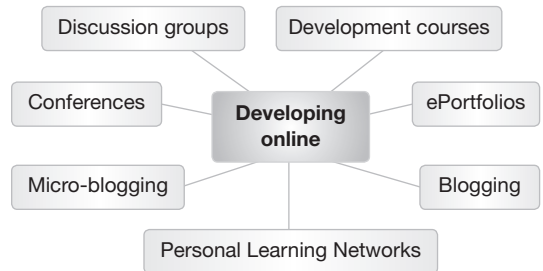


**Teaching Online** has suggested many ways in which internet resources, sites and tools can help you teach your learners online. But what about you, their teacher? Can the internet also help you to learn at a distance, without having to spend precious time and resources on professional learning activities such as travelling to conferences or attending teacher development courses? The answer is, yes it can. And in many ways, too. The advent of the internet has brought huge development possibilities to teachers across the globe.

### Online development

Your development no longer rests in the hands of a few ‘experts’ delivering content – although there is still a place for this. With social networking tools, you can now have access to peers in other countries who are working in different contexts, and you can share tips and techniques, trials and tribulations with them online.



You can use tools that have been around for several decades now (such as email discussion groups) to keep in touch with colleagues, and you can use newer social networking tools (such as micro-blogging) to create and sustain your own personalised development.

### Online opportunities

Exactly what possibilities does the internet offer you as a teacher? In Part C we suggest seven ways in which you can further your own professional development online – for free.

- Ways that use relatively older ‘single’ technologies
- Ways that use newer ‘integrated’ technologies

Our suggestions range from attending conferences online or setting up your own electronic teaching portfolio (or ePortfolio) to managing your own personal learning environment. For each of these, we outline what *forms* they take, we recommend what to do *first* to get started, we tell you how you can take things *further*, and we share a few of our own *favourites*.

**Note** You will notice that we look again at some communication tools you already encountered in Parts A and B amongst your *teaching* options, but now we examine how these tools can relate to your personal *development* network.