Teaching Spanish as a foreign language: tools and resources for the modern ELE teacher

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Abstract: Teaching a foreign language is a tricky business, and it is not as straightforward as one could suspect. Even though you will be teaching something you have learnt during a life time, the way of teaching and the cultural differences you may encounter will make this a very tough task. In this article, useful tools and resources are presented. The aim is for this article to serve as a guide for new teachers of ELE (Español como Lengua Extranjera, Spanish as a foreign language).

Keywords: ELE, Spanish as a second language, Spanish, teaching

Introduction

Teaching Spanish to non Spanish speakers is a very daunting task. Spanish speakers take for granted that verbs have many forms and tenses, and there are many levels of treatment to people according to the familiarity or level of respect. This is not necessarily the case with all languages. In addition, cultural differences may cause problems. This guide of resources is not intended to be a stand-alone guide, but an aid to already-trained teachers. There are excellent teacher training programs for ELE, that go beyond the scope of this article.

Tool and resources

Each of the following tools and resources has plenty of material to prepare your Spanish classes for foreigners. You will never need to use all of them.

Interactive sites for education: discover Spanish
38 Interactive Lessons. Wonderful site to practice Spanish on your own. These activities work great with your SMART board or interactive whiteboard for whole group or small group instruction or use in the computer lab or at home for individual learning [http://interactivesites.weebly.com/spanish.html]

VIDEOELE
VideoEle is a fantastic website. Students and teachers have access to videos in Spanish, transcripts, exercises and interactive activities by levels. Learn Spanish in a fun way. [http://www.videoele.com/]

SPANISH PROFICIENCY EXERCISES
This is an amazing compilation of brief video clips in which native speakers of Spanish from various locations throughout Latin America and Spain demonstrate various language tasks. UTA (Austin).
[http://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/]

NEWS IN SLOW SPANISH
This Spanish Podcast and Spanish lessons published on their website contain hundreds of learning lessons from beginning to intermediate Spanish. You can listen and most importantly read their interactive transcripts on their website
[https://www.newsinslowspanish.com/]

ELCASTELLANO.ORG
Fantastic website with an excellent selection of articles and news about the Spanish Language. Don't miss the Argentinian-Spanish Dictionary, great work.
[http://www.elcastellano.org/]

PBS LATIN MUSIC USA
A great website spotlighting Latin music from the Public Broadcasting Service in USA.
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/latinmusicusa/#/en/exp/cat/welcom e]
MI VIDA LOCA - BBC LANGUAGES - SPANISH
An interactive video drama and Spanish course.
Mi Vida Loca takes you on an intrigue mystery adventure to
Madrid. Follow Merche's adventures around Spain!
http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/

SACA LA LENGUA
Very interesting 27 programs, 30 minutes long each
promoting the Spanish language by Fernando Olmeda,
RTVE.
http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/saca-la-lengua/

TODOELE
If you are a Spanish teacher you will find this website very
useful. If you are a student you will find many interesting
exercises. Scholarships, jobs offers for Spanish Teachers, etc.
http://www.todoele.net/

MOLINO DE IDEAS
A very creative and extremely useful website for learning
Spanish and having fun at the same time. Enjoy it!
http://molinodeideas.es/

REDELE
Open platform for anyone interested in the promotion of the
Spanish language. Articles on teaching methodology,
research and class materials. It is maintained by the Spanish
Ministry of Education.
http://www.educacion.gob.es/redele/

AUDIRIA
Online tool which freely supports your learning of Spanish,
offering podcasts to increase your knowledge of the
language.
http://www.audiria.com/index.php

FORMESPA
Formación de profesorado de español como lengua
extranjera. Open forum where ELE teachers exchange
knowledges and questions.
http://formespa.rediris.es/

SANTILLANA ELE
Great teaching materials by the publishing house Santillana
and the University of Salamanca.
http://www.santillanae.com/

PROFELAND
An interesting and inspiring website for Spanish teachers.
http://www.profeland.com/

