

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Bee Dieu
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BeeD: Make yourself comfortable Where are you from? and what brings you here?

JamesChr: I am from CA, USA . . . I am here to learn because I am taking a Masters Program that has us using Tapped In

JamesChr: what does EFL mean?

BeeD: English as a Foreign Language

JamesChr: oh, right on

JamesChr: where are you?

BeeD: English taught to learners whose native language is not English and who do not live in an English speaking environment

BeeD: I'm in Sao Paulo, Brazil

JamesChr: yes, that's me all the way!

BeeD: I teach EFL to Franco-Brazilian students

JamesChr: I just returned from teaching in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

BeeD: oh...great! On work or holidays?

JamesChr: Now I teach in California, yet 100% of my students are labeled as EFL

JamesChr: what do you mean by work or holidays?

BeeD: well...if you are teaching in a school in California...then you are probably teaching ESL (English as a Second Language)

JamesChr: exactly

MiguelB joined the room.

JamesChr: but the terms are synonymous, no? What's the difference?

MiguelB: Howdy y'all

BeeD: who are your students? Foreign students who come for a period of time or immigrants who have established themselves in the US and do not speak

BeeD: English?

JamesChr: howdy Miguel

BeeD: HI Miguel, welcome

JamesChr: immigrants, however they are 2nd graders and their parents do not speak English well, therefore in the home they are still speaking Spanish, even though they live in the US

BeeD: yes...so this would be mainly ESL

MiguelB: Sounds like some of my students

JamesChr: However, when I spent 2 years teaching in Honduras the students were Honduran, in an obviously Spanish speaking country where I taught them with all instruction English

BeeD: it's a bit different because your students are immersed in the environment

JamesChr: where are you Miguel?

BeeD: this would be then EFL

JamesChr: so you teach adults Bee?

MiguelB: In Texas

JamesChr: ah yes, thank you

JamesChr: what level Miguel?

MiguelB: High School

BeeD: I taught adults in the past (business English) but have now been teaching at secondary school for more than 20 years

JamesChr: fantastic . . . why the change?

MiguelB: I'm right behind you Bee....

BeeD: well...first for practical and survival reasons

MiguelB: 20th year teaching....

BeeD: because I taught at the school where my children were studying so did not have to pay for it (it's a private and expensive school)

BeeD: and I could take them there and go back and follow

BeeD: and then because I prefer to be process oriented over result oriented

BeeD: and education in a secondary school gives you a lot of food for thought

JamesChr: is it French also . . . There is a French school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras that I was somewhat familiar with

BeeD: yes...it is the French system...still a remainder from colonial times...lol

JamesChr: hmmm . . . interesting difference between process and result

MiguelB: Oh! No! not the French thing again...had a tough time trying to translate the last time....LOL

BeeD: it's a bi-lingual school...all the subjects are taught in French

BeeD: but Portuguese and History/Geography of Brazil

JamesChr: I wonder and would imagine it is connected to the one in Honduras, yes?

JamesChr: yes

BeeD: They all respond to the French ministry of foreign affairs (edu dept)

JamesChr: Great!

BeeD: and follow French directives

LauraVi joined the room.

JamesChr: Listen, I'm gonna grab a bite to eat then return for the group at 2pm

JamesChr: be right back

BeeD: Hola Laura!

BeeD: OK

BeeD: it starts in 10 minutes

LauraVi: olá Bee, tudo bem??

BeeD: Vc fala portugues?

LauraVi: hi everybody

LauraVi: falo sim.

BeeD: que bom

LauraVi: vc é brasileira ou francesa

BeeD: Eu sou brasileira

BeeD: casada com um belga

BeeD: e trabalho na escola francesa

BeeD: e vc?

LauraVi: que bom. eu sou espanhola, moro na cidade de valencia e estudei portugues 3 anos

BeeD: Oh this is nice

LauraVi: agora tento passar o teste CELTA para ser profesora de ingles

JeffC joined the room.

BeeD: Ah...you were here last week..I did not recognize you..sorry...you were here as a guest

LauraVi: mas, agora estou estudando só ingles.

LauraVi: yes, I was here as a guest

LauraVi: I was chatting with Graham

BeeD: Hi Jeff

JeffC waves

LauraVi: hi Jeff

BeeD: Yes..you asked me about CELTA

BeeD: So now you are convinced

LauraVi: but I didn't know that you were Brazilian

BeeD: Well...I did not know you spoke Portuguese

LauraVi: I love your country and your people. I have a lot of friends from Brazil

LauraVi: just a little bit

BeeD: And I love Spain and have a son living in Barcelona

LauraVi: I love languages and also I have been working for years with international trade

LauraVi: goodjjjjjjjj

BeeD: What made you change?

