

Promoting Social Inclusion and Integration through Student-Centered Learning and Educational Coaching Tools

The Learning processes in diverse target groups and the Coaching Role in the inclusion

04/03/2024 - 09/03/2024 Terracina (Italy)

INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS

V A L O R I Z

- It is necessary to VALORIZE the students.
- It is necessary to VALORIZE what the students can do



Meaningfulness

- Giving meaning to the work of the students by contextualizing.
- > Starting from the **representations** of the students, from the **acquired knowledge** to make **new ones meaningful**.



Motivate

- Considering both cognitive and motivational aspects.
- Considering aspects of learning and the subject who learns.

INCLUSION: PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Integration



- > It is a **situation**.
- > It has a compensatory approach.
- It refers exclusively to the educational field.
- > It intervenes **first** on the **subject** and **then** on the **context**.
- > It increases a **specialized response**.

Inclusion



- > It is a process.
- It refers to the whole of the educational,social and political spheres.
- It looks at all the students (indistinctly/differently) and at all their potential.
- It intervenes first on the context and then on the subject.
- It transforms the specialist response into ordinary.

CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ Building a **climate** of **trust**;
- ❖ Showing an *empathic* understanding of the learners;
- ❖ Being *authentic* or **genuine** in how you **relate** to the **learners**;
- **Demonstrating** and **modeling confidence** in the **learners** and in **yourself**;
- **Balancing confidence** with a degree of *humility* or **modesty**;
- ❖ Showing *enthusiasm* for your **topic**, for the **learners**, and for simply **being** there for the **learners**;
- ❖ Demonstrating *respect* for the **learners** and for **what** you are **teaching**.

WELCOME ENVIRONMENT

Classroom **routines** are **important** to students as they set up **expectations that feel safe**. Reinforce the **routines** and **practise** them until the students know them.

Consider:

- ❖ **Displays** should be **linked** to **curriculum** and **contain** useful **props** (e.g. key words, exemplars, sentence starters).
- ❖ Vary where in the class you teach from. To get a class really focused, gather them round close or try a boardroom setup.
- ❖ If you move to a different classroom for every lesson, set up a calming task for the first 5 minutes to enable you to get the register done and arrange things as you want. (e.g. low-demand tasks work best as revising key words, card).
- **Carousel activities** need **prior planning** for students who **struggle** with **instructions** and **literacy**. Some of them may need **their own workstation**.

A POSITIVE PHYSICAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

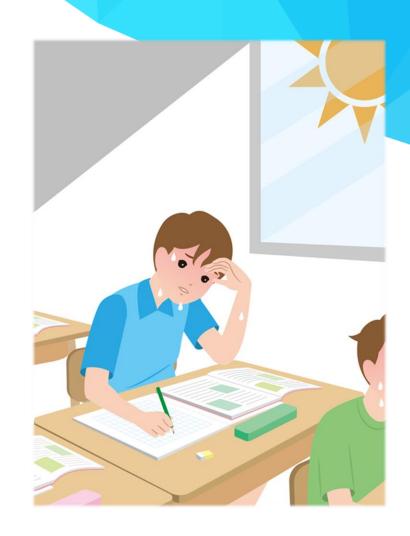
Try to provide as much lighting as possible.

Room temperature is a **no-win situation**.

Some learners will say its too warm, others too cold.

So, just encourage learners to dress for comfort.

Lighting, Temperature, Acoustics, and Seats



ROOM ARRANGEMENT

Arrangement	Considerations	Shape
Traditional	Works best in large classes. Emphasizes the instructor. Works well when using media presentations. (for example, video or slides). Discourages interaction among students.	x 000000 000000 000000
U-Shape	Learners face each other; encourages interaction Instructor at front, can see and interact easily with all participants. Students may have trouble seeing people on the same side of the table.	× 000000
Rectangle or Square	Similar to U-shape, but places instructor in less conspicuous location. Sometimes hard to see people on the same side Works especially well in small seminar or boardroom setups.	000×000 0 0

