Didattica della lingua inglese 1

Lesson 8

CALL – Computer Assisted language Learning

Storytelling

About lesson 7

- In today's lesson we are going to...
  - Look at different forms of CALL
  - Using computer-based exercises
  - Using blogs and wikis in your teaching
  - Creating exercises with templates
- We are also going to focus on storytelling activities
  - How to *read* a story to children of different ages
  - How to *tell* a story to children

Part 1

CALL
Computer-assisted language learning

CALL – an introduction

- CALL is
  - a *computer*-assisted language learning method
    - It can be contrasted with *book-*, *library-*, *pen-* or *cassette*-assisted methods.
  - a series of tools which *assist* language learning, especially in contexts where the teacher is not present
    - e.g. in *blended learning*, *self-access learning*, distance learning, and all forms of autonomous learning

CALL – an introduction

- How is CALL different from F2F (face to face) teaching?
  - Most CALL is done outside the classroom: learners are in control of the learning process
  - A computer can offer feedback and other help, <u>but only when programmed to do so</u>.
    - By contrast, a teacher can explain, re-cast, cross-reference and provide *ad hoc* examples of specific language points, gauging his/her output by the learners' specific requirements.
  - CALL is essentially quiz-based, so has a preference for test-centric teaching rather than inductive learning
  - CALL is typically designed for individual learning, so no pair-or group-work, and no class-based discussions.

CALL & the multimedia revolution

- The most important feature of CALL was, and still is, the way in which it can combine different channels of information.
  - This may not seem significant to you now, but even 10 years ago it was a major breakthrough for language pedagogy.
- In CALL exercises, you can read & listen, listen & write, watch & listen, watch & write, listen, watch & select...

  ...and it is the learner who decides how fast the pace is
    - s/he can pause the audio, rewind it, fast-forward it
    - s/he can choose whether or not to listen to a written text
    - s/he can choose to follow up on links

CALL: some of the benefits

- CALL exercises are self-contained
  - Each exercise can be completed in isolation from the others, even if it forms part of a learning module
- CALL exercises are self-correcting
  - The answers are programmed into the exercises; sometimes feedback can also be provided
- CALL exercises are self-regulating
  - Learners have the freedom to choose the exercises that interest them
  - Learners can decide how much time to spend on each exercise / learning session

CALL: exercise types

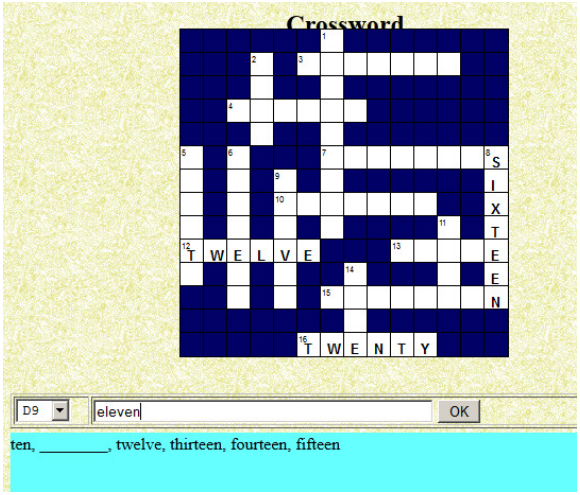
- Most CALL exercises use one of the following formats:
  - *Gap-fill* (or *insertion*)
    - The learner types words or phrases into a box, or drags words onto images or category markers
  - *Selection*
    - The learner chooses an answer from a menu.
  - *Reorder*
    - The learner changes the sequence of words or sentences using drag and drop
- None of these exercises are exclusive to CALL, but they are often more attractive on the computer than they are on paper