LauraVi: I have been visiting some msn groups

LauraVi: I was chatting with more people about being teacher

LauraVi: etc....

BeeD: International trade should pay better than teaching

LauraVi: maybejjj I have never worked as a teacher, then I don't know about salary for teachers

LauraVi: anyway, I don't care about money

LauraVi: I prefer enjoying while I am working and international trade is very stressing

BeeD: pitiful salaries Laura...you'd better not care...lol

LauraVi: yeah

BeeD: is it? in what ways?

LauraVi: vou escrever em portugues isto que nao sei em ingles. tem muita competiçao entre colegas,

LauraVi: nem tem hora de saida

LauraVi: a lot of work

LauraVi: you must be a multitask person

LauraVi: lol

LauraVi: it is really stressing

BeeD: It's a rat race

LauraVi: yes

LauraVi: now

BeeD: lots of people competing for the same post and money

LauraVi: I am working in an academy

LauraVi: yes, but this was part of my past

LauraVi: now, I work with education

MiguelB: I am glad that you are back to speaking English....got very lost...

BeeD: Well...education is not easy either...but for those who like it...it is very rewarding

LauraVi: formação

LauraVi: lo siento Miguel

BeeD: you are training teachers?

MiguelB: It's okay...can understand some parts...but not very much...

LauraVi: I didn't know how to say something in English and I wrote in Portuguese. sorry

MiguelB: I understand....

BeeD: I have rewritten in English

BeeD: most ...

MiguelB: Yes I know that Bee and thank you for the translation from French....

LauraVi: it wasn't French

BeeD: well...Gabriella did a good job last presentation

MiguelB: That was a couple of weeks back...

BeeD: We had a presentation in French about 2 sessions ago Laura

LauraVi: ahhh, interesting

BeeD: and Miguel was referring to that

LauraVi: ok

LauraVi: good

LauraVi: teaching is going to be something new to me, can you tell me about it

BeeD: Gabriella Vernetto is a teacher of French and Spanish in Italy...lol

LauraVi: wow

BeeD: yes...

BeeD: Well...I think that teaching has a lot to do with management of people and resources if you want me to draw a parallel

BobZw joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Bob

LauraVi: ok

BobZw: hello

JamesChr: excellent parallel Bee

BeeD: Good to see you here today...long time no see

RitaZ joined the room.

BeeD: How are things at Talking Communities?

LauraVi: hi

BeeD: Welcome Rita

BeeD hugs Rita warmly

BobZw: good ty

RitaZ greets everybody here

AaronPC joined the room.

RitaZ and Bee especially

BeeD: Good morning Aaron

MiguelB: Howdy Rita

RitaZ: hi, Aaron

AaronPC: hi there

MiguelB: Howdya Aaron

BeeD: Rita is an EFL teacher in Argentina

JamesChr: wow! how many years?

LauraVi: hi

BeeD: and Bob is in charge of Talking Communities..a VoIP platform

JamesChr: and at what level?

RitaZ: thanks, Bee, yes! For more than 30...;-)

JamesChr: oh, great Bob

BeeD: <http://talkingcommunities.com> right?

BeeD: James is in California, Aaron is in Japan, Laura is in Valencia, Spain

BeeD: and Miguel in Texas

BobZw: right - also www.GlobalEschool.com

LauraVi: hello everybody. I am new in this room. Laura, from Spain, studying to attend celta course in Valencia. España

RitaZ: is James's question for me?all levels, mainly advanced

BobZw: I am located near Dallas, Texas

JamesChr: yes, thank you . . . advanced for adults or high school students?

BeeD: James is here because he is preparing his Master thesis

BeeD: on?

MiguelB: I'm close by Bob...San Antonio, Texas

MiguelB: kewl

RitaZ: CAE stds, (post FCE, teenagers and adults)

BobZw: howdy neighbor

BeeD: Jeff..where are you?

BJB2: Jeff is in Oregon

BeeD: BJ and Jeff are at Tapped In

JamesChr: Laura . . . I'd like to teach one day in Spain . . . do you have any recommendations?

RitaZ: what about you, James?