ROOM ARRANGEMENT (1)

Arrangement	Considerations	Shape
Circular	Especially good in setups with chairs but no tables Instructor does not stand out, but is part of the circle Stresses equality among participants Works best with small or medium groups	× 0000
Individual Tables and Chairs	Ideal when doing lots of small group work Can be used with round or square tables Some participants may have their backs to the instructor By focusing only on those at one's own table, interaction with class members at other tables may be reduced	× 000000000000000000000000000000000000

CLASSROOM COHESION

This is about **generating** a **positive atmosphere** in class where all students **accept** a **level** of **challenge** and have the **confidence** to contribute.

Learning is a **social activity**, and **teamwork** benefits all students.

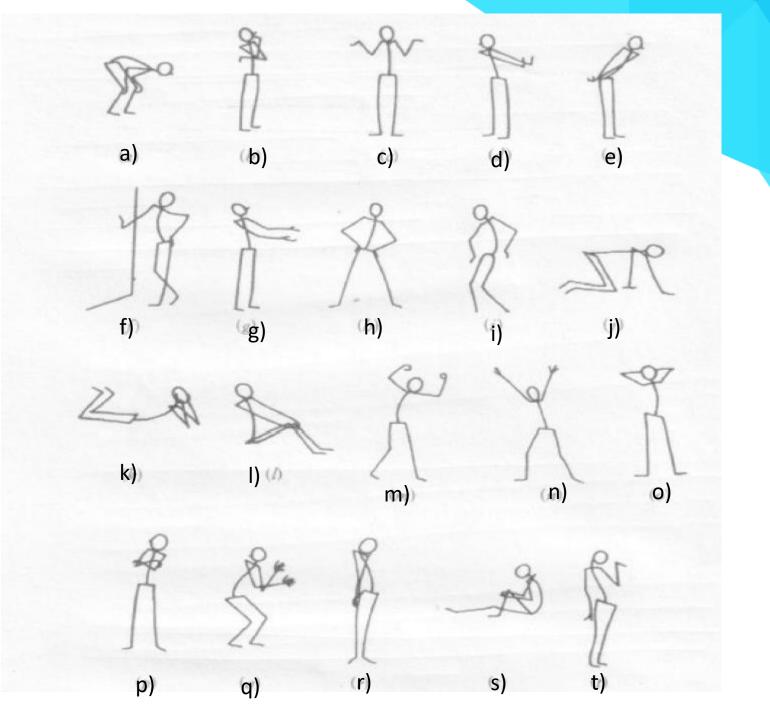


An **inclusive classroom** is a **place where** it is **recognised** that **everyone** is **unique** and that the only way to **be fair** is to **consider individual needs**.



Keep your body language open and stay optimistic.

Non verbal communication: posture



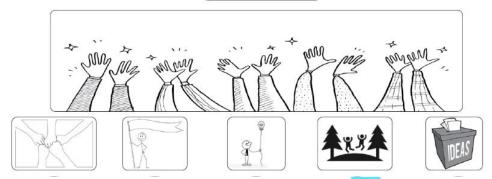
Symbolic gesture



CLASSROOM COHESION

Teaching **style** is unique and individual, **but** there are **some general approaches** that can be considered:

❖ Starting the day or lesson with an anchoring activity can create a safe routine that helps students feel settled in the class.



- ❖ Get to know the class and help students learn about each other using personal and social activities, but be sensitive about students with difficult home circumstances.
- **❖ Teamwork** Vary **groups** and **pairs** and set up **activities** that depend on teams working together to achieve.
- Community Invite visitors to class who can share history or a skill, or do something as a class for the community.
- ❖ Social interaction opportunities will help bonds in class make opportunities to be social together, both in and outside the class.
- ❖ Feedback Let students have a voice in class but frame it as feedback on routines or activities, rather than person (teacher or peer) related.
- ❖ Recognition Celebrate successes.
- ♣ Laugh a lot. Bring jokes into learning, laugh at yourself, tell stories, share mistakes with humour and show students we can laugh with, not at, one another.
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CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING: SOMETHING TO BE CONSIDERED

- 1. Assume that your students have a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences.
- Don't avoid discussing differences just because it may feel uncomfortable.
- 3. Treat all students in an equitable way. It's a subtle difference, but it would be better to emphasize equitable rather than equal treatment.
- 4. Don't **single** out **students** because of their **gender** or **race** and **expect** them to represent "the **view**" of women or **minorities**.
- 5. Be sensitive to the needs of students with disabilities without singling them out.

