

English Banana.com

Schools

English Banana.com Schools – Press Release (07.05.07)

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[Start of press release]

Website launches new resource for English teachers worldwide

Derby, United Kingdom May 7, 2007 --

Popular English teaching site www.englishbanana.com launches its new 'English Banana.com Schools' project in May 2007, which is aimed at making life easier for English teachers around the world.

The website, based in Derby, UK, currently gets 1.3 million page views per month from users in over 140 different countries. It was founded in 2002 by English language lecturer Matt Purland.

Matt says: "Our site already offers more than 750 free photocopiable worksheets for learning English that teachers can print off and use. It's all free to access, and they don't need to register. We decided this year to provide a range of blank forms and templates that teachers can also print and adapt, enabling them to build their own English courses from scratch, without having to spend a lot of time and money either buying in or developing their own materials."

The new materials include staple forms that every English teacher has to either find or make themselves in the course of their daily teaching life, such as: ILPs (individual learning plans), blank lesson plans, initial assessments and schemes of work at different levels. By using the materials provided for free on English Banana.com, teachers can spend less time making their own templates – by doing so reinventing the wheel – and more time working with their students. The materials are provided as both .pdf and Word .doc files, so that they can be easily adapted. There is also a support forum where teachers can ask questions, make suggestions and swap ideas.

Matt says: "This project is a result of feedback we've been getting recently from visitors to the site. It became very clear that there was huge interest in gaining access to free materials that would support local schools around the world, including courses being run in teachers' homes and in other informal settings. One of the emails that inspired us was from a teacher named Evelyn Peralta, from the Dominican Republic. She wrote:

"I'm teaching English for free to a group of teenagers that are my kids' friends. As they cannot pay for it, and I want to teach my kids, I decided to create an 'English Club' for ten of them. I prepare the lessons myself but it's hard for me, because I have to do it at night and in my lunch time. As I have a full-time job I use the internet in my lunch time to find things that can help me with the lessons. Please let me know if I can count on you."

As the website continues to receive requests for help from teachers like Evelyn all around the world, Matt hopes that the 'English Banana.com Schools' project, along with all the other resources that are freely available on the English Banana.com website, will go some way towards supporting educators like her, who are going out of their way to improve the lives of their students.

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