

Nicky Hockly

Biodata

Nicky Hockly is Director of Pedagogy of The Consultants-E, an online teacher training and development consultancy. She has been teaching and training in ELT for the past 25 years, and she is co-author of *How to Teach English with Technology* (2007), *Learning English as a Foreign Language for Dummies* (2009), *Teaching Online* (2010), and *Digital Literacies* (2013). She has published an e-book, *Webinars: A Cookbook for Educators* (2012), and she maintains a blog at www.emoderationskills.com. She is currently writing a book about mobile and handheld learning in ELT, and is a technophobe turned technophile.



Abstract

Changing trends: Mobile devices & ELT

The Consultants-E

Our experiences of the world are increasingly mediated by mobile devices. From games and apps, to augmented reality and moblogging, mobile (or 'handheld') devices are now part of the fabric of daily life, and mobile literacy is an important skill in the 21st-century. In the arena of ELT, our learners now expect to be able to use their mobile devices in their language learning, and not just for downloading 'apps'. The affordances of even low-end mobile devices create opportunities for learners to produce content in class, not only to consume it out of class. In this plenary we explore why and how we can support the development of our learners' English language skills through the principled integration of handheld devices in our teaching. The changing trends represented by mobile devices do not mean we need to abandon or reinvent the essential principles of 'good' teaching. We discuss how the essential principles of communicative language teaching can be enhanced through the use of these devices and we consider the challenges facing teachers wishing to work with mobile devices in the classroom.