Муниципальное автономное общеобразовательное учреждение

«Гимназия № 87»

**The usage of modern Internet resources**

**for improving pupils' English language skills**

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**Introduction**

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|  | Personal Computer has become the empowering tool we’ve ever created. They’re tools of communication, the tools of creativity, and they can be shared by their users.  Bill Gates |

English is the most popular language nowadays. It is a universal language of communication, because people from different countries understand it. English is the language of computer technologies. Knowing English is useful for everyone who wants to make a successful career, because it is the official language of some international organizations and companies.

Nowadays more and more people are realizing that every educated person should know a foreign language. English is number one in the international communication and the Internet is a tool which can help us to study English. Learning a foreign language is a long and slow process that takes a lot of time and patience. At school we learn English in peer groups. Classroom lessons usually have a strict lesson plan. But sometimes students may want some more freedom in the process of learning. And in my project I want to present the way of solving this problem.

Now it’s possible to learn a foreign language through the Internet and multimedia. So, today the Internet offers many wonderful educational resources.

**The aim** of the project is

* to find the most useful and interesting modern recourses of the Internet for improving the English language skill;
* to find out the advantages of using the Internet resources;
* to make up a list of the best Internet resources for improving the English language skills;
* to conduct a survey of students of the 10th form in Gymnasium 87 to identify their awareness of the Internet resources that help us improve the English language skills.

**The role of the English language around the world**

The last few decades have seen a growth in the role of the English language around the world. More than 80% of the world’s international organizations use English as their official language in transnational communication. The world’s important film productions and markets use English as well, and the published academic articles in several academic fields, such as linguistics, are written in English. The spread of English as an international language and the emergence of the Internet as a fast communication channel that has no boundaries, are mutually enforcing trends in an age of globalization. Teachers need to understand how new information technologies are using English language learning. With the development of information technology, computer multimedia technology and networks are widely used in foreign language teaching has changed the traditional foreign language teaching. The main purpose of foreign language teaching is to train students in listening, speaking, reading and writing ability to emphasize the development of learner motivation to learn. Technology is just a tool: the skilled teacher, like the skilled craftsman, matches the tool to the task in order to accomplish an important purpose. At the same time, we need to focus on our students and their need to use technology effectively. Technology, especially the Internet, can provide access to authentic sources of language that are simply unavailable any other way.

The important reasons to teachers to include various aspects of technology in Foreign Language teaching:

* the use of technology helps teachers reach all students in different ways;
* technology helps to relate the curriculum to life outside the classroom;
* technology helps to involve students in worthwhile, interactional activities, such as interpersonal exchanges, information gathering, and problem-solving projects;
* technology helps students to be active participants in the Information Age;
* using different aspects of technology helps motivate students to study.

Depending on the ages, language experience of the students and technology resources of the school, many of the following possibilities can enhance learning in a thematic unit:

* create a menu using a word processing program;
* create a greeting card in the target language using clipart with a cultural element;
* students use scanned or digital photos to design a poster with which to introduce themselves to the class;
* create a class newspaper or newsletter;
* create a brochure about a city or a country in which the target language is spoken;
* use interactive story books in CD-ROMs, other CDs give students vocabulary practice or listening;
* students create a PowerPoint or Hyper Studio presentation about themselves or any other topic, using learned vocabulary and following a format provided by the teacher;
* students illustrate the presentation with scanned photos and clipart.

The Internet has expanded the resources available to language teachers and learners to an almost incredible degree. Teachers and students alike can access information about countries where the target language is spoken and learn from and about the people who speak the language. Internet technology gives immediacy and context to World language Learning. It is a very good way to captivate students’ interest. Technology can certainly enhance the student’s ability to develop an awareness of another people’s way of life and they can see links between communication and culture. Using the Internet for research in the classes opens the door to an entire world of information for students.

**The advantages of using the Internet resources**

Using the Internet resources has some advantages:

* it’s open for everybody and you can find rather cheap or absolutely free resources;
* you can choose the method that works best for you and that you enjoy the most;
* you can study at any time you like and at any place you like.
* [Tweet](http://twitter.com/share)

**A list of the best Internet resources for improving the English language skills**

I have looked through the English-learning sites and articles. I have practiced some sources. And I’m ready to share my experience with other students learning English.

**“Worldword”** is an educational platform where you can play word games, quizzes, match ups, and much more. You also can create your own teaching resources.

**“Quizlet”** is a platform that makes simple learning tools that let you study anything. Double-sided flash cards are a tested tool for memorizing words. Despite its simplicity, it is very effective, flexible and convenient; with its help you can quickly build basic vocabulary by learning the most common words in the language. This tool becomes especially convenient in electronic form. I have tried many vocabulary learning programs and I find **“Quizlet”** is one of the most convenient and functional.

**“LinguaLeo”** is a Russian educational online platform. It offers a test to determine your language skill level. Then it develops a personal training program for you. Each user can choose a real-life content that he or she likes. The collection includes more than 200,000 individual learning materials, including news, entertainment and business articles, [TED Talks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TED_Talks), popular songs, movie clips, stories, and jokes. “Leo the Lion” is the main character of the service and a personal guide to the language jungle*.*

Today you don’t have to carry a heavy printed dictionary to school. If you have an access to the Internet on your mobile phone, you can just use Cambridge Dictionary. With its help you get the full characteristic of English words: their meanings, transcription (including its sound form).

In the Internet there are a lot of language contests and Olympiads. For example, this year the pupils of our school took part in the Olympiad organized by an on-line school **“SkyEng”** or **“Infourok”**. This year my class took part in it to check our knowledge in English.

Chatting with others, either native or non-native speakers of English, is a great way to practice your written skills. Having a pen friend is an effective way to practice English and make friends. You can discuss any special interesting topics or write posts in the forums. I have a pen friend on the site **“**[**Studentsoftheworld.info**](http://www.studentsoftheworld.info)**”**. The advantage of this site is its safety because only students and teachers are registered there.

**Conclusion**

The amount of the Internet resources is great and I can make a conclusion that today we have a lot of effective opportunities for improving our language skills.

I have conducted a survey of students of the 10 th grade in Gymnasium № 87 to identify their awareness of the Internet resources that help us improve the English language skills. My survey consisted of following questions:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Используешь ли ты Интернет ресурсы при подготовке к уроку английского языка? | 1) да  2) нет |
| 2 | Как часто ты пользуешься Интернет ресурсами при изучении английского языка? | 1) каждый день  2) иногда  3) часто  4) я вообще не пользуюсь Интернетом |
| 3 | Какие из перечисленных ресурсов для изучения английского языка тебе знакомы? | 1. “Worldword” 2. “Quizlet” 3. “LinguaLeo” 4. “SkyEng” 5. “Infourok” 6. “Puzzle English” 7. “[www.studentsoftheworld.info](http://www.studentsoftheworld.info)” |
| 5 | Знаешь ли ты другие полезные ресурсы для изучения английского языка? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**The results of the survey:**

But my survey showed that all the students use the Internet. But many of them know few resources for improving the English language skills. Most of them (72%) use the Internet for studying English only sometimes. I can conclude that they are not motivated enough. This fact proves my hypothesis. My classmates know about the existence of some resources. The most well-known Internet resources are “Infourok” (63%) and “LinguaLeo” (26%), the least known is “Quizlet” (4%). Three pupils wrote that they use “BBC learn English”, “Google translator” and “Yandex translator”. But I think that pupils shouldn’t use translators. It’s better to use online dictionaries because they are more informative.

I can give the advice for those who study English: use the Internet resources. I’ve told you about, try to surround yourself with English, listen to the news in English, read the on-line newspapers written in English, for example “The Moscow Times”. The success depends on your motivation and activity. And, of course, all the resources can’t substitute a real English teacher. But they can help you as a kind of additional studying.

**Literature**

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4. Internet resourses:

* “Worldword”
* “Quizlet”
* “LinguaLeo”
* “SkyEng”
* “Infourok”
* “Puzzle English”
* “[www.studentsoftheworld.info](http://www.studentsoftheworld.info)”