**iPads in the Languages Classroom**

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**Planning Lessons**

**Use iPads at beginning of lesson to engage students:**

* Revise language learnt in previous lesson
* Brainstorm on a new topic
* Start lesson with a challenge or puzzle to solve (accessing online resources)

**Use iPads during lesson as part of learning activities:**

* Consolidate new language just learnt
* Create an audiovisual presentation / storybook
* Present to class (eg. Expert Student on a concept, present on a topic…)
* Take pictures of notes on whiteboard and annotate
* Receive and send emails
* Complete online activities eg. shopping, real estate,
* Carry out research projects
* Do listening activities at own pace and with repetition
* Play a game
* Compete in a dictionary challenge
* Survey classmates and graph results
* Map out understanding of a listening or reading (eg. using Tools4Students - 99c)
* Record video of roleplays
* Record audio vocabulary lists for revision at home
* Complete a survey online

**Use iPads at end of lesson to reward, record and reflect:**

* Note down / record (audio) homework
* Mindmap new concepts and language learnt that lesson
* Write a summary of content covered
* Use a reflection tool (eg. I Know, I Think, I Wonder)

**Where do I start?**

**Start with small steps and leap to big ones! Try a short, simple activity to begin with – try it out in a range of classes in slightly different ways. Each week try something new and keep adding.**

**If you haven’t yet started using iPads consistently in your classroom, try:**

* Playing Bingo (DrawFree / DoodleBuddy)
* Practising vocabulary using audio and visual flashcards / quizzes (Language-specific App)
* Doing a Wordsearch / crossword (Language-specific App)
* Playing a game to practise specific vocabulary (Emily Dress Up, e-Flash Baby Cards, Language Essentials, AniMots) or verb conjugations (MakeDice)
* Practising characters and stroke order (Kids Mandarin, Kana)
* Doing a dictionary challenge (Language Dictionary / Word Reference / Internet)

**Then try getting students to**

* Create postcards with audio (Bill Atkinson Photocard)
* Write a letter to introduce themselves (Pages)
* Make a presentation similar to powerpoint to introduce their family (Keynote)
* Create their own flashcards with images and audio (A+ Flashcards Pro)
* Brainstorm to revise vocabulary (Popplet)
* Write an invitation to a party (Pages)
* Search for directions in the target language country and take screen shots of the street view (Maps)
* Take a photo of a friend and write a description (Camera)
* Record a roleplay dialogue with characters (PuppetPals)
* Create a comic strip using dialogues practiced in class (StripDesign)
* Write a basic story using characters or animals (Picturebook / StoryKit)
* Reflect on a story heard using Beginning, Middle End; revise historical events in a Timeline; look for similarities and differences between school systems in a Venn Diagram / Compare Contrast; reflect on learning using a KWL (Tools4Students)
* Take part in ‘social networking’ for academic purposes (Edmodo)

**Then try asking students to ‘teach’ what they have learned – they can**

* Create a presentation that introduces new vocabulary with photos and record their own voices in the target language (Educreations)
* Take a photo of the notes on the board in class and annotate (and record voice) to explain what has just been learnt (Educreations / Explain Everything)
* Make a presentation that explains a grammatical concept with photos, videos, annotation and text (Explain Everything)

**Then try putting students into collaborative groups (they can work on individual tasks but collaborate to share meaning, get help, ask questions or evaluate each other’s tasks)**

* Get students to do a websearch to acces information on a theme or concept (Safari / Google)
* Develop a ‘tree’ of weblinks and documents relating to a particular concept (Pearltrees)
* Plan a mini-lesson to the class explaining a grammatical / cultural concept, including activities for practice and opportunities for questions from classmates (Explain Everything)
* Provide tiered tasks according to needs / ability / readiness, enabling each group to begin at an appropriate entry point and to develop their skills further (with a common focus across the class)
* Help students to link up to one another online in order to brainstorm collaboratively from separate iPads (MindMeister)
* Get students to read a story, extract the basic structures to provide the model for their own writing, help them to write their own stories (Creative Book Builder)