RELATIONSHIPS AND BEHAVIOUR

Students will be more **receptive** to learning well when classrooms are **calm** and **skillfully** managed.

Behaviour is one of the ways through which **students communicate unmet needs**.

Behaviour is **contextual** and **interactive**.



SOME CONSIDERATIONS

- Learn names early and glean information about students' interests, strengths and weaknesses.
- Try and find out potential triggers. Scan and observe.
- Use non-verbal body language well.
- ❖ Shouting can be uncomfortable for many students; avoiding this will create a more respectful and safer environment.
 - ❖ Try and learn empathic listening; this is good for clarifying and solving problems collaboratively without blame.
 - **❖ Humour** Avoid sarcasm.

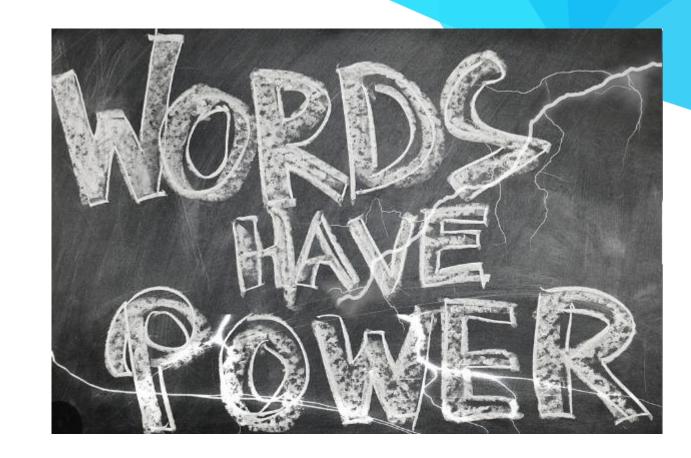


LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOUR

Language can be **positive** and **optimistic**, **emotive** and **misunderstood**.

Avoid asking students why they are doing a behaviour – probably they will have no idea. Frame your language around the behaviour you want to see.

Actions such as a **smile**, a **thumbs-up** and a **'thanks'** will **redirect** students towards **positive choices** – *hopefully!*



LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR: SOME STRATEGIES

❖ For **helping** to steer **resistant students** in the right direction, try the '**broken record**' **technique**.

State **positively** what you **want** a student to **do** and **wait**; **repeat** the **instruction** and **expect** compliance, adding a 'thanks' and **repeat again** if needed.

A Language of choice.

Provide the students with **two** or **three choices**, all of which are **appropriate**. This gives students back a **sense** of **control** and an **opportunity not** to go **into battle**.



LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR: SOME STRATEGIES

Catching students making good choices and specifically praising them works well for all ages and can be used to teach self-regulation.

Most students **seek affirmation**, so **praising on-task**behaviors has a ripple effect, because students see what is **required** to **receive praise** and **follow suit**.

It works because it **reinforces** your **expectations** and **gives attention** to the students living up to your expectations.



