Linguistic creativity – a tool for encouraging VL autonomy and lifelong learning

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Creativity

- comes in many different forms
- present in nearly all walks of life
- manifests itself in many different ways
- domain specific

- Little-c creativity
- Big-C creativity

Creativity in classroom teaching

- **definitely not Big-C creativity**
  'historical creativity' which includes world-changing ideas and inventions' (Margaret Boden)

- **but coming up with something new, original that gets students attention and is useful to students concerned**

- new ideas and fresh way of doing things

Creativity in classroom teaching

'Some playful attitude and atmosphere seems to be a key ingredient for creativity .'

(Guy Cook, *LanguagePlay Language Learning,* 2000)

Language teacher must be kind of an 'event maker', events which the students want to be part of.

(Andrew Wright, 2015)

One of the teacher's roles is to provide their students with *pedagogically effective surprises.*

(Jerome Bruner, 1979)

Creative cocktail party (metaphor)

(Grainger, Barnes, Schaffham 2004)

bagonize

Slang, Humorous: To wait in agony at the airport luggage carousel for your luggage to appear. Origin: bag + agonize

Creativity in classroom teaching

- 'Creativity is central to language learning and hence language teaching'

    (The European Commission on Languages)

Vocabulary is the Everest of a language
(David Crystal)

- ***Dictionaries are nice places to visit, but no one wants to live there*** - *especially foreign language -students.*

- *Learning a language is neither easy nor brief, and* **learning vocabulary must be** *the least easy and* **the least brief of any language learning task.**

(Laura K. Heilenman)

Autonomy in Vocabulary Learning

- **Because English vocabulary is a changing and growing reality,**
- **because of its size and scope**
- **time constraints in the formal instructional setting**
  - justify
  - the need for **developing learner autonomy and encouraging lifelong learning**
  - **Not an option but a must**

The language stork keeps lexicographers busy.

(Michael Quinion)

Neologisms often show very creative aspect of word formation
(make vocabulary building enjoyable/learning and having fun)

<u>Words are the mirror of their times.</u> By looking at the areas in which the vocabulary of a language is expanding fastest in a given period, we can form a fairly accurate impression of the chief preoccupations of society at that time and the points at which the boundaries of human endeavour are being advanced.

(John Ayto, British lexicographer)

<u>New words are the birth certificates of change</u> – change in attitudes, in mores, in human relations, in technology, in the social and economic landscape, in the natural world.

(Cullen Murphy, American writer and editor)

PORTEMANTEAU WORDS

- Portemanteau

breakfast + lunch

brunch

Listicle /ˈlɪs.tɪ.kəl /

is a portmanteau (or blend) of the words *list* and *article*.

list

article

list **+** **icle**

PORTEMANTEAU WORDS
listicle

- Listicle titles are often prime examples of *clickbait*

- *10 Things You Didn't Know About Cats*

- *3 Things You Should Know...*

- *8 Ultimate Flat-belly Summer Foods*

- virtual bait, designed to make somebody click on the link to find out what could possibly be these 10 things...
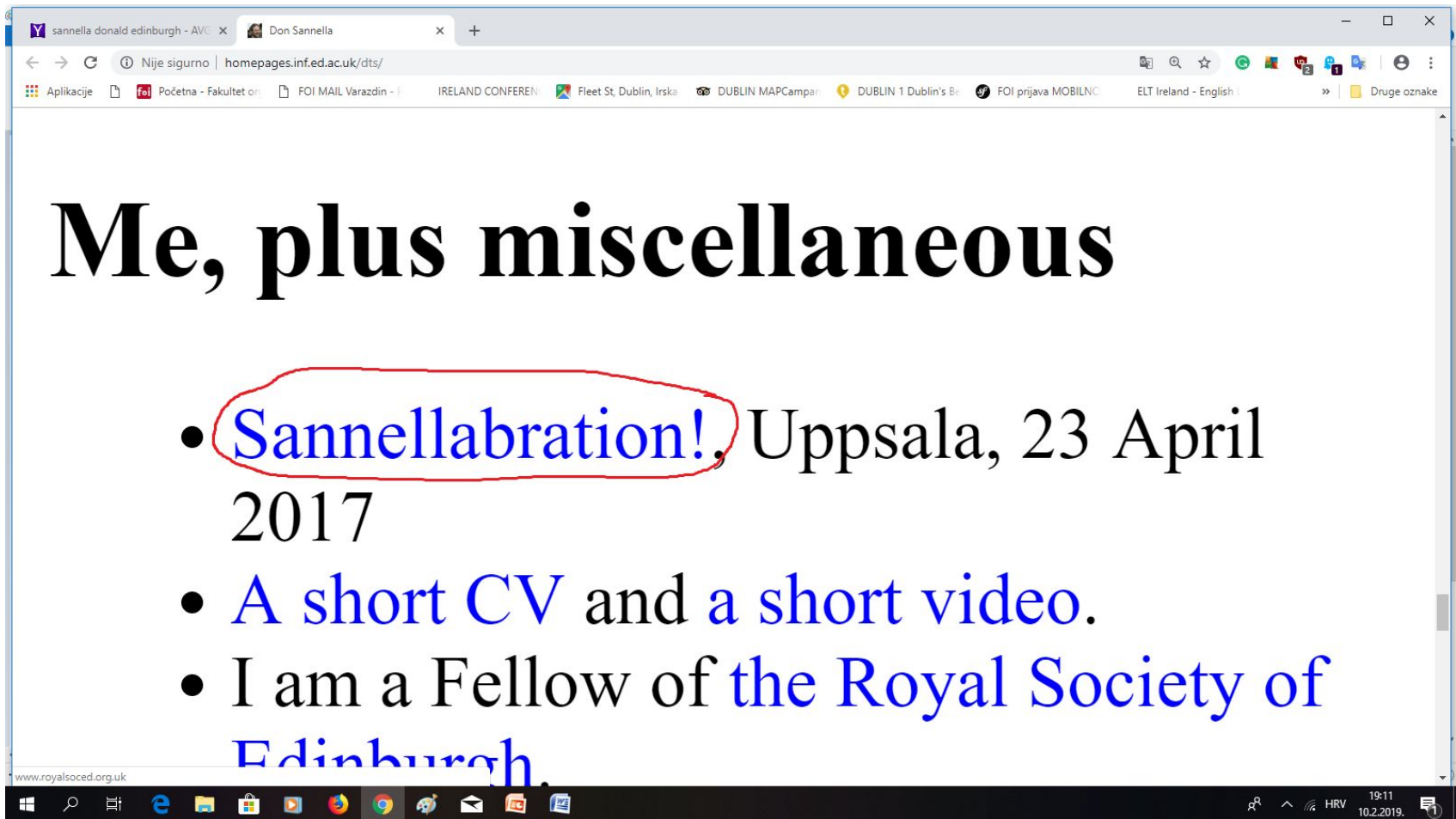
- **staycation**

