



Wiki Textbooks in Language Classroom

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Abstracts

Being a practicing secondary school teacher as well as a textbook writer I have tried together with my good colleague Meeri Sild to come up with attractive solutions for language teaching by transforming our English language textbooks 'All the World is a Puzzle' into interactive material with lots of additional resources both for students and teachers.

The textbook series has three books and so there are also three Wikis where most of the textbook material is available online and all the tasks are interactive – students can fill them in and learn about their results at once. Students can also practice listening and watch additional videos, etc. In order to better acquire vocabulary, several vocabulary games have been added.

Wikis also enable interaction and collaboration between students and uploading of their own work (from essays to presentations).

All three textbooks are widely used all over Estonia.

What are the benefits of the wiki textbooks?

- They are easy to compile and change (for any teacher or student).
- They are available to all my students wherever they are – now they can even learn when visiting their grandparents at weekends or participating at competitions abroad or when they are sick at home and cannot attend classes.
- Students who have been absent have a chance to catch up with the rest of the class – even do listening tasks at home.
- Students who need more practice than others have a possibility for that out of class time now – they can listen to texts and practice pronunciation and intonation, improve their listening skills by listening to a text for as many times as they need, etc.
- In our busy world the students also appreciate the fact that they can learn about their improved skills at once – through interactive tasks and games.
- Vocabulary games make it fun to acquire new words – students enjoy playing and competing without realising that it is actually hard work.
- Links to outside resources make the textbook boundless – you can always show to students some interesting additional illustrative material about the topic at hand and this way help to build associations and links.