Gap-fill: read and write

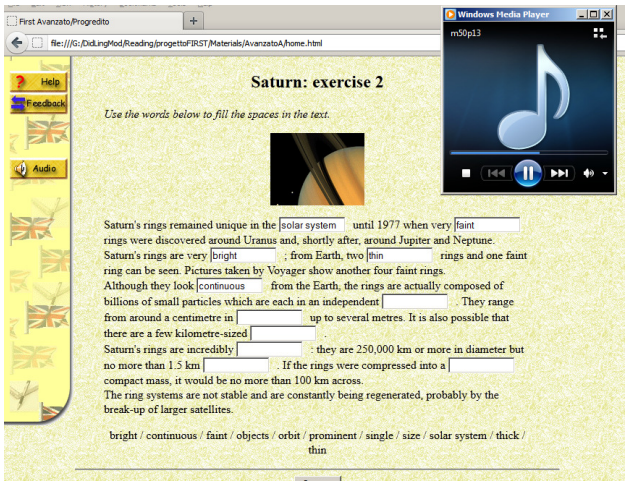
The solar system is the Sun and all of the objects that travel around it. These objects include planets, natural satellites such as the Moon, the asteroid belt, comets, and meteoroids. Our solar system has an elliptical shape and is part of a galaxy known as the Milky Way. The Sun is the centre of the solar system. It contains 99.86% of all of the mass in our solar system. Consequently, it exerts a tremendous gravitational pull on planets, satellites, asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. Astronomers believe the solar system formed 4.5 billion years ago. However, they differ in their beliefs about how the system formed. Some believe the whole solar system formed out of a single flat cloud of gas, while others believe it formed when a huge object passed near the Sun, pulling a stream of gas off it. The planets may have been formed from this stream of gas.

1. The solar system is centered around the [ ] .
2. The [ ] is a natural satellite.
3. Our [ ] has an elliptical shape.
4. Our part of the galaxy is called the [ ] .
5. The [ ] contains nearly all our solar system's mass.
6. The [ ] formed 4.5 billion years ago.
7. The [ ] formed from gas.