- blend of stay and vacation.
- A holiday spent in one's home country rather than abroad, or one spent at home

Celebrity-name-meshing

- **Bennifer**
- **Tomkat**
- **Brangelina**
- **Billary**

Sannella

Sannellabration!

Celebration for Don Sannella's 60th birthday

Sunday 23 April 2017

A special workshop and dinner is being organised in honour of Don Sannella's 60th Birthday. It will be held at **ETAPS 2017, Uppsala**, recognising Don's contribution as one of the founders of the conference series.

- **Chairdrobe**

- **Floordrobe**

- Extremly useful use of chair or floor to hang/throw you clothes on

- **Bollywood**
- **Wikipedia**
- **Glamping**
- **Flightseeing**
- **Sofalising**
- **Mansplaining**

Selfie

- The trend of taking self pictures known as selfies
- It has other variations too, which depends on the number of participants,
- e.g.
- Twofie
- Threefie

Ussie! What is this?

According to the urban dictionary
Ussie is 'A self-inflicted group photo; when the participant of a group photo also acts as the picture taker'.
The number of participants in an "Ussie" is not limited.

- angry because you are hungry

= **hangry**

- a friend who is not really a friend but is more of an enemy

= **frenemy**

- clothing for your legs that are leggings that look like jeans

= **jeggings**

- departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union, Britain exit the European Union

= **Brexit**

- an event at which a large number of people work together to develop new software products in a matter of days (hack + marathon)

= **hackathon**

- a significant cultural, political or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people ,from youth +quake on the pattern of earthquake

= **youthquake**

- croissant and doughnut

= **cronut**

- croissant and muffin

= **cruffin**

Classroom practice

1. Initial input on some basics of morphology and the most common types of word-formation

2. Setting the criteria for the selection of words (ICT) , give further guidelines on where to get the words

3. Guidelines for analysing a spotted neologism (teacher modelling strategies)

4. Students actively involved in the classroom

5. Encourage learners to build on prior knowledge outside the classroom, to make their own 'investigations', collect instances of words that appear to be new in the language, discuss their findings and questions about words during seminars

Acquainting students with the basics of morphology and the most common types of word formation

New words are far more about reinvention than we may think. As few as one per cent of those recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary are created entirely from scratch. Of the 900 included on average for every year of the twentieth century, that leaves 891 which result from adaptation of the old: the mixing of existing words, the blending of parts of words, or simply old words put to new uses as their shifting environment requires."

(Susie Dent, *Larpers and Shroomers: The Language Report*)

- **ICT**

- high on the list of things that generate new vocabulary

- abounding in the words related to social networks and smart phones

Guidelines for analysing a spotted neologism

- How to analyse a spotted neologism
- Which information should be provided

a) a word connected to some central theme (people, equipment, activities, other)

b) the word's function in speech (n.,v.,adj.)

c) definition (apparent meaning)

d) type of word formation (compounding, blending, acronymy etc.) words analysed in terms of their structure and types of word-formation they exemplify

e) context (