USE THE TECHNOLOGY

- Because of technology, you can communicate with your learners at any time from anywhere.
- Use technologies that will best help you reach your students, but be careful to avoid overkill.
- Always try out your technology before you unleash it on your class.
- ❖ Have a backup plan.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.

http://www.coolmath-games.com (English) logical mathematical games, section with games for the study of the English language (reading and spelling), science and geography.



http://www.do2learn.com (English) site specializing in autism; games to learn numbers, colors,

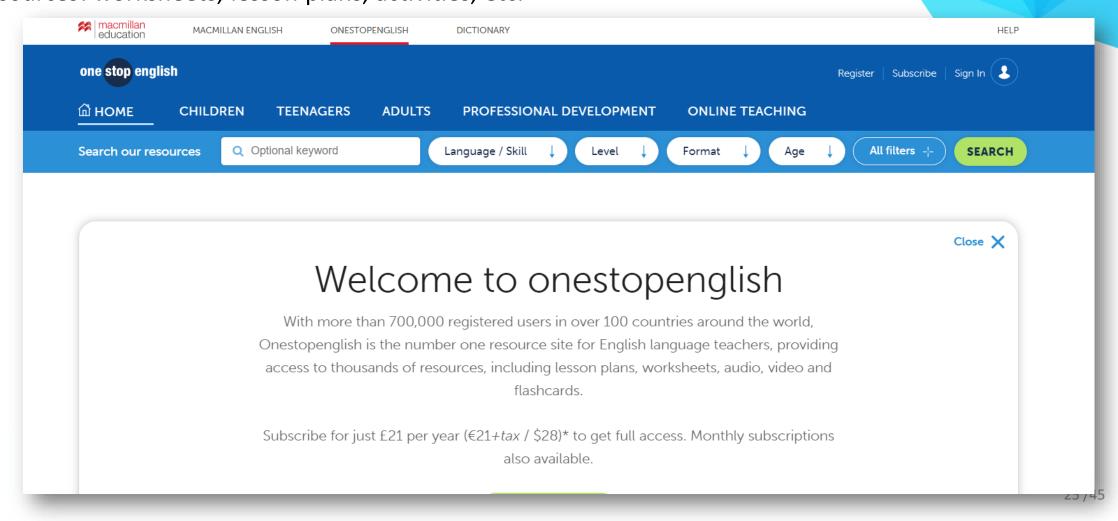
vocabulary.



<u>http://www.eslprintables.com</u> (English) The website where <u>English Language teachers exchange</u>
resources: worksheets, lesson plans, activities, etc.



http://www.onestopenglish.com/ (English). The website where English Language teachers exchange
resources: worksheets, lesson plans, activities, etc.

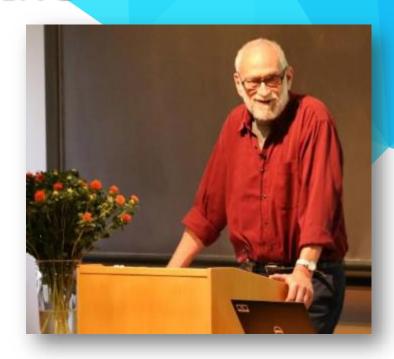


RESISTANCE TO LEARNING

Knud Illeris, an educator from Denmark, writes about situations when learning does not occur:

- The first of these is mislearning, where a person simply learns something incorrectly." The problem here is that once we mislearn something, its very hard to unlearn.
- A second situation is what He calls defense. This is when learners may reject ideas outright.

It can **occur** in **situations where long-held beliefs** are being **challenged** or when **someone** just **does not want** to **learn** a **new way** to do something.



3. The **third situation** He describes is **resistance**.

RESISTANCE TO LEARNING



Negative resistance is what typically comes to mind; these are forces, like the wind in the above example, that restrict or restrain forward movement.





When we are **bombarded** with **information**—the Internet, social media, twenty-four-hour news cycles, and the like— we have to **make choices** about **what** we **pay attention** to and **what we choose to ignore**.

REASONS FOR RESISTANCE

- **Previous negative experiences**. Many students come to you with a history of negative past experiences.
- ❖ Situational factors. Sometimes, resistance can be caused by factors that have nothing to do with the topic, content, or teacher.
- Mandatory participation. While we know that most adult learners choose to participate voluntarily, there are times when they are required to attend training, workshops, in-service programs, or other educational activities.
 - Choosing not to learn. Learning is a choice that each of us makes, and sometimes, we may simply choose not to learn about something.