PALABRAS EN EXTINCIÓN
If you love the Spanish, you will love this blog by Celestacha
Paraná.
http://palabrasenextincion.blogspot.co.uk/

Don Quijote de la Mancha
An interactive approach to Don Quijote de la Mancha by
BNE . Biblioteca Nacional de España
http://quijote.bne.es/libro.html

Global reading of Don Quijote de la Mancha
More than 2000 Spanish speakers have broadcasted the one
of the greatest novels of all times.
https://www.youtube.com/user/ElQuijote

QUIZLET
Memorize and/or create vocabulary lists with interactive
flashcards.
https://quizlet.com/subject/spanish/

Interactive samples DELE B1-B2 examinations
http://cvc.cervantes.es/ensenanza/dele/default.htm

DidactiRed
Centro Virtual Cervantes
http://cvc.cervantes.es/didactired/

Other materials from the Virtual Cervantes Centre
[http://cvc.cervantes.es/aula/matdid/]

Spanish Language Teaching materials in the Virtual
Cervantes Centre
http://cvc.cervantes.es/aula/matdid/

Destino DELE A1
C.M.Alegre Palazón, L.Quarello de Marcos,C.Valero Planas
http://www.blackcat-cideb.com/949-destino-dele-a1-
9788853012548.html

Destino DELE A2
C.M.Alegre Palazón, L.Quarello de Marcos,C.Valero Planas
http://www.blackcat-cideb.com/950-destino-dele-a2-
9788853012555.html

Destino DELE B1
C.M.Alegre Palazón, L.Quarello de Marcos,A.Romanacce
Guerra,M.Almarza Durán, M.D.Corchado Rubio
http://www.blackcat-cideb.com/1019-destino-dele-b1-
9788853012562.html
Destino DELE B2
C.M. Alegre Palazón, L. Quarello de Marcos, A. Romanacce Guerra, M. Almarza Durán, M. D. Corchado Rubio

Books for preparation of levels C1 and C2
David Giménez-Folqués
http://www.modeloexamendele.com/

Modelo de examen para la preparación del Diploma de Español nivel B1
Centro de español Costa de Valencia
http://www.costadevalencia.com/

Formespa
Information, resources, and activities developed by collaborators from the RedIris mailing list who teach Spanish as a foreign language
http://formespa.rediris.es/

Elenet.org
Websites for teachers of Spanish as a foreign language
http://www.elenet.org/

Materials magazine
Education Office of Spain in the USA and Canada
http://www.educacion.es/exterior/usa/

Centro Virtual de Recursos María Moliner
Education Office of Spain in Brazil
http://www.mec.es/exterior/bt/

MarcoELE magazine for teachers
MarcoELE.com
http://www.marcoele.com/

Aprendiendo un idioma para trabajar
Red Cross
http://portalb.cruzroja.es/portal/

E.L.E. Spanish as a Foreign Language
Aula Intercultural
http://www.aulaintercultural.org/

Spanish for teachers
This “Elementary Spanish Resources” page is divided into 3 sections, Lesson Plans, PowerPoints & Worksheets. Each containing specific resources for teaching Spanish to Elementary students.
http://spanish4teachers.org/elementaryspanishresources/

Spanish for classrooms
Online resources for Spanish teachers

Instituto Cervantes
Exists to promote the Spanish language; their website includes plenty of material for students and teachers of Spanish, plus up-to-date information about cultural events. Our teachers particularly like Lecturas paso a paso (short stories with pre- and post-reading exercises) and Pasatiempos de Rayuela (lexical, grammatical, sociocultural exercises)
http://cvc.cervantes.es/

Coffee Break Spanish
Offers 15-minute podcasts (from a Scottish schoolteacher) which you can download and put on your smartphone or just play from the website. There’s a premium version with extra materials, but you can access more than a hundred audio episodes for free.
http://radiolingua.com/coffeebreakspanish/

WordReference.com
Has the Concise Oxford Spanish Dictionary, alongside some from Espasa Calpe.
http://www.wordreference.com/english_spanish_dictionary.asp