Gap-fill: crossword

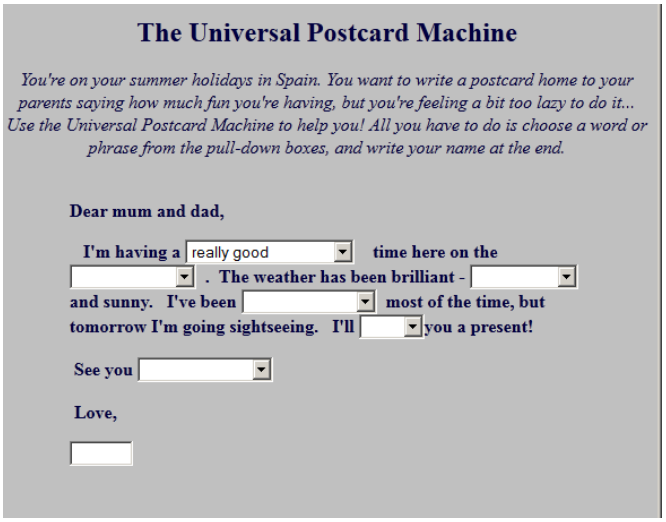


Gap-fill: listen and copy

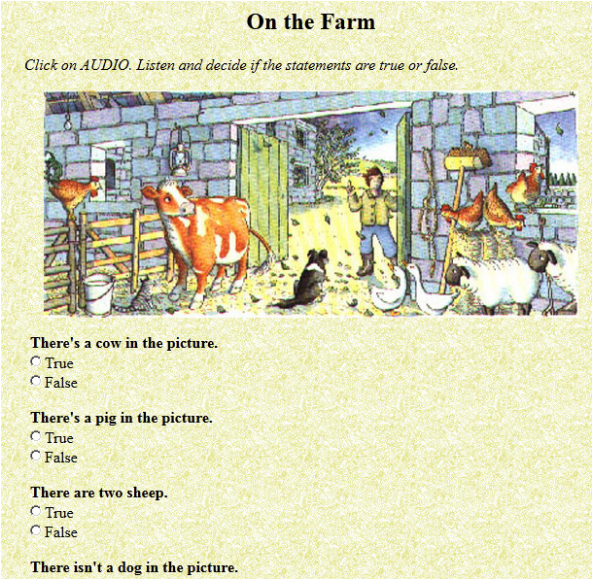


Gap-fill: dictation

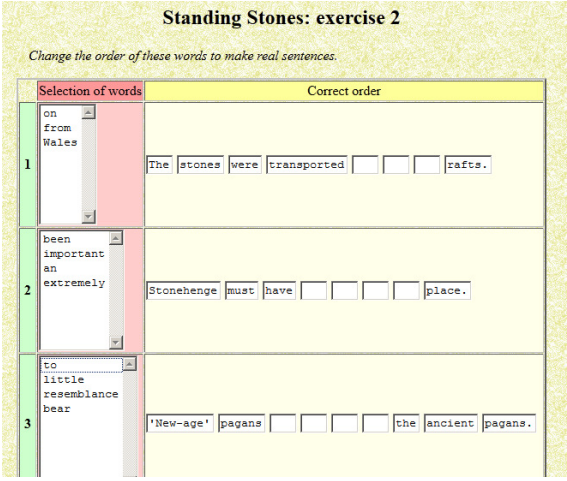
Selection: pull-down menu



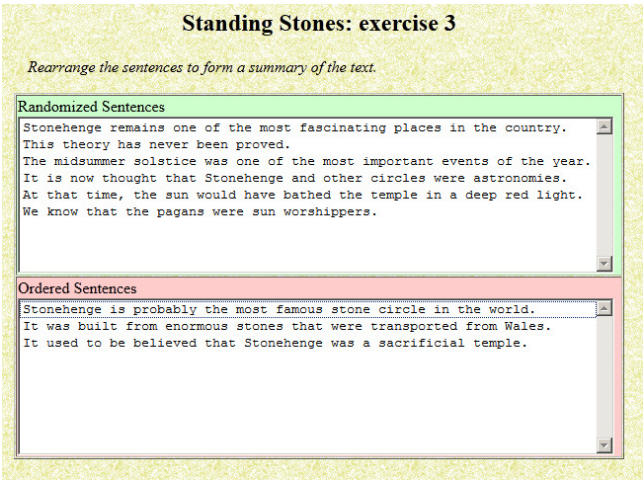
Selection: radio buttons



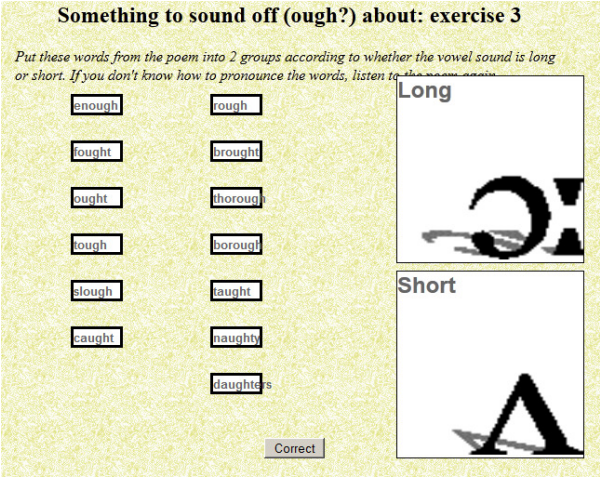
Reorder exercise: word - sentence



Reorder exercise: sentence - paragraph



Reorder exercise: category



Using CALL at primary school

- Many coursebooks have online exercises.
- Many teachers' books also have a CDROM with interactive exercises
  - You can do these with your pupils in class, if you have a computer and projector screen or an interactive whiteboard
  - You can do them in the school computer lab (but remember to book the space first)
  - You can ask your pupils to do them as homework