Perceived irrelevance. One of the most frequent problems that can lead to learner resistance is the belief that what one is learning is of little value and will not make a difference.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Ask** whether the **resistance** is **justified**.
- **Sort out** the **causes** of the resistance.
- Involve students in planning.
- **Explain** your **intentions** clearly.
- **!** Involve former resisters.
- **❖ Work** to build **trust**.
- **Strike** a **bargain** with total **resisters**.



INCREASING LEARNER MOTIVATION: THE ARCS MODEL

The instructors can increase learner **motivation** by **paying attention** to **four things**:

Attention

Relevance

Confidence

Satisfaction



THE ARCS MODEL

In order to be a motivating instructor, you must use strategies that will

- (1) **Get** the learner's **attention**;
- (2) **Demonstrate** that **what** you **are teaching** is **relevant** to the **learner**;
- (3) **Build confidence** that the students can **learn what** is **being taught**;
- (4) **Demonstrate** that there is a "payoff" for the learner.

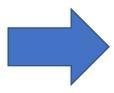


STRATEGIES TO KEEP THE MOTIVATION

Getting and **keeping** learners' **attention** is **essential** to successful **learning**.



One **strategy** is to arouse curiosity *using* controversy or conflict.



Sometimes, saying **something provocative** will get **attention quickly** and will start a **discussion**.

By **doing something** that is **out of character for you**, which learners will notice **right away** and it will **grab** their **attention**.

Another way to get attention is by using humor. Now this is a tricky one because it can come with risks.

Using an activity or asking a question that can lead to discussion turns the focus on the learners, and they are likely to respond by paying attention and contributing to the activity.

If you can **connect** what **you are teaching** to the life **experiences** of the **learners**, they should **immediately** see the **value** of the **topic**.

Let **learners see** that the **topic** is **relevant** to them is to let them **know** what they will be able to "**take away**" and **use immediately**.

Make the **learning** relevant is to give learners the **chance** to **make choices** whenever possible.



To increase the learners' expectations that they can succeed, your job is to find ways to

help build **confidence**:

- **Be clear** about **what** is **expected**.
- Another aspect of confidence building is the question of difficulty.
- Providing opportunities for learners to be successful.
- ❖ Consider the learners' experience. The more the learner is able to exercise control— such as engaging in problem-solving activities or projects that involve making choices—the greater the opportunities for building confidence.



There is an **important distinction** between **intrinsic** and **extrinsic motivation**.

Intrinsic motivation is when rewards come from within the learner (e.g. sense of achievement, confidence in being able to apply what was learned, curiosity about learning more about the topic, and satisfaction with what has been learned).

Extrinsic motivation is when rewards come from outside of the person (e.g. grades, praise, or incentives such as pay raises or promotions).