BJB2 . o O (and probably afk)

JeffC: no... just tired

JamesChr: I teach 2nd grade in California, USA, but just recently returned from teaching Kindergarten in Honduras for 2 years

LauraVi: you mean about cities

AaronPC: Wow...Honduras for two years....interesting.

JamesChr: My students are Hispanic/Latino so we are classified as English learners

RitaZ: what an experience, I guess

JamesChr: yes, was a dream come true for me

JamesChr: sure, regions or schools even?

JamesChr: My only way of finding a school would be via internet, but if you are then, well, I figured you would know first hand of maybe a good suggestion

LauraVi: first all of, I apologize because of my English, I will try to do my best

JamesChr: no problem, I understand completely

LauraVi: Spain is receiving a lot of immigration

AaronPC: What are you researching for your masters thesis, James?

SusanR joined the room.

JamesChr: immigration? in what sense?

LauraVi: people coming from all Europe

LauraVi: and South America

RitaZ listens to James's answer to Aaron

LauraVi: you know in Europe we speak many languages

BeeD: Well...the weather is much friendlier than in the North

JamesChr: I don't know yet. I just started the 2 year program, but I am studying in the area of Math, Science, and Educational Technology for Diverse Populations so it will be somewhere along those lines . . . any suggestions?

LauraVi: and it is becoming very important to learn languages

JamesChr: yes Laura. Spain is primarily speaking Spanish, though, right?

RitaZ: being here I can modestly suggest BLOGGING in education....?

AaronPC: Hmm...lots to think about there....collaborative problem solving in English?

LauraVi: right

BeeD: so it is...a joint effort...the Common European Framework for Languages is being adapted to the different countries setting common standards

LauraVi: but because of the European Union

JamesChr: Rita . . . why is that?

LauraVi: we need to improve our english

RitaZ: because we meet here to discuss topics connected with Blogging, Bee and Aaron are experts...

BeeD: Blogging in Foreign Languages might be an idea

LauraVi: English is the main language in Europe

RitaZ: right, Bee!

LauraVi: what blogging is

JamesChr: so if you need to improve the English there than maybe I might be able to find a job?

BeeD: well..blogging will be also the subject of our presentation at the WiAOC

LauraVi: am I the only one from Europe

JamesChr: that's good news

JamesChr: for me anyway

BeeD: to which you are all invited

LauraVi: sure

RitaZ: ntw, when are presenting Bee, what time?

LauraVi: I work in an academy and they usually employ native teachers to teach languages

BobZw: I saw a message from someone who replaced a LMS with educational blogging. Any input on how a BLOG would replace a LMS ?

RitaZ: LMS?

BeeD: <http://users.prof2000.pt/wia/oc/>

BeeD: You can have a look at the schedule here

BobZw: Learning Management System (LMS)

RitaZ: thanks, Bob

BeeD: it's free, it's online, it's a happening...lots of wonderful presenters and themes

RitaZ: and thanks, Bee , too lazy to look for it I was

AaronPC: Well...if you replace an LMS with a blog, I think an entirely different pedagogical approach should be considered.

BobZw: WIAOC ?????

LauraVi: I am lost;j

BeeD: we have several conversations going here..sorry

MiguelB: Blog is a web log Laura

LauraVi: thanks Miguel

BeeD: The url I gave you above is an online convergence

MiguelB: You can see one of mine at <http://www.trinoms1.blogspot.com>

BeeD: a series of presentations by EFL/ESL teachers

RitaZ: Bee, do you know whether the times in the page are in GMT?

BeeD: Yes they are

RitaZ: thanks

MiguelB: let me try that url again.. <http://www.trinom1.blogspot.com>

LauraVi: I know about blog

BobZw: Bee - just spoke with Andy Pincon while I was in Chicago yesterday. Is he involved with WIAOC ?

LauraVi: is it a personal website

BeeD: Aaron and I also have a site...which promotes blogging <http://dekita.org>

AaronPC: WIAOC = Webheads in Action Online Convergence

JamesChr: Miguel is this blog for your students or for others as well?

MiguelB: yep...I use it to teach lessons in mathematics

BeeD: Yes Bob. Andy is involved in WIAOC

BeeD: we will be using Alado

AaronPC: It is a conference that will take place next month online.

MiguelB: I set it up for anyone to visit...I chose some lessons in mathematics that have worked for me...I hope that students go in there and check them out and give me comments on them...along with teachers

JamesChr: was August the last time you updated it? How often do you change or update it?

