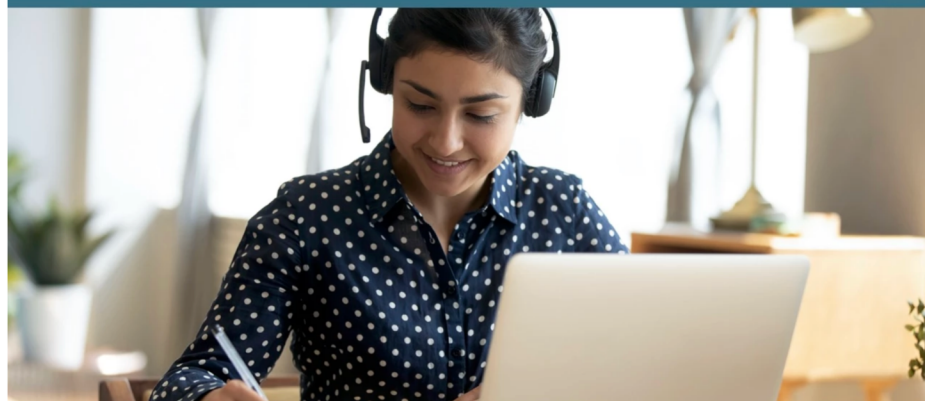# Technologies for Online Language Learning

Conversifi

TEACHER TUESDAY WORKSHOP SERIES
TEACHING ONLINE DURING COVID-19

María Martha Manni
Senior Lecturer. Elementary Spanish Language Teaching Coordinator
Modern Languages Linguistics and Intercultural Communication Department
University of Maryland Baltimore County
PhD Student, Language Literacy and Cultures program - UMBC
M.S., B.A. University of Rochester, Warner School od Education
mariamanni@umbc.edu

March 31st 2020

Choosing the right tool for the intended outcome is a critical aspect of teaching remotely but can be a challenge, especially with the whirlwind transitions we're making today. This session will focus on several inexpensive sites and platforms that are particularly useful for language learning and share tips for incorporating them more easily into your curriculum.

Transitioning the whole educational system to remote teaching and learning is something that we didn't plan for in advance. When we get into emergency mode, a common reaction is to feel anxious and overwhelmed by the myriad of swift decisions we have to make. You might be looking at your curricular plans and feel as if you were watching your whole house get on fire.

via GIPHY

If you have the chance to save from destruction just a couple of elements from your curricular plans: Which ones will you save?
Please answer the poll:

- lectures
- national learning standards
- course and lesson objectives for student learning
- teaching materials you created
- lesson plans
- student's work samples
- exams, tests, assessments
- active learning/project based activities
- homework activities

