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Stay up-
dated, use
the pools
RSS feed



Snapshots
from some
of the new
English
teaching
units

Languages:

Basque
Danish
Dutch
English
Gaelic
German
Lithuanian
Romanian
Spanish

The POOLS project is continued on a grassroots basis and is still delivering new materials

The POOLS website has in 2008 been extended with several ready to use English language teaching units produced by Gordon Wells and Kent Andersen. Another addition to the site is that Kent Andersen has made a collection of materials targeting students working with electronics and electricity the collection can be accessed from www.languages.dk/el

The site itself has attracted many new users and has in the spring of 2008 passed 180.000 unique visitors. Most important several visitors have now registered themselves as POOLS members in order to exchange views and ideas with language teachers across the world

Future plans for the website: Kent Andersen is working on a collection of ready to use units for teaching English to "wood craft" students like carpenters and cabinet makers, some of these units will be accompanied by sign interpretations (Danish system) for deaf students.. Make sure you include the POOLS RSS feed among your feeds to know when the units are available.

The POOLS video collection has been extended with more Danish videos; E.g. the Danish Safety Regulation Body "Sikkerhedsstyrelsen" www.sikkerhedsstyrelsen.dk has permitted pools to make use of a safety video targeting electricians working with live installations. The video demonstrates how to work with live installation using PPE - Personal Protective Equipment. Cultural notes: In Denmark all electricians and personnel working with live installations etc. must every year attend a L-Aus course (Law on Working with live equipment

and installations).The videos can be downloaded from www.languages.dk/digital



Seven units telling about the Tube are now ready for teaching English. Each unit has audio, text, and exercises

London Underground is a set of seven units full of information (and humour) about the Tube, lines, tickets, tourists, and Americans!-)The texts, audio and exercises are based on original texts written by Jeff Clark from the Mining Co. Guide. In 1997 Kent Andersen made the first version of web exercises based on Jeff's texts, this was followed by audio recordings in 1999.

The present version (December 2007) has been compiled using Kent Andersen's Web Page Text Blender and Hot Potatoes. Each text is linked word by word to 11 online dictionaries.



Each of the seven units has a set of multiple choice questions, it is hoped that other teachers will assist with more exercises to the units. Please e-mail ka@ots.dk with your suggestions.

Latest News: The new POOLS partnership has submitted a Life Long Learning Leonardo innovation application

POOLS-T a new project proposal.

In March a group of the new POOLS members from Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, and Scotland submitted an application for an EU-funded project titled Producing Open Online Learning System Tools (POOLS-T). The project proposes to develop software tools that can support teachers and their students working with CLIL (content and language integrated learning) including the LWUTL (less widely used and taught languages).

The application will convert texts and web pages to html pages where all words are hyperlinked to free online dictionaries covering many combinations of European languages. The application will have support for audio, video and graphics to enrich and support the text content. The application produces standardized html scripts that do not require any plug-ins or software installations for the end users. The application will be CopyLeft with documented and commented open source which enables portability to other operating systems, further development, and ensures sustainability.

The need for a free tool is based on EURYDICE 2006 "Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) at School in Europe".

The application will have interfaces, guides for CLIL usage, and online DIY videos in DK, GR, NL, and EN. CLIL and LWUTL teachers depend on developing own resources (EURYDICE 2005 report "Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe"). The proposed application will automate part of this process and will also enable students to convert authentic technical materials

into language learning / supporting units.

The need is also documented in the ICC report (2003) "The Impact of New Information Technologies and Internet on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.." concludes: "There will be a shift from passive consumption of ready-made programmes to independent building of content, tailor made for specifics groups or individuals"

The project outcomes will be disseminated through EfVET and EuroCall as well as at conferences. The project website builds on an existing website with 40.000+ documented individual visitors per year: www.languages.dk The project results will enable a wider use of CLIL across Europe



The prototype of one of the proposed tools is based on the Web Page Text Blender

Scottish Island Voices (by Gordon Wells) is a collection of self-teach and self-test materials for learners of English. The materials on these pages are designed to help English learners teach and test themselves. They are based on real situations, and reflect aspects of life and work in the Hebrides. Learners should already be at pre-intermediate level at least, and extension exercises are included which will also be appropriate for more advanced learners, who may or may not be working in groups.

There are four units of work. They are roughly in ascending order of difficulty, though each unit can stand on its own.

1. Re-Store Furniture Recycling Project
2. Craighall Day Centre
3. Hebridean Food: Cookery Demonstration
4. Hebridean Food: Smokehouse



In order to view the materials properly you will need a PC with a Broadband Internet connection.

You can download the full 40-item catalogue of Scottish Island Voices videos from the POOLS website. A separate bilingual DVD with all the relevant video material is being made available. Further details from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig www.smo.uhi.ac.uk (These copleft materials have been produced by Cothrom Training Ltd, Isle of South Uist, with technical assistance from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye.



From the
Restore
Project