AaronPC:

http://www.geocities.com/vance_stevens/papers/evonline2002/convergence2005.htm

MiguelB: I wrote three of them and have received 4 comments but they were from people who were not interested in mathematics

MiguelB: I have not made any changes on them since no comment were on whether they understood them or not.

RitaZ: uh, Miguel, I don't think any of us will offer better help..., we are language teachers...:-)

MiguelB: I know that...

BobZw: Miguel - do you include mathematical symbols and notation in your BLOG? What do you use to do them?

RitaZ: I'll be co presenting with Buthaina as well at WIAOC, on a project we carried out together, with my stds blog involved...

MiguelB: I often go out and use a word program to include math symbols...then I copy and paste it onto the blog

AaronPC: Wow....that sounds tedious. But I heard that it is possible to publish directly to Blogger from Word.

RitaZ: that's pretty cool, Aaron

BeeD: <http://www.wbloggar.com/>

MiguelB: <http://paralines.blogspot.com> was one that I used a word program to create

BeeD: made in Brazil

AaronPC: <http://buzz.blogger.com/bloggerforword.html>

RitaZ: brb

JamesChr: are any of you familiar with blogging in the area of elementary education?

BeeD: in the language area

BeeD: Anne Davis

BJB2: James, one way to use a "training blog" is to use the student campus group room threaded discussion boards

BeeD: <http://anvil.gsu.edu/EduBlogInsights/>

AaronPC: Yes...Anne always comes to mind when I think of elementary students blogging.

JamesChr: BJ . . . and have the students respond?

SusanR . o O (a third grade blog <http://jhh.blogs.com/mccullers/>)

JamesChr: how so Aaron?

JamesChr: thank you Susan

BeeD: Anne's new blog is at <http://anne.teachesme.com/>

BJB2: yes, James. We have a teacher who used the discussion board with her 2nd graders

JamesChr: Susan . . . that looks great!

AaronPC: Well...just because she has been using blogs with her young students for years now, and has contributed much to the community of edu-bloggers through her work, both on her blog and through the workshops in which she has participated.

JamesChr: wow! That would be very interesting BJ

BJB2: <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/perspectives/2005/bm.jsp>

JamesChr: yes, I would imagine it would take time, time, and more time

BJB2: the TI student campus also provides a safe place to bring your students

BeeD: Anne is absolutely fantastic!

AaronPC: Nice link Susan!

SusanR: Do check out Brooke Molnar's perspective on blogs with 2nd graders

RitaZ: yes, Susan looks so nice for kids!

BeeD: BTW...Jamie in Japan has made a podcast of his baby son's voice

BeeD: <http://discussenglish.blogspot.com/2005/10/my-babys-voice.html>

JamesChr: BJ how do I get to the TI campus?

BJB2: James, come to reception after Blogstreams and I'll show you

JamesChr: ok, thank you

MiguelB: Now that is something I haven't tried...adding voice to the lesson....would be something interesting...

SusanR: Canadian Grade 1 teacher Val Paley has only posted

SusanR: three entries so far this year, but they're

SusanR: interesting ones, and she has a really good list of

SusanR: links for the children to refer to. Her blog is at

SusanR: www.classblogmeister.com/blog.php?blogger_id=136

JamesChr: thanks Susan

RitaZ: have listened to Jamie's baby's voice, soo cute!

SusanR: our school district is using Blogmeister

SusanR: and Green Meadow Elementary School in the States has

SusanR: blogs for k-5 classes.

JamesChr: are all your teachers compliant within the district

RitaZ: any differences with Blogger?

SusanR: The school's main page is at

BeeD: Blogmeister is a bit too walled for me ...I like wide open spaces

SusanR: www.gmeadowelementary.blogspot.com

SusanR: I am sure educators are venturing out on their own

RitaZ: wow....what a wealth of sites!

RitaZ: (then we get them all on a list...., by Jeff, right?)

JeffC is doing it now

RitaZ thanks Jeff for the trouble he goes into

BeeD: Jeff is invaluable

RitaZ: HE IS

JamesChr: James seconds that notion

AaronPC: lol

BeeD: Bob..why don't you tell us more about EGLocal?

BeeD: What is it and who is it for?

AaronPC listens

BeeD: I hope Bob is still there

BobZw: Global Eschool is a fairly new portal for anyone who wants to teach online.

AaronPC: <http://www.globaleschool.com/>

BeeD: Thanks Aaron...I was just looking for it...you read my thoughts...as usual

BobZw: we use moodle as our lms and Talking Communities voice rooms as a teacher resource

MiguelB: I got a cannot read page...