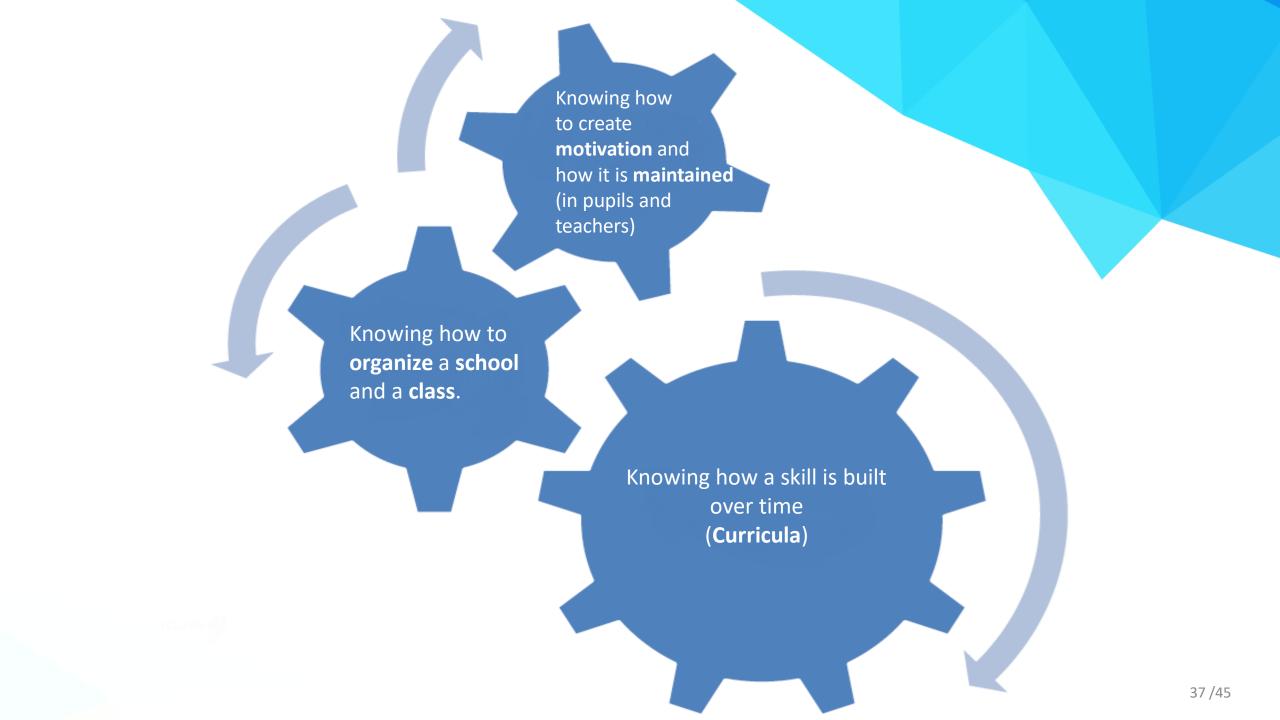


TOOLS FOR AN INCLUSIVE TEACHING

The class and/or group are the resource.

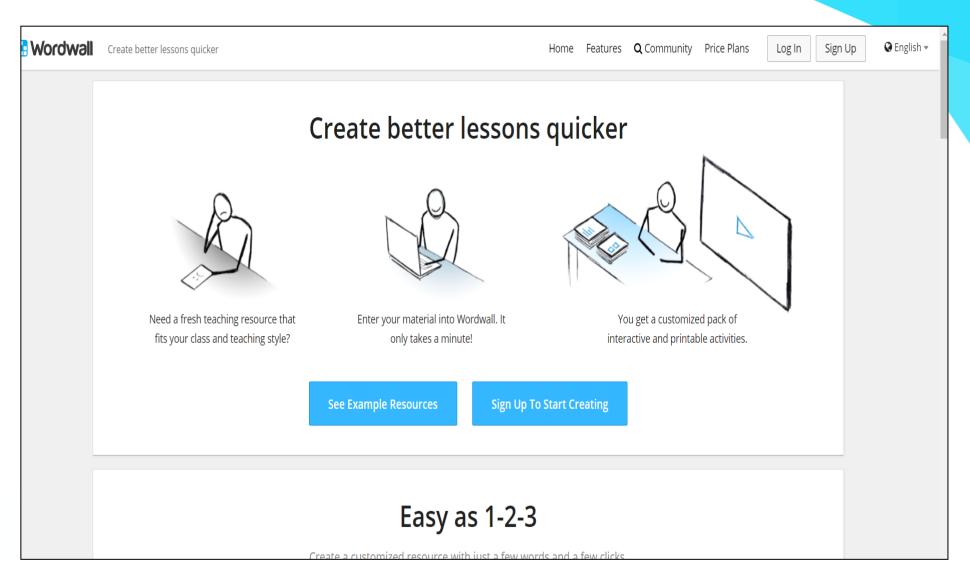
The **methodologies** make the **difference**.

