

# Reviews

Finding materials to match the proposed activities may be difficult. For this reason, the authors advise teachers to adapt or write their own texts if they don't find appropriate ones – something which could be rather time-consuming and demanding.

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## Teaching Online: tools and techniques, options and opportunities

by Nicky Hockly with Lindsay Clandfield  
DELTA Publishing 2010  
978-1-905085-35-4

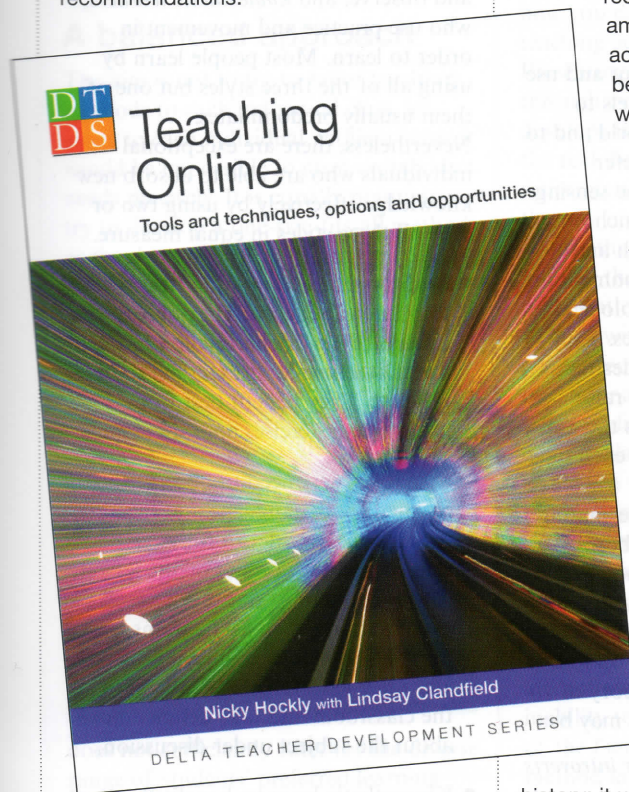
*Teaching Online* is part of the new DELTA Teacher Development Series: practical books designed to give a guiding hand in various teaching areas. The series is aimed at all English language teaching professionals, gives some expert advice and would be invaluable in teacher development sessions.

The book, like the rest of the series, is designed in three parts. Part A deals with initial set up, definitions and building blocks for designing an online course. Part B focuses on practical advice, giving example activities and recommending good websites, whereas Part C concentrates on further teacher development and ideas.

Hockly and Clandfield have clearly identified what could be described as a problem area within the sphere of language teaching: online teaching. Many teachers are a little wary of doing anything connected with technology, and being faced with the proposition of VLEs (Virtual Learning Environments) or PLNs (Personal Learning Networks) might possibly have them running for the hills. However, in Part A, the authors run through the basics and demonstrate, using four different scenarios, how this technology can be integrated into a syllabus. Part A also includes helpful websites to aid the teacher, from course site tools such as VLEs or social networking sites, to activity tools including concordances, comic creator sites and podcasts.

Part B is the 'essential reading' section of the book, as it concentrates on

various activities that can be done. This is split into helpful sections, such as reading and writing, listening and speaking, and language and evaluation. The writers also point out the advantages of using the internet for each skill set. All the activities are described in detail, so it would be simple to carry them out. They come with a list of tools needed, techniques, follow-up activities and recommendations.



The most useful section for professional and teacher development is Part C, with a focus on further activities for the teacher to consider. As with other sections of the book, there are numerous recommended websites for the dedicated professional to view and consider.

The book is written in a very friendly style and is easy to read and follow, with myriad pieces of advice and recommendations. *Teaching Online* has heightened my interest even further, and I cannot wait to get going with some of the ideas. Having said this, some readers who are already familiar with teaching online might find some of the activities and definitions a little 'hand-holding', but I think this can easily be overlooked as teaching online will undoubtedly become

part of the forefront of teaching. On the other hand, if you are new to the world of online teaching, the wealth of activities, advice and suggestions may be a little overwhelming as there is a lot of information to take in, but I am sure that this is only a minor matter.

This resource book would not be out of place on the shelf of any English language teaching professional. It will require the teacher to do a fair amount of work to set up the activities suggested, but I believe that this will be well worth the time and effort.

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## Understanding Teaching Through Learning

by Joshua Kurzweil with Mary Scholl  
McGraw-Hill 2006  
0-07-353379-3

Readers may be surprised to see the publication date of this book. Normally, we only review books in ETP that have been published within the last 18 months or so. However, this book has had rather a chequered

history: it was originally published as the first in a series; the series was then cancelled and the book was not distributed. It is included here because the authors have now bought the stock from the original publisher and are making it available through Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) and Pro Lingua Associates ([www.prolinguaassociates.com](http://www.prolinguaassociates.com)).

The book uses a reflective cycle of 'what? – so what? – now what?' to provide a structure for professional development. Readers are introduced to ideas about learning, which may be new or familiar to them; they are then encouraged to reflect on