MiguelB: is the URL correct?

BobZw: it is mostly a pay education portal where freelance teachers can earn extra \$\$\$

BobZw: <http://www.globaleschool.com/> works

BeeD: does not open here

BobZw: also offer on-demand on-line tutoring

BeeD: and what kind of courses are being offered?

MiguelB: I can't get in for some reason

JamesChr: me neither

BobZw: try this alternate entry <http://www.cottagemicro.com/moodle/>

BeeD: cannot open the URL either

RitaZ: I can, how strange

RitaZ: global school you mean?

BeeD: yes

BeeD: cottage micro opened

MiguelB: Yep it did but the other one didn't...

BobZw: the global is a redirect - which your browser may be set to reject

BeeD: IC

BobZw: courses can be academic, business IT, etc.

JamesChr: so how does this blogging help EFL students any more than another method?

AaronPC: Interesting Bob! I wonder what kind of response you have seen from learners so far?

RitaZ thanks Jeff for the list....., already in my mailbox!!!

BobZw: response is slow to grow. As we increase our catalog of courses I expect it to grow

RitaZ: but i guess the motivation itself is helpful!

BeeD: how much would a course cost for the learner?

RitaZ: kids must love to see their work online

BobZw: James.. I can see BLOGging combined with recordings (PODCASTING) as a valuable EFL strategy

JamesChr: how so?

BobZw: Bee - course fees are set by the teacher

JamesChr: and how do you overcome the lack of resources (i.e. computers, internet access, typing skills, time, parent support, etc.)?

BeeD: IC

BeeD: You just provide the platform

BobZw: yes - and moodle course building help

AaronPC: A place where learners can come for help and tutoring.

MiguelB: So the teacher sets the price...and the company adds on to the use of the facility....is that it?

MiguelB: Or does the teacher get charged for facility usage?

BobZw: teacher sets fee, site collects fee, teacher & GES split 60/40 (teacher 60%)

MiguelB: K!

BobZw: zero cost to teachers other than course development and class time

JeffC: you can also place RSS in discussion threads here at Tapped In... if you convert them.

AaronPC: I bet we'll see more of these type of internet enabled private tutor/learner relationships in the near future.

JamesChr: why would they be attractive to learners? What are some advantages?

BobZw: India is already providing low cost one-on-one e-tutoring

BeeD: private tutoring

AaronPC: Learners have the freedom to find tutors they like and learn from them.

AaronPC: tutors who are really good will be in demand.

MiguelB: I would also figure on the methodologies used to explain the same concept.

AaronPC: No more being stuck with a teacher you don't like.

BeeD: hehehe

RitaZ: that's great!

AaronPC: You can fire your teacher!

BobZw: lol

MiguelB: Sounds like my kids would love this...they hate me....LOL

AaronPC: LOL

JamesChr: interesting

BeeD: well...when I taught my son...I did it through blogging

BeeD: he in his room and I in the living room

RitaZ: how old was he, Bee?

BeeD: 16

BeeD: no...20

BobZw: I see online ed as an important resource for home schoolers

AaronPC: wow...that's pretty wild, Bee.

JamesChr: why would you teach your son through blogging Bee

BeeD: it took off the pressure mother/son

JamesChr: did you live in the same house with him at the time?

BeeD: yes

MiguelB: I had a hard time explaining things to my son....he would always say...that is not the way my teacher taught me to do it...

AaronPC: gotta run off to class....don't want to be fired just yet.

RitaZ: did he know it was you....? lol

AaronPC: See you all next week.

MiguelB: nite Aaron

BeeD: ciao Aaron

AaronPC: adios amigos

RitaZ: CU, Aaron, bye!

LauraVi: bye

AaronPC left the room (signed off).

BeeD: have a great week

BeeD: Well...my son needed some coaching in writing in English

SusanR: interesting, Bee!!

BeeD: and he complained I made faces when I corrected him or explained things to him f2f and this drove him nuts

BeeD: the blog in this case was nice...because we communicated in writing

MiguelB: Wish I knew about blogs...would have been easier to teach my son...

RitaZ: need to leave now, thank you Bee, James, Jeff and all, have a good week!

BeeD: Thanks for coming Rita...have a great week

MiguelB: Nite Rita

RitaZ left the room (signed off).

SusanR: interesting discussion..as usual

BeeD: I must be leaving you as well...still have some homework and tests to correct

BJB2: Thanks, Bee.

MiguelB: Nite Bee and thank you again

