

## **Siri, Alexa and Google or Teaching by the Book**

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This article is about using a bit of technology (software and hardware) in a business English course in a higher education setting.

In the first part of the article, we discuss the importance of integrating technology into language teaching, by describing previous practices of using technology in order to enhance and support both teaching and learning, increasing student engagement and, above all, making language learning activities more meaningful. Such approach is compared with the routine of teaching by the book, a highly organised approach to teaching with little room for creativity and new ideas both for teachers and students.

In the second part, we briefly discuss some social media platforms used on a daily basis in our language courses (Flipboard, Basecamp 3) and explain their possible uses as well as student responses and possible constraints related to digital distractions.

In the third, final part, we focus on recent development, which integrates Raspberry Pi and Google AIY voice kit into the teaching/learning practices and encourages students to bring their own devices (BYOD) in order to improve their learning processes and outcomes.

Despite a number of challenges connected with the implementation of new technologies, we believe that the use of digital devices, software, and learning platforms may bring about a wide array of possibilities for tailoring courses to students' diverse academic strengths and weaknesses, interests and motivations, personal preferences and, last but not least, optimal pace of learning.

On the other hand and even more importantly, throughout our courses, we try to teach how to think, how to learn to learn and how to enable students to critically assess their own learning practices. In the end, we arrive at the conclusion that the explosion of almost unimaginable technological possibilities is unlikely to bring about any important changes in education by itself if it is not supported by good teaching.

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