Reflection



Teacher can easily **create lessons**, **educational activities**, exercises and **online games** to be carried out mainly in the classroom using the **IWB**.

https://wordwall.net

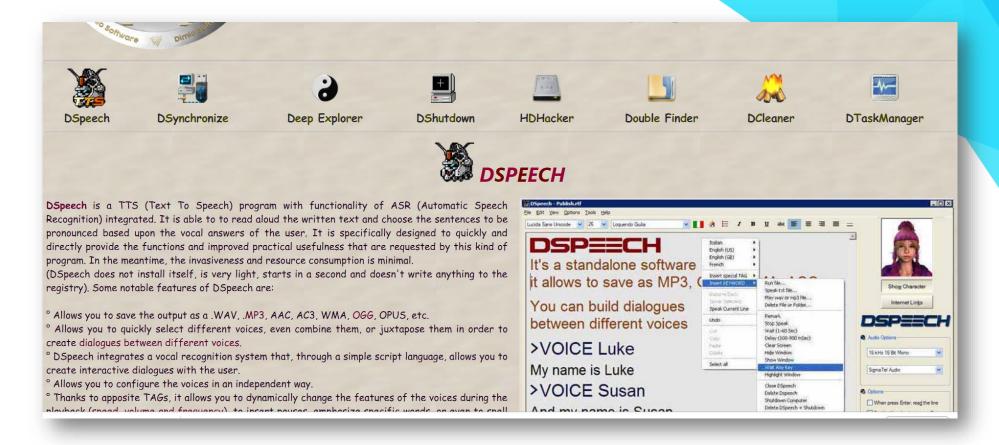


https://www.thinglink.com/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXOc86zm7bY

For quickly creation of interactive images and communicate effectively by involving students.





- ❖ It is **able** to **read aloud** the **written text** and choose the **sentences** to be **pronounced** based upon the **vocal answers** of the user.
- ❖ It is specifically **designed** to **quickly** and **directly** provide the **functions** and improved **practical usefulness** that are requested by this kind of program.

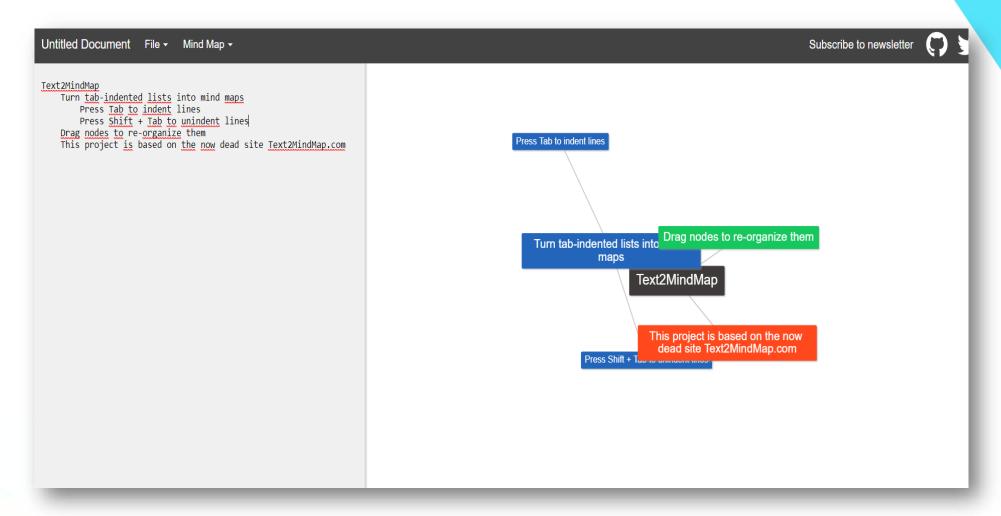
Balabolka is a **Text-To-Speech** (TTS) program. All computer voices installed **on your system are** available to **Balabolka**.

http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm



https://tobloef.com/text2mindmap/

It generates **mind maps** by converting a **list** with **titles** previously **created** with the **help of a small editor** and allows you to **download maps** obtained in jpg format.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? TEACHER BENEFITS

➤ Professional Development:

Coaching provides **ongoing**, **targeted professional development** for **teachers**, helping them refine their
instructional **techniques** and stay **current** with educational **trends**.

