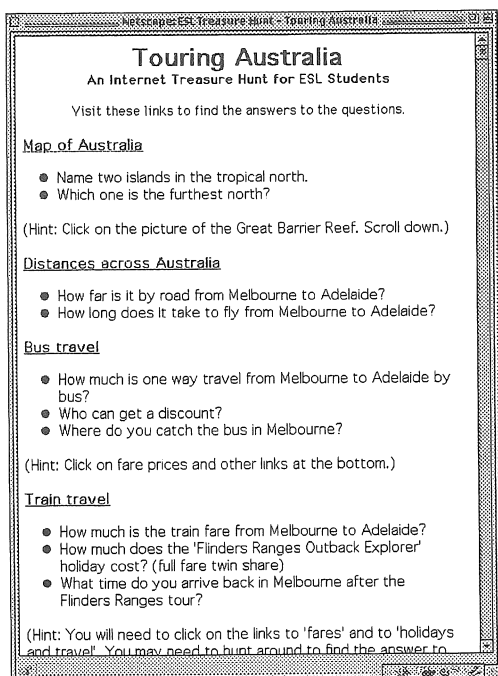
Internet Treasure Hunts for ESL Students

http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/th/

These scavenger hunts require students to visit various web sites to find information. Treasure hunts include touring Australia, American universities, the movie industry, George Washington, music and about the Internet and on-line newspapers. Individuals are encouraged to submit their own scavenger hunts.
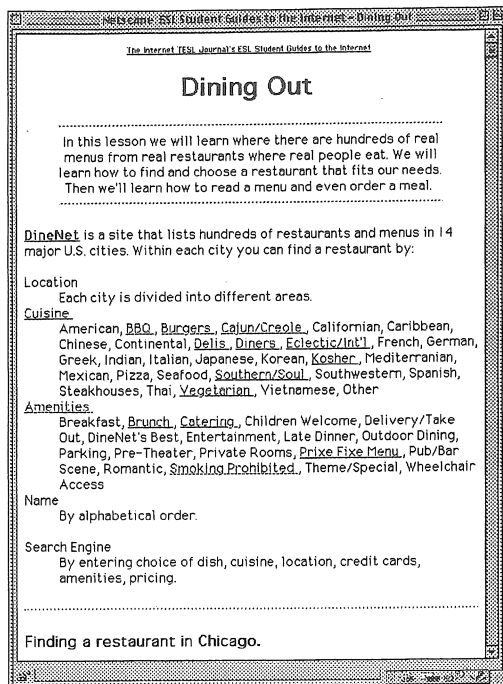
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┌────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Netscape: ESL Student Guides to the Internet - Dining Out │
│   The Internet TESL Journal's ESL Student Guides to the Internet │
│                                        │
│           Dining Out                   │
│ ...................................... │
│   In this lesson we will learn where there are hundreds of real │
│   menus from real restaurants where real people eat. We will │
│   learn how to find and choose a restaurant that fits our needs. │
│   Then we'll learn how to read a menu and even order a meal. │
│ ...................................... │
│                                        │
│ DineNet is a site that lists hundreds of restaurants and menus in 14 │
│ major U.S. cities. Within each city you can find a restaurant by: │
│                                        │
│ Location                               │
│     Each city is divided into different areas. │
│ Cuisine                                │
│     American, BBQ, Burgers, Cajun/Creole, Californian, Caribbean, │
│     Chinese, Continental, Delis, Diners, Eclectic/Int'l, French, German, │
│     Greek, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Kosher, Mediterranian, │
│     Mexican, Pizza, Seafood, Southern/Soul, Southwestern, Spanish, │
│     Steakhouses, Thai, Vegetarian, Vietnamese, Other │
│ Amenities                              │
│     Breakfast, Brunch, Catering, Children Welcome, Delivery/Take │
│     Out, DineNet's Best, Entertainment, Late Dinner, Outdoor Dining, │
│     Parking, Pre-Theater, Private Rooms, Prixe Fixe Menu, Pub/Bar │
│     Scene, Romantic, Smoking Prohibited, Theme/Special, Wheelchair │
│     Access                             │
│ Name                                   │
│     By alphabetical order.             │
│                                        │
│ Search Engine                          │
│     By entering choice of dish, cuisine, location, credit cards, │
│     amenities, pricing.                │
│ ...................................... │
│                                        │
│ Finding a restaurant in Chicago.       │
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Fig. 7. A Sample ESL Student Guide to the Internet

ESL Student Guides to the Internet

`http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/guides/`

This page not only introduces ESL students to selected pages designed for native-speakers, but it also assists them in understanding and using those pages. Vocabulary lists and activities are included. Teachers are encouraged to help write more of these pages.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *The Internet TESL Journal* would like to thank the worldwide ESL community for their support. This support comes in the following ways.

- Teachers contributing articles, research papers, lessons, lesson plans and classroom handouts.
- Volunteers spending time reviewing submitted material.
- People contributing to the various projects.
- Students and teachers using the pages, giving feedback and reporting ESL needs.

- Visitors contributing ideas, submitting links, providing feedback and reporting dead links.

And finally, a special thanks to Aichi Institute of Technology for hosting the web site and to the staff in the Aichi Institute of Technology's Computer Center for all their help.

Appendix 1

Web Accesses for February 1998

Feb 01: 6753
Feb 02: 6513
Feb 03: 6661
Feb 04: 8232
Feb 05: 7827
Feb 06: 7281
Feb 07: 6263
Feb 08: 3229
Feb 09: 7281
Feb 10: 8348
Feb 11: 9279
Feb 12: 8431
Feb 13: 7753
Feb 14: 6047
Feb 15: 4235
Feb 16: 7090
Feb 17: 9708
Feb 18: 8583
Feb 19: 9222
Feb 20: 7275
Feb 21: 7467
Feb 22: 5620
Feb 23: 7562
Feb 24: 8068
Feb 25: 8499
Feb 26: 7487
Feb 27: 8476
Feb 28: 7018

Daily Average: 7365