

Напря́м конференції: Педагогічні науки

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THE USE OF TED TALKS IN TEACHING ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES ONLINE

In the context of the current situation in Ukraine due to the Russian full-scale military invasion of our country, higher education was forced to switch to online mode. Therefore, the search for new feasible teaching tools and techniques is of paramount importance. TED talks are the richest and most frequently updated sources of instructional videos [3; 4]. This project suggests a great number of videos on the most relevant topics, and they are ideal for students with upper-intermediate level of English proficiency and above [1; 2; 5]. Most videos are about 20 minutes long, and this is perhaps the only challenge of TED talks, because a teacher virtually has to dedicate the entire lesson to one video. Therefore, TED talks are especially relevant for online instruction (e.g., due to war) and self-paced learning. One more undeniable benefit of TED Talks is that they can be easily integrated into various learning platforms, such as Moodle, Google Classroom and others.

Furthermore, there are numerous TED talks suitable for various ESP contexts. For instance, for curricula at a medical university, the following TED talks are highly relevant: “A Stroke of Insight” by Jill Bolte Taylor; “A Promising Test for Pancreatic Cancer... From a Teenager” by Jack Andraka; “Can We Eat to Starve Cancer?” by William Li; “What Your Doctor Won't Disclose” by Leana Wen; “How Do We Heal Medicine?” by Atul Gawande; “Is Anatomy Destiny?” by Alice Dreger and any others. TED-Ed section contains numerous tasks aimed at the development of different language skills [5]. Some classic activities are as follows:

Step 1. Pre-watching. Trigger some discussions on the topic of the video to prepare students for watching.

Step 2. Watch the full video or an excerpt.

Step 3. Think. After watching, take a mini-quiz with questions about the video. This will help to check how well the students understood the material from the video.

Step 4. Dig deeper. TED-Ed suggests a selection of materials where you can still read on a given topic can be left for self-directed work. For example, students can make up a project or write an essay.

Step 5. Post-watching. Discuss the topic of the video and the impressions with peers. Encourage students to make up a few questions and ask each other.

Moreover, TED talks not only provide the opportunity to improve students' critical thinking, listening, note-taking and speaking skills. They are also powerful tools in raising the awareness of the younger generation about global issues and involving students in a worldwide discussion on relevant topics.

Hence, we assert that the use of TED talks in teaching English for specific purposes online has the following benefits:

- Motivating and inspiring learners in learning a foreign language.
- Enriching learners with new ideas.
- Development of listening skills.
- Development of critical thinking.
- Expanding active and passive vocabulary.
- The possibility to download the instruction content: video, audio and scripts.
- Broadening students' outlook.

Thus, TED talks videos can be used in teaching English online at higher educational institutions to improve basic language skills (listening, speaking and writing). The prospects of using the TED talks are in the further selection of available materials and careful elaboration of new tasks to work in different contexts when teaching English for Specific Purposes.

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