By Phil Wolff https://flic.kr/p/hah67e
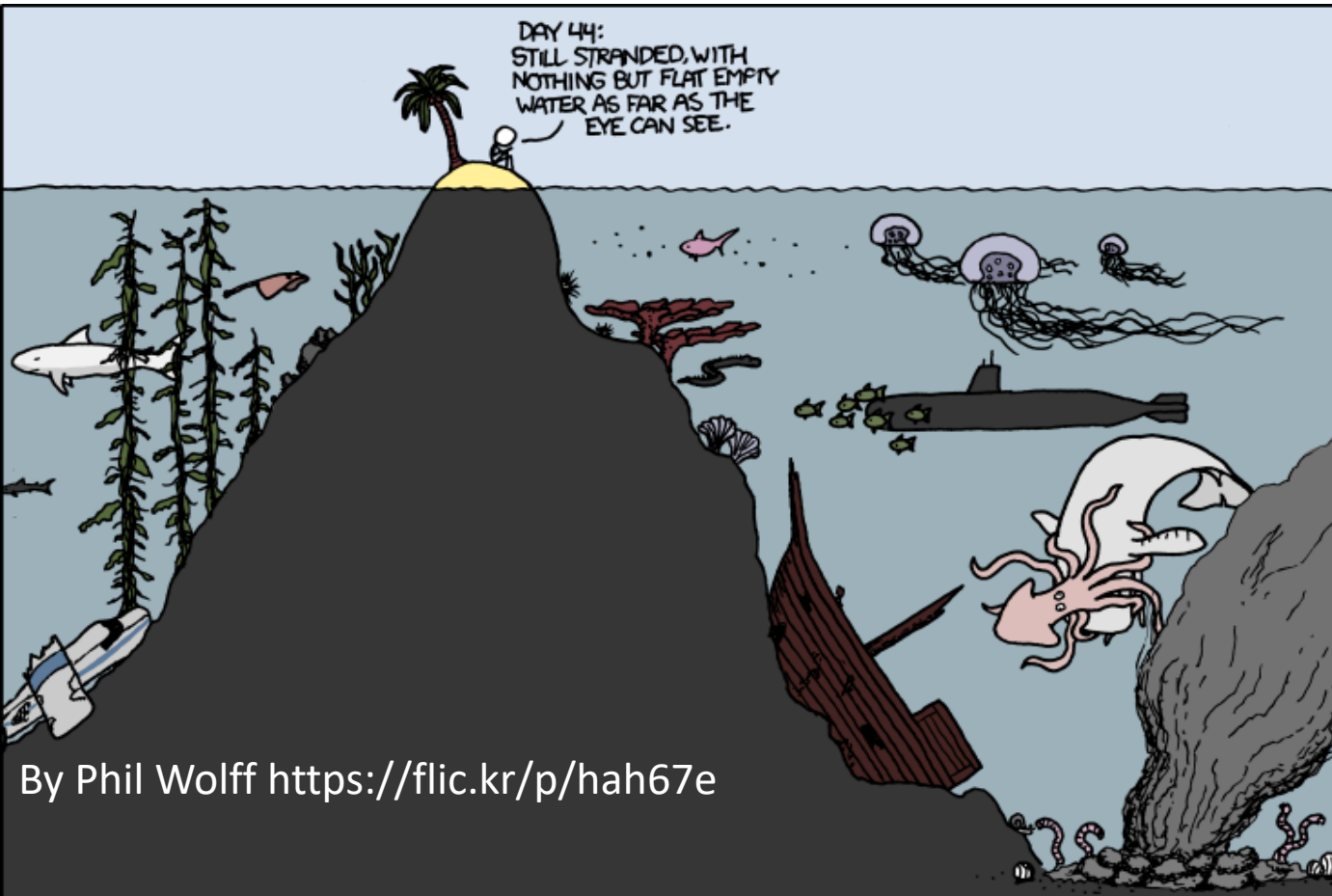
When you look at the new landscape it might seem that none of the skills you have or the materials and tools you saved are enough to ensure survival. Once you explore, however, you will notice that there's plenty of new resources. It is important, however, to situate yourself and your students in this new learning context.

The online realm might look like a vast deep ocean and you might not know how to swim or even be afraid of water. You might be able to hold your breath for a few minutes and then need to rush to the safety of land to stay alive. You might discover that you love being in the water and wander around, daring to dive deeper each day.

General classroom set up and organization

Now that the physical buildings are closed, redefine the classroom space.

If your organization is already using a learning management system (LMS) such as Blackboard, Canvas or Schoolology or if you adopted a textbook that includes an online platform for student language practice and assessment, you have this organizational need solved. It will be more coherent for students and colleagues that you use those, instead of adding another layer of complication. Actually, these LMS usually let you integrate very easily other tools.

Moodle   Free- Open Source- cloud based or downloadable LMS

Sakai

Google classroom   Free Google suite for educational institutions
                          Free Google personal account (no need to be a teacher)

Office 365   Free Microsoft Office 365 Education, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and now Microsoft Teams, plus additional classroom tools. Use your valid school email to register

Creating a presence as a learning guide/facilitator: presentations, comprehensible input

Do the students need to hear/see you present material?

