

## **TED TALK – A COLLABORATIVE TECH TOOL**

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### **Abstract**

Though English cements its position as the world's lingua franca, English language teaching has evolved with time, alongside advances in technology. Language Learning Technologies has brought about a paradigm shift in the art of teaching and learning. They have acted as catalyst in stimulating pupils to not just oil the wheels of communication in the world of business, trade, education, and tourism but also to emerge as confident orators & better communicators. The amalgamation of technology in classroom teaching has enhanced collaborative learning, lowered learning anxiety levels, improved academic abilities by engaging students constructively and thus help create self- motivated independent learners.

### **Objective**

The paper is a humble attempt to homogenize language learning with TED Talk videos into our classrooms. It inspires application of an exciting pedagogy based on creative and innovative practices.

### **What Is Ted Talk?**

Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) is a website and a downloadable application with a noble mission to make great ideas accessible and spark conversation. It hearkens to spread seeds of peace and positivity by igniting the global community through short talks and presentations.

### **Advantages**

TED Talk is a great platform that helps acclaim voice & participate in the global conversation by sharing innovative ideas. It is ardently employed to inspire the youth by nourishing the intellect and spirit. Apart from injecting motivation, it serves as a rich breeding ground to develop language skills/ ESL teaching tools, connect to content, and foster critical thinking skills. It's about inspiring students to study more, learn more, and speak more English.

### **Use**

TED screen is 21C ally which arms the ESL learners with communicative elements to voice innate thoughts, profoundly propagating the maxim of “practice makes a man perfect”. kinesthetic expressions along with verbal skills displayed in the videos make TED talks a trusted repertoire for perfect comprehension and advanced understanding. TED subtitle is a handy feature that helps the non-native English learners decipher the gist along with the content apart

from disseminating additional information. Speakers in TED talk videos manifest language as art for expression of ideas surpassing the territories of accent, diction, dialect, and articulation. Topics like autism, addictions to hallucinogenic substances, and environmental issues not just help students identify their relevant concerns but also fuels motivation to share their opinions in an oral and written way, promote the use of the target language & participate actively in the proposed activities, thereby creating a path to learn in a meaningful manner. Expose students having high level of proficiency to different varieties of English.

### **Action Plan**

As being English language facilitator, the age group and the relevance of the topic was kept in mind as the yardstick before handpicking a video. Talk by John Mc Whorter on “4 Reasons to Learn a New Language” helped in initiating discussion amongst students on the topic Why are we learning English? It encouraged learners to share their views. After watching the video students were divided in small groups & made to list the benefits of learning English & how English will help transform their lives? The talk ignited the students in Debate on the topic “Instant translation technology will render language learning obsolete”. It fostered deep thinking; critical evaluation & constructive understanding of the topic presented in the video. Students were also asked to compare English with other languages and tell how English differs from their first language, or any other languages they have learned. The video came as big aid to teach Superlatives and comparative sentences such as: English is more difficult than French Chinese is spoken by more people than English What’s the most difficult language in the world After teaching grammar, it facilitated students to create superlative questions in groups, and play the Quiz O Quest in the class.eg What’s the biggest country in the world? What’s the fastest animal on land? TED Talks fruitfully gripped the students with note making practice assignments. It helped in integrating both writing and listening skills to further enhance their comprehension. Introduction of Concept-based term logy, new words, technical terms, slang & phrases helped in enriching vocabulary. This video was actively employed as a tool for listening tasks & improvising speaking skills. It proved perfect prelude to comprehend the core concept of the talk, without worrying to understand every single word. By intently listening to TED talks featuring native speakers, it assisted young scholars to modify and improve pronunciation. Subtitles is a great feature of TED talks but with restricted application, it helped learners observe cues of body language and walk through the talk independently.

### **Evaluation**

Integration of living and breathing language of TED talk generated interest amongst learners. It also boosted their confidence leading to significant progression in their thought process and expression.

### **Conclusion**

TED talk is an engaging & versatile tech tool providing solution to language learning and teaching needs.

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