- > Individualized Support:
 - **Coaches** work **individually** with **teachers**, providing tailored **support** based on **their unique needs**, **strengths**, and **areas for growth**.
- > Skill Enhancement:

Through **coaching**, **teachers** can **enhance** their **instructional skills**, classroom **management strategies**, and other **aspects** of their **teaching practice**.

> Collaborative Learning:

Coaches **foster a culture of collaboration** among **teachers**, providing opportunities for **sharing** best **practices**, collaborating on projects, and learning from one another.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? TEACHER BENEFITS

> Reflective Practice:

Coaching encourages **teachers** to engage in **reflective practice**, fostering self-awareness and a **deeper understanding** of their **teaching methods** and their impact on **students**.

> Increased Confidence:

As teachers receive positive feedback and guidance through coaching, they often experience an increase in confidence, leading to a more effective and enjoyable teaching experience.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? STUDENT BENEFITS

> Individualized Support:

Coaching allows **teachers** to **address** the **specific** needs of **individual students**, providing **personalized** support **tailored** to their **learning styles** and **challenges**.

> Inclusive Education:

Coaches can support **teachers** in **implementing inclusive practices**, ensuring that the **diverse needs** of all students, including those with **special needs**, are **met**.

> Increased Academic Achievement:

Effective coaching can lead to improved instructional strategies, helping students better understand and engage with the curriculum, ultimately enhancing academic performance.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? STUDENT BENEFITS

> Enhanced Learning Strategies:

Coaches can **collaborate** with **teachers** to **implement** and model **effective learning strategies**, empowering students with **tools** to become more **effective** and **independent learners**.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? STUDENT BENEFITS

> Improved Classroom Environment:

Coaching may **contribute** to a **positive** and **inclusive classroom environment**, fostering a sense of **belonging** and **promoting** a conducive atmosphere for learning.

- ➤ Increased Engagement and Motivation:
 Coaching can help teachers design engaging lessons that capture students' interest, increasing their motivation to participate actively in the learning process.
- ➤ Enhanced Communication Skills:

 Coaches can assist teachers in developing effective communication skills, creating a classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable expressing themselves and engaging in discussions.
- Social-Emotional Development:

Coaches can work with teachers to integrate socialemotional learning into the curriculum, supporting students in developing crucial skills such as selfawareness, empathy, and responsible decision-making.



WHY COACHING FOR INCLUSIVE TEACHING? FURTHER CONCERNS





Concerns about the availability of resources, both in terms of personnel and materials, to support the implementation of coaching in the school.



Inadequate Leadership Support:

Lack of support from school leadership can be a major concern. If administrators do not actively endorse and promote coaching, teachers may question the legitimacy and value of the initiative.



Resistance from Colleagues:

Teachers might face resistance or skepticism from their colleagues who are not accustomed to a coaching culture or who view coaching as unnecessary.



Measuring Effectiveness:

Concerns may arise about how the effectiveness of coaching will be measured and whether it will lead to tangible improvements in teaching and learning outcomes.



Mismatched Expectations:

Misalignment
between the
expectations of
teachers,
administrators, and
coaches may lead to
frustration and
dissatisfaction with
the coaching process.



Cultural Shift:

Implementing coaching requires a cultural shift towards a more collaborative and reflective teaching environment.

Concerns may arise about the feasibility of making such a shift.



SOLUTION-FOCUSED MODEL

- Focuses on the future and desired outcomes: Helps students identify their goals and aspirations, not dwell on past problems.
- Future-oriented questions: Uses questions like "What would success look like?" or "What small steps can you take towards your goal?" to guide self-discovery.
- Strengths-based approach: Builds on students' existing strengths and resources to achieve their goals.
- Collaborative partnership: Coach and student work together to develop solutions and action plans.
- Small, achievable steps: Breaks down goals into manageable steps to build confidence and momentum.
- Focus on exceptions: Identifies times when the student has already been successful, even if in a limited way, and builds upon those experiences.

Thank you for attention! Follows us:











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