

USING INTERNET RADIO IN THE CLASSROOM

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As leading methodologists claim nowadays, teaching a language through content is more efficient than teaching the structures of the language out of context. Furthermore, it is well accepted that language is better acquired or learned where the focus is on interesting content, and radio can certainly provide interesting content. In Ukrainian classroom, where authentic materials are scarce and students are rarely exposed to the natural pace of native speakers of English, the radio can be a valuable resource of input and highly relevant to language acquisition.

Radio programs on every aspect of life are available, making the medium particularly useful for content-based foreign language instruction. From the radio, teachers can draw content about any topic or theme of interest to learners. Thanks to the Internet and the advent of high-tech tape recorders, teachers can now download the scripts of various listening passages, select any program on the site of a native-speaker radio channel.

Contemporary radios are not just sounds to listen to, but a great collection of different programs, thematic rubrics, stories, news, music, even games, exercises and, in addition, typescripts (which makes it much easier to use). With the help of the Internet radio students can listen to the rhythm, intonations, pronunciation of the native speakers. Using Internet radio gives the chance to pick up the language from the real life interviews with famous people, celebrated radio presenters, eminent actors and actresses. The example of such a powerful teaching tool as Internet radio can be a great on-line resource Voce of America (VoA).

You can find these rubrics here in VoA: Special English, Programs and Classroom. In the Classroom students may have various distant courses, different teaching resources in Mp3 or pdf format, teachers will find very practical and useful lesson plans and recommendations, scientific articles, methodological issues, specialists' comments and explanations.

There is a wide range of programs in VoA, such as Agriculture Report (news and information about farming, gardening, agricultural economics and related subjects), American Mosaic (features about U.S. popular culture and music), American Stories

(American short stories rewritten into VOA Special English), Economics Report (news and information about business and finance in the United States and around the world), Education Report (news and information about the U.S. education system), Explorations (a program about people, places and ideas), People in America (influential people in American history), Science in the News (recent developments in science, technology and medical research), This Is America (life and issues in the United States), The Making of a Nation (an American history series), Words and Their Stories (an explanation of words and terms in American English), Special English (news and feature programs use a limited vocabulary and are read at a slower pace than VoA's other English broadcasts).

Voce of America is absolutely free, very reliable, extremely easy to use, doesn't require powerful hardware or any special software. Everything you need is just a set of headphones and a microphone to work individually or speakers for group work and the access to the Internet.

To sum up, using Internet radio in the classroom will be a powerful teaching tool as for developing 4 language skills. As the list of VoA's resources is endless and variety of its thematic is never-ending it will certainly help a teacher to create a modern educational environment on the basis of the second generation of the Internet.

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