Zoom : teleconference

Webex teleconference

Screencastify (google extension, can save recordings on google drive)

PowerPoints, allow you to record a voiceover audio, in Google slides you need to add the audio file from your computer.

Quick time

Apply a *"Backwards design"* to your curricula: as defined by Wiggins, G., & McTighe, J. (2005) in *Understanding by Design*

Re-define course objectives
Contextualize your choices, think about the situation, choose realistic, essential expectations.

Re-envision student learning outcomes

Decide how students could show progress and eventually demonstrate that they learned/achieved the outcomes you set for them in this new distance learning/ collaboration environment. Decide this _before_ you go hunting for tools, out in the cyberspace. This way, you will keep some sanity and save the students and yourself unnecessary hurdles.

The objectives should inform the drafting of a lesson plan and selection of tools you deploy, not the other way around.
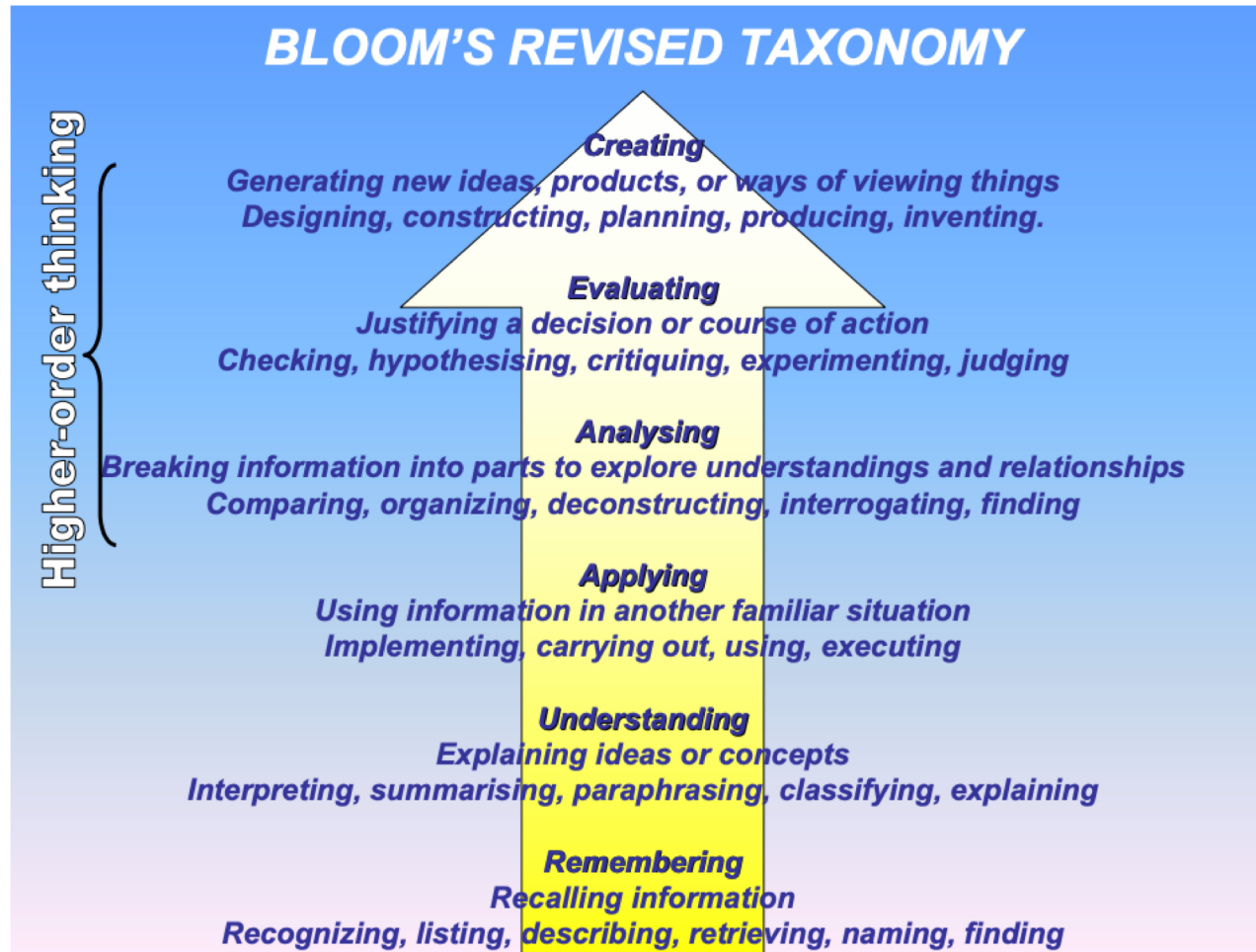
Anderson, Lorin W. & Krathwohl, David R. (2001). A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching and Assessing: a Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy. New York. Longman Publishing.