Using CALL at primary school

- You can look for exercises on the internet
  - Look at the **schools** section of <www.bbc.co.uk>
  - Look for exercises on the websites of the “big 4” EFL publishers:
    - Oxford University Press
    - Cambridge University Press
    - Macmillan
    - Pearson-Longman
  - Look for exercises that other teachers have prepared for their classes

Using CALL at primary school

- You can write your own exercises
  - If you collaborate with other teachers, you can create a pool of exercises which you can all use
  - If you want to make your exercises available outside the classroom, you can set up an internet site or an interactive internet site (a wiki)
- We are now going to look at some (free) applications that you can use to make your own materials

Set up a class website

- For this exercise, you can choose between creating a blog or a wiki.
  - You can set up a free blog
    - http://www.google.it/ → "altro" →blogger
    - http://wordpress.com/ → "get started here"
  - You can set up a free wiki
    - http://pbworks.com
    - → get started → "education user" → basic

Class website

Blog

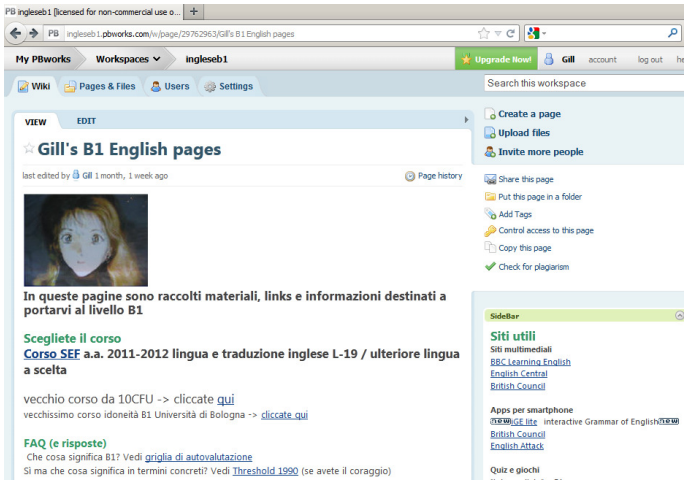
- Author-generated content
  - Only the owner of the blog can add material
  - Users can comment, but they can't add or change anything
- Chronological sequencing
  - The most recent information appears at the top of the page
  - You can add an index to facilitate navigation

Wiki

- Collaborative content
  - The owner (administrator) decides who can add content
    - Readers can only read
    - Writers can add pages
    - Editors can add pages and modify other peoples' pages
    - The Administrator can add , modify and delete pages
- Web-page & folder format
  - Navigate between pages using links
  - Navigate between files using tabs

An educational blog

An educational wiki



Make an exercise

- This exercise is based on pp112-113 (Unit 9) in your course book
  - The exercise is a story generated from different possible phrases
  - In this exercise there are no right/wrong answers
  - I have copied the text into a **.txt** file
- We are going to use a free, online template
  http://www.members.thebigbus.com/resources/TestMaker

Make an exercise

- Go to the site and choose template number 3
  - Write the title (e.g. "Our day out")
  - Write the instructions
  - Copy and paste each line of the text into the boxes
    - Paste the parts that stay the same in the long lines.
    - Paste the variations in the four short boxes.
    - To insert a new line, select the box at the end
  - Add final instructions, e.g. "Read your story to a friend"
- Click on "make html"
- Save the file:
  - Copy & paste the html code into a new text document.
  - Save as "day-out.html" in the top line and "tutti i files" in the bottom line

Make an exercise: advanced users

- Making your exercise perfect.
  - This exercise does not have any wrong answers, so we need to remove some of the html code
- Make a copy of your exercise.
  - Open **the copy** with "blocco note"
  - Scroll to the end of the file and remove this line

```
<tr><td align="center"><input type="button" name="button"
value="Finished" onclick="answer (this.form);">
```

  - Remove <input type='checkbox' name='a1' size='1' value='0'> 10 times – a1, a2, a3, a4 etc.
  - Save the file, and close.
  - Double click and open it as a perfect html document