

Online writing practice: Practical ideas *from* and *for* teachers of English in India

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for the

‘Emerging challenges:
Constructive online
teaching and learning’

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Aims

- To explore ways of **overcoming the key challenges** that Indian children have in participating in English lessons.
- To focus on different **writing skills**, particularly those that are necessary and useful for writing online.
- To identify one or two **'low tech' ideas** for online teaching, useful to children who live in a **'one-phone' family**.
- To provide YOU with **opportunities to share your solutions** to the challenges of teaching online with each other.



Let's get to know each other

Please type short answers in the chat box:

1. Which state are you working in?
2. What grades do you teach? (e.g., 8-10, 1-5, 11-12, etc.)
3. What curriculum are you working to? (e.g., AP, Maharashtra, CBSE, etc.)
4. How many students are there in your average class? (e.g., 40, 20, 60)
5. What percentage of your students are you able to teach online? (estimate is fine – e.g., 50%, 10%, 90%)

What were you just doing in the chat box?

How would it be different from 'normal writing' for your students?



A webinar on online writing practice – let's use 'loop input'

- Loop input (Woodward, 2003) is where a teacher 'training' workshop uses ideas and activities that you can use in your classes.
- For example, in a webinar on dictation, I could dictate some tips for using dictation in the classroom.
- So this is a webinar on online writing practice. Let's use some tools that you can use with your learners for online writing practice.
- Do you know of any useful online tools?
- Let's try out Padlet.



Padlet (padlet.com)

- Free for basic plan (up to 3 padlets)
1. Here's the task: Go to the following Padlet site and contribute a short description to answer the question:

How are you helping your learners to practise writing online in these difficult times?

2. You can write 1 sentence, or a short paragraph.
3. Here's the link:
padlet.com/1jason/1

Click on the + sign to add your idea



What do you think of my idea?

“I get my students to do pieces of writing in their notebooks, then get their parents to take photos of the writing and send the photos to me on What's App. I look at the photos, and send both praise for success and a few (3-5) corrections back to the parent. They then show the corrections to their children, who make a note of the praise and corrections, and then self-correct their own work. This also gets the parents involved, and lets them see what I am doing with their kids.”

1. Would it work in your context?
2. What problems can you see?

*Write your answers
in the chat box?*




What is the easiest way to get students to write online during a webinar on Zoom, Teams, Google Meet, Blackboard, etc?

- Use the chat box!
- How can we use it?



- Basketful of Moonlight
- Poem by Sunil Sharma
- Maharashtra curriculum, gr 10.
- I will play teacher: You pretend you are the students. OK?
- Write your answers to my questions in the chat box.



O moon,
give me moonlight,
basketful or two baskets full,
with seeds of moonlight.

From the city to my village,
on the sides of the path
I want to sow many,
small, small moons of light.

The whole village goes to the city
daily to work.

It becomes dark on its way back
as my village is quite far.

The route is tough and full of
snakes and scorpions.


Neither bus nor cart **plies**.

When my father returns home
I am asleep.

And he goes back early in the morning
while I am sleeping.



- Now write about your mother's or father's work:
- 1. What is their job?
- 2. Where do they work?
- 3. How do they travel there?
- 4. When do you see them?
- 5. What do you say when you see them?
- Write your ideas here:
- padlet.com/1jason/class
- Or write them in your exercise book and ask your parent to upload a photo of your writing onto the Padlet.



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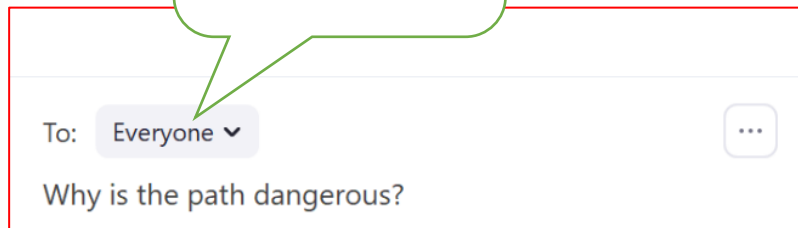
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- When using Zoom, you can also get the students to send an answer to you only.
- This is useful if you think they will be too shy to share it where everyone can see.
- They can also send messages to each other.

click here to
talk to just
one person



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Historically, in 1895, India was under the British rule. A different history was made that year at the Town Hall in Calcutta. An interesting **demonstration** was performed by Jagadish Chandra Bose, an Assistant Professor of Presidency College. Everyone was **overawed** when the electro-magnetic waves travelled from the Lecture Hall to a third room about 75 metres away. These waves passed through three solid walls. This was a remarkable and path-breaking incident which **paved** the way for future research all over the world.



Born on 30th November 1858 at Bikrampur (now Munshiganj district of Bangladesh), Jagadish Chandra Bose was a man of **diverse** talents: a physicist, biologist, botanist as well as a writer of science-fiction. His father, Bhagwan Chandra Bose, was a leader of the Brahmo Samaj. He worked as a Deputy Magistrate in Faridpur, Burdwan and in other places. Jagadish Chandra's education started in a Vernacular school because his father believed that one must know one's mother tongue before learning any other language. Besides, one should know one's own people. Speaking at the Bikrampur Conference in 1915, Bose said:

- Ask a question to the class about this text? Write your question in the chat box. **Any language.** Reply using '@'.
- (Text from W. Bengal state curriculum, Gr 7 English)



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- Now choose one person in the webinar. Send your question just to them. If someone asks you a question, send a reply and ask them a question.



Empowering English Learner's ORC (Online Reading Club)



Manjusha Sagrolikar, Maharashtra

- <https://youtu.be/GUTSgVEW5FY>

“We have been conducting online activities for 5th to 12th standard learners on What’s App. From 25th March to 5th June 2020 we have conducted daily live video conferencing sessions for developing reading skills and creating interest in reading.

Rupali Gojawadekar provides technical support. Sandhya Ardhapurkar designs online tests, games. And the whole team Jyoti Mani, Alifiya Alamdar, Rupali Nammewad, Vijay Khanake sir, Vrushali Patil, Vaishali Dubey have been taking excellent efforts for conducting zoom sessions. And I also had support from Pratishtha Bhavsar too!”



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Questions, comments, criticisms, concerns?

References

Woodward, T. (2003). Key concepts in ELT: Loop input. *ELT Journal*, 57(3), 301-304. <https://academic.oup.com/eltj/article/57/3/301/430488>