Authentic Intercultural Communication

Conversifi

01

FREE FOR STUDENTS & UNIVERSITIES

Conversifi is a language exchange platform. For every session in which a student helps another student practice their native language, they earn a token. For every session in which a student practices their target language, they use a token. If students prefer not to coach or would like additional tokens, they can also purchase them through the app.

02

COMPLEMENTS CURRICULUM & REINFORCES COURSE LEARNING

Conversifi is designed to augment formal language learning. We offer immersion modules that map to your syllabus and textbook so that users are discussing topics that are relevant to what they're already studying. Detailed reports and video recordings make Conversifi easy to integrate into any course outline so that everyone benefits.

03

ON-DEMAND NO SCHEDULING

With packed calendars and different time zones, who has time to schedule these days? Conversifi is on-demand so that users can log on and start practicing when it's most convenient. They simply select their target language, the immersion module they want to practice, and the country from where they'd like their coach to originate and they're connected in no time at all.

Interpretive skills: Reading & Listening Comprehension

Do the students need to read/hear/see level appropriate, engaging, thought provoking texts & media and demonstrate comprehension?

Smithsonian lab: The Smithsonian Learning Lab is a free, interactive platform that gives educators access to millions of Smithsonian digital resources and provides easy-to-use tools so you can upload, download, adapt, create, and share with your colleagues and students. Combine Smithsonian resources with your own to quickly create personalized lessons and activities suitable for any subject or grade, or adapt one of thousands of existing collections to better suit your needs. You can also create student rosters and assign content directly to your classes all in a safe environment that meets the highest school privacy standards.

Browse for Open Educational Resources: M.O.S.T Commons: online, openly licensed materials to support learning. In addition to open texts, you can also find a variety of openly licensed videos, simulations, labs, and other content that may help you transition from face-to-face to remote teaching MERLOT: access to curated online learning and support materials and content creation tools, led by an international community of educators, learners and researchers.

Comprehensible Input

Do the students need to read/hear/see level appropriate engaging, thought provoking texts & media and demonstrate comprehension?

Duolingo podcasts:
enaging yet simple storytelling
 French- Spanish

International Children's Digital Library: Incredible collection of books in a wide variety of languages, some bilingual.

Duolingo Stories:
Simple short stories to practice reading comprehension for English speakers learning Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese, as well as Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese speakers who are learning English.

Brain –Pop
Topics from all subject areas in simple animated video format with easy to assign application activities - concept map tool, activity sheets, quizzes, and games- to provide students with additional ways to connect to the concept. Brain pop ELL / French and Spanish

Would you like them to work in groups on text/media interpretation, discussion, narrations, presentations?

Google docs, slides, hangout (video conference), forms (can be used for quizzes and assessments, expeditions, jamboard (virtual whiteboard)

Classtools.net : Many super simple and very fun creative tools such as a fake Facebook like template (not really open for social media interaction) that students can create, share an present, a 3D art Gallery, a headlines creator, a text message simulator etc. Students can create and post for the class or for you.

