

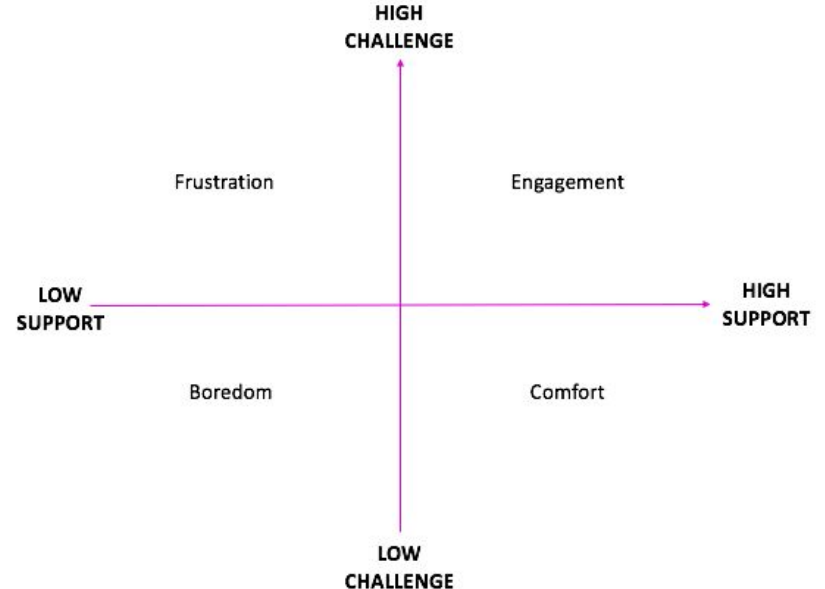
# Technology for English Language Learners



Kristof, Hala and Katherine

# High Challenge, High Support

- Instead of making content easier for English Language Learners teachers should look into the amount of scaffolding and accessibility of our lessons.



Echevarría, J., Vogt, M., & Short, D. (2017). *Making content comprehensible for english learners: The SIOP model* (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon. Print.

# PDF Copies of Texts

- Allows students to have easy access to readings/materials from any location as long as they have a device on hand.
- PDFs of texts can then be converted and emailed to an eReader/ eReader app
- Studies have shown that ELL students' reading engagement increases when using eReader devices/apps

\*Check copyright issues to avoid conflict



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# Blogging for English Language Learners

## Student Blogs:

- Have students post to a class blog or their own individual blogs.

## Teacher Blogs/Websites:

- Very important way to help ELL students' self-efficacy
- Have a place where they can find materials used in class, instructions, and links to other resources (eg PDF texts).



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# Promoting Connections between English Language Learners and Native-English Speakers

- Certain apps and technology can be used to promote connections within the classrooms.
- Within their blogs and other apps students could be paired with native-English speakers.
- English Language Learners are often social in their ELL classrooms but not in their other courses.
- During our observations the ELL Students did not seem to form any friendships or connections outside of their own groups.

# Quizlet For English Language Learners

## Pros:

- The Flashcards can be read aloud.
- Flashcards can be shown with the definition first, the term side first, or a mixture of both.
- It provides study games! For example:  
Gravity Game: type the answer to the study questions from the flashcards in order to save the planet from asteroids.
- You can create a “class” and use for certain classrooms/categories.
- You don’t necessarily need the upgraded version to use this app. The free version works well.
- The Leader board for study games adds a competition aspect that can encourage students to study.

## Cons:

- No real social aspect of studying on Quizlet. Unlike an app like Duo-Lingo, there is not really the same addictive quality and smoothness.
- Quizlet is an Ad-supported free version that can be distracting for students who are already challenged learning a new language.
- Quizlet does not have an easy way to print out the cards if you want a physical copy.
- With apps like Duolingo cards and ways of studying are premade. On Quizlet the majority are available in an upgraded form or at a certain price.
- The cards that are free or you can buy are made by the public. Therefore, there is a lack of editing and anyone can make cards.

# Coding Applications for English Language Learners

- ELL students often do better with math/symbol-based academic classes
- Computer classes often focus on more concise language
- Students can bring previous experience with technology to the classroom
- Teaching programs like Scratch would be beneficial: ELL classes often use material aimed at lower grades (upper elementary content). Less reading skills required.



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# Papago and Google Translate



Papago:

- Fairly good quality translation though might lack accuracy, but the number of languages available are limited.

Google translate:

- Offers the ability to point your phone camera at text and get an instant translation even while offline and the variety of language options makes it a good choice for classrooms with diversity of language backgrounds

It's a good idea to have an idea of the translators your students are using, so you understand how that influences their understanding of texts.



# Duolingo!

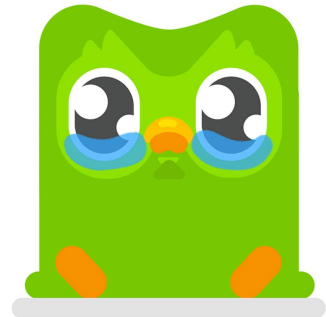
## Pros:

- A free app that is addicting!
- Compete with your friends!
- Stories!
- Cute little owl always reminds your to keep learning!
- Tests to start at a level that you are close to.



## Cons:

- Cute little owl always reminds you to keep learning
- Strongly encourages you to pay for the app
- Needs more languages.



# Quill and NoRedInk

## NoRedInk

- Online web-based language learning platform that mostly uses skills games and fun activities to teach grammar and conventions and writing.

## Quill

- Interactive writing and grammar web-based platform offering activities including some higher level ones and has lesson plan options for teachers.



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What does the bold appositive phrase refer to?

Sirius Black, **a former Olympic swimmer**, now teaches surfing classes in Hawaii.

Submit answer

[Show answer \(teachers only\)](#)

[Report a problem](#)

# Pros of Technology for English Language Learners

- More engaging
- Digital skills/literacy
- multi-literacies
- Level playing field for learners of varying ability (ie individual use/support based on need)
- Duolingo: competition, social, fun, rewarding
- Equity

# Cons of Technology for English Language Learners

- Distracting.
- Might set bad precedent—having phones out.
- Organizing getting consent / talking to parents?
- Engaging with the tech *instead* of the class?
- Teaching kids to use tech in their second language.

## Risks

- Normalize staring at phones
- Privacy concerns in downloading apps/getting accounts
- Ostracize students without tech

*Thank you!*