**A few simple ways to start using iPads in your Languages classrooms**

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| **Get students to** | **Using** |
| * prepare a short presentation explaining a grammatical structure (eg. general revision) or presenting some ways to remember a list of vocabulary (consolidation)
 | Keynote |
| * do a brainstorm or mindmap of the vocabulary associated with a topic (establishing prior knowledge OR at any stage while studying a theme)
 | Popplet |
| * take a photo of the notes on the board and then make a very short presentation with sound that explains those notes (get them to email this to several friends – to be used for HW revision)
 | Educreations |
| * create a postcard with audio – submit via email
 | Bill Atkinson Photocard / LifeCards |
| * revise vocabulary
 | A+ Flashcards Pro |
| * find two Prezis to view that look at a particular tense in the target language OR that cover aspects of the target culture
 | Prezi viewer |
| * play Bingo or do short vocabulary quizzes
 | iDraw / Drawing Box / DoodleBuddy / GlowDraw |
| * create short ‘roleplay’ using characters (can insert photos of famous people accessed online, or photos of family or friends accessed via camera roll)
 | PuppetPals |
| * sign up to be informed of articles published in areas of interest eg. cultural or political events of interest in the target language country/countries
 | Flipboard / Zite |
| * make a presentation about interests / family / food…
 | Explain Everything  |
| * write a recipe / an invitation / a house advertisement / a brochure
 | Pages |
| * get students reflecting and recording ideas / thoughts about what they know and are learning
 | Tools4Students |
| * create a cartoon strip
 | StripDesign |
| * create a trailer for a movie
 | iMovie |
| * annotate student work and return to them (either embedded – can’t be changed – or still able to be changed eg. if code-marking)
 | iAnnotate / GoodReader |
| * create a simple storybook with basic pictures (people, animals, transport…)
 | Book Creator / StoryKit / StoryBoards / PictureBook |
| * create a book with cover page and chapters
 | Creative Book Builder |
| * dictionary challenges / searches
 | LeoDictionary / specific language dictionary |
| **Specific Topics*** Animals: create a weird animal, describe and email to teacher
* Clothing: Practise vocabulary
* Family: map out family tree
* Characters: show stroke order of characters
* Verb conjugations: practise pronouns, verbs and tenses
* Colours / clothes / transport / numbers / alphabet / foods: practise vocabulary using flashcards that incorporate image with audio, test students…
 | Animal Creator Suzy / Emily DressUpAncestryArt of GlowMake Dice (Lite)Living Language Greek / Duolingo Greek / Learn Greek (Greg Vick) / Learn Greek verbs (iEdutainment) |

**Educreations (FREE)**

Educreations is an extremely simple App that can be used in numerous ways. When opened, what you see is a whiteboard area that can be used for writing or to display any image. Students then select a pen tool and record their voices and write on the board with a finger or stylus, or type using the keyboard. They can create several slides, step through the recording in several stages, pausing as many times as needed to erase the board and/or load new images. This App can be used for tasks as simple as a mini-whiteboard for quizzes and drawing in class, to a presentation tool explaining concepts or presenting ideas to the class (in some ways, a very simple version of Explain Everything).

**Explain Everything ($2.99)**

Explain Everything is an easy-to-use tool for creating dynamic, interactive presentations using images, text, video and audio. Explain Everything records on-screen drawing, annotation, object movement, video playing, and captures audio via the iPad microphone. Originally designed as an App for creating ‘tutorials’ or lessons, this App is ideal for getting students to create engaging, language-rich presentations on a variety of topics.

**Bill Atkinson Photocard (FREE)**

With PhotoCard students can make postcards on the iPad and send them on-the-spot via email. The app is very easy to use. To create a PhotoCard, students select one of the nature photos or use a photo from the camera roll (eg. saved images from the Internet of places/monuments etc). Then, they flip the card over to type a message and address. They can add an audio message to the postcard and can decorate with stickers and stamps.

**Tellagami (FREE – there is a paid version Tellagami Edu)**

Tellagami allows your students to create customized animated scenes in a matter of minutes. To create a narrated, animated scene students simply open Tellagami and tap “create.” After opening the create menu students will see a default character and background scene. The characters can be altered by selecting from a big menu of customization options. The background scenes can be changed by selecting from a menu or by inserting a picture from the iPad’s camera roll. To add their voices to their animations students simply tap “record” and start talking. Completed animations are stored on the camera rolls of your students’ iPads. Tellagami does not require students to create accounts or have an email address.

**Keynote (generally already on students’ iPads)**

Keynote is like Powerpoint.

**Edmodo (FREE)**

A social networking website for schools, students can share ideas, post text, ask questions, and collaborate with their peers and teachers. The teacher creates an account for a class – this looks very similar to a Facebook page – and can start conversations, post updates, give information about class work, and set homework eg. post a paragraph about your weekend, share questions about a test, visit a website link etc

**A+ Flashcards Pro (FREE)**

Create Flashcards by adding text, image, drawing an image and recording audio. While reviewing vocabulary, students can sort cards into three ‘bins’: known, not sure, not known, to help focus on those items not yet memorized. With a click, restart whole set including all to revise entire set of flashcards. This can be time-consuming to set up, but useful for those students who like to revise in this way.

**Pages (generally already on students’ iPads)**

Pages is like Word – students can create typed documents. Pages allows students to easily add in photos of notes from the board, which can be very useful to accompany their own notes. If focusing on a particular text-type, students can choose a layout that helps them to format it appropriately eg. invitation, report, letter etc (with limitations, as these formats are not culturally-specific…).

**iMovie (generally already on students’ iPads)**

iMovie is an incredibly simple way of creating short movies or trailers. Students can use images or video, all easily dragged together to make a film, then moved around and edited within minutes. Students can practise language by creating presentations on a topic being studied, put together interviews with questions, design advertisements – all language-rich tasks using a simple tool that makes their end product look great.

**MakeDice Lite (there is a paid version – allows you to add images to the dice)**

MakeDice Lite is an App designed for people to roll the dice and decide who has to cook, who has to do the dishes etc (!!). This App can be used for practising verb conjugations! Younger students can practise one verb by rolling one die showing pronouns. For a more challenging activity, they can roll two dice, six verbs on one, six pronouns on the other. This is quite hard as students need to mix up six different pronouns with six different verbs (in whichever tense they are practising). Things really get interesting for your senior students though: six pronouns, six verbs and six tenses!