Flipgrid: a message board where teachers can pose questions, called "topics," and their students can post video responses that appear in a tiled grid display.

Adobe Spark Visual designing, digital storytelling tool

BookCreator : A tool to create digital books/ presentations (that can include text, videos, pictures drawings etc. that can be shared in a class library)

Do you want to gamify the more basic drills and learn/practice of vocabulary, phrases or language structures?
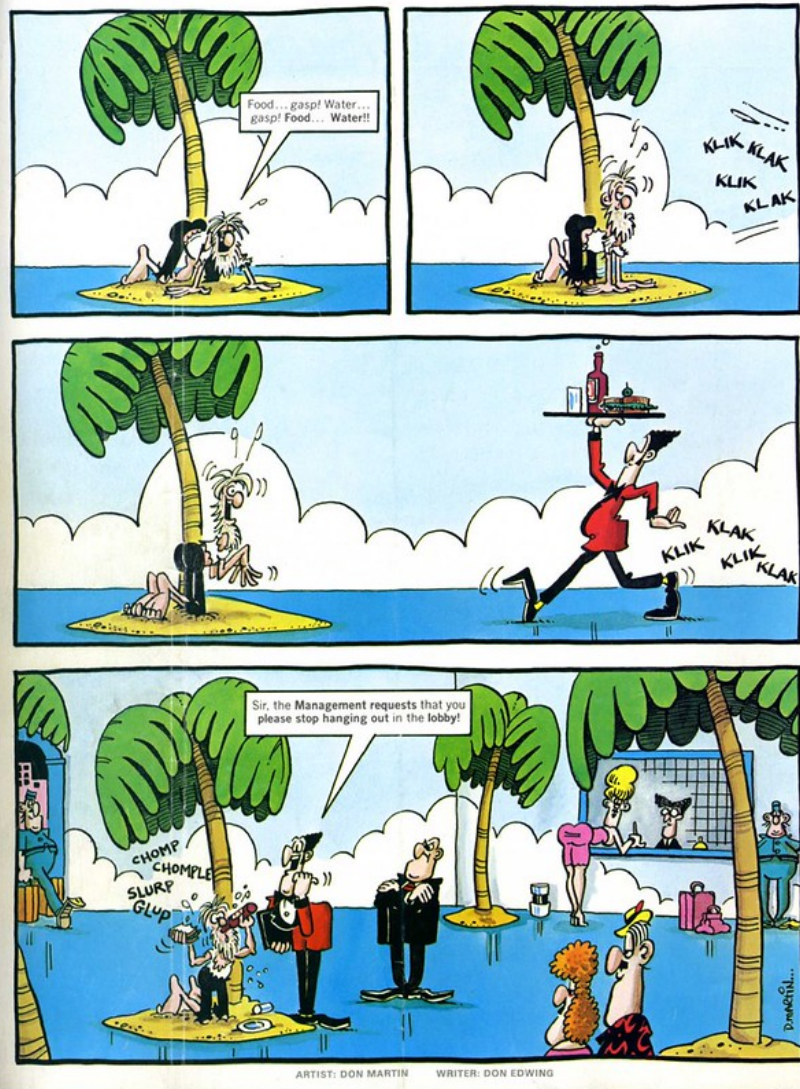
Duolingo

Quizlet

Kahoot

Classtools.net

https://www.pxfuel.com/en/free-photo-qlhgm

I hope you found these resources helpful and that they simplify your transition to remote teaching and learning.

ARTIST: DON MARTIN   WRITER: DON EDWING

KEEP IT SIMPLE!
This is not the best time to overload or stress yourself or your students.

Reach out and be there not only as an academic but also humanely for your students and colleagues. Even during social distancing times we can be closer than ever.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/18946008@N06/2198898276/in/photostream/

THANK YOU ☺