Real Academia Española
Gives free access to one of the best (monolingual) Spanish dictionaries.
http://www.rae.es/

diccionarios.com
Provides access to dictionaries from Vox, including their English<>Spanish offering.
http://www.diccionarios.com/

Tomísimo
Is an English-Spanish bilingual learners' dictionary that makes finding words easy by automatically searching in both languages.
http://www.tomismo.org/

Veinte Mundos
This magazine has interesting articles about the Spanish-speaking world, for intermediate & advanced learners. Each article has helpful integrated pop-up vocabulary and an audio
reading which allows simultaneous reading and listening. There's also a section for teachers.
http://www.veintemundos.com/

Tecla
is a magazine (including exercises) written for learners and teachers of Spanish, with a searchable subject index of past issues. It is produced monthly during term-time by the Spanish Embassy in the UK.
http://www.mecd.gob.es/reinounido/publicaciones-materiales/publicaciones.html

Radio FLE
Claims to be the first radio station for learners of Spanish as a foreign language.
http://www.fundacionlengua.com/radiofle/

Viaje al pasado: los aztecas
El perfecto simple y el imperfecto en la narración y la descripción. Attractive interactive multimedia site providing a broad context for all verb forms. Includes animations which explain use of verb forms, 45 exercises and two adventure games in pre-Hispanic Mexico.
http://rea.ccdmd.qc.ca/ri/aztecas/

El Camino de Santiago
Is another excellent video-based site by the same team at Cégep du Vieux Montréal, this time using the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route to focus on ser, estar, en, a, por, para; identificación, definición, descripción, localización, desplazamiento, causa y finalidad. Woven in with the pilgrim interviews are 48 exercises at level A1-A2.
http://camino.ccdmd.qc.ca/

Todo Claro
Offers more than 100 grammar, vocabulary, situation and cultural exercises at all levels. Also has a verb conjugator, though the old Comp-jugador is more comprehensive.
http://www.todo-claro.com/e_index.php

The Spanish CALL Project
Has lots of exercises, grammar and links. See also Ejercicios de lengua española - a collection of on-line grammar exercises from Juan Ramón de Arana.
http://www.indiana.edu/~call/

Learn Spanish
a free online tutorial.
http://www.studyspanish.com/

Spanish Food Dictionary

Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes
A comprehensive virtual library for Hispanic Studies, offering electronic editions of thousands of works spanning many centuries. This is a very valuable tool for students of Spanish.
http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/

Ciudad Seva
is the website of author Luis López Nieves, which has a good collection of links for Spanish literature & language.
http://www.ciudadseva.com/enlaces/ind-lit.htm

Proyecto Sherezade
has contemporary short stories in Spanish by authors from all over the world, plus vocabulary and grammar exercises, comprehension questions etc.
http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~fernand4/

El Mundo
is one of Spain's most popular newspapers, which also has La Revista on-line, its Sunday supplement with a good range of full-text articles.
http://www.elmundo.es/

El País
is another popular daily.
http://elpais.com/

El Periódico
Catalunyan daily paper (in Castillian).
http://www.elperiodico.com/es/

ABC Electrónico
right leaning daily news from Spain.
http://www.abc.es/

TVE Internacional
television schedules
http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/

BBC Mundo
is the Spanish-language website of the BBC World Service - lots of features to read and watch, plus a live feed.
http://www.bbc.com/mundo

New York Times
newspaper in Spanish.
ele-uk
is the UK Association for the Teaching of Spanish in Higher
and Adult Education.
https://eleuk.wordpress.com/

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)
at the University of Texas is a comprehensive directory of
Latin American web resources organised by country and by
subject.
http://lanic.utexas.edu/

Universia.net
has lots of well-presented information on Hispanic higher
education.
http://www.universia.net/

Linred
Lingüística en la Red is an Internet journal on theoretical and
applied linguistics, with a slant towards issues in Spanish as a
Foreign Language.
http://www.linred.es/