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## **USING COMPUTER TO TEACH FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

It is high time for teachers to use the computer to make their teaching more effective, emphasizing its ability to interact with students. This paper will prove that teachers can fulfill student's expectations by using computers as teaching aids. The advantages of computer assisted learning include:

- The computer can be a partner for the learner to stimulate conversation, to illustrate certain operations, to play educational games with, etc.
- The computer can analyze specific mistakes the student has made and can react in a different way from the teacher – it gives individual attention to the questions or commands. It acts as a tutor and guides the learner towards the correct answer while adapting the material to his/her performance.
- Computers offer a valuable source of self-access study adaptable to the learner's levels.
- Besides teaching a foreign language, computer programs will provide the learner with some sort of computer literacy.
- Students are more relaxed, they are no longer afraid of being corrected, judged, or watched. In fact, they create their own environment around the computer, a sort of privacy where intruders are not welcome.
- The computer will tirelessly go over and over again the same point for as long as necessary.
- The computer is "the best and most patient" teacher in the world as can provide information requested in a very short time.

The exercises may involve a large number of operations – substitution or transformation drills, gap-filling exercises, copying, writing down dictation, putting words in the correct order, or answering certain types on comprehension questions. Taking into account methods of teaching and computer capabilities teachers can arrange the programmed material into certain groups, including the instructions on how to communicate with the computer and choosing the proper theme to work with. The second flock contains different exercises and if the student responds correctly, he is allowed to go on to the text step. An incorrect response may force students to do exercises of the same type. Then the flock of knowledge control begins its work. Computer analyses the responses and estimates them. Disadvantages of computer assisted learning:

1. Learners who do not have experience in using a keyboard might waste much time identifying letters on the keyboard. However, with practice this can be worked out. 2. Working with computers normally means that the learners work in isolation. This doesn't help in developing communication between learners. 3. Computer programs deal mainly with reading and writing skills and even though some listening programs have been developed recently, they are very limited. 4. Computer cannot cope with unexpected situations. 5. It is more tiring to read from a screen than from a printed text.

We should avoid asking ourselves how soon we can teach our lessons on the computer and begin to re-evaluate our methods in the light of the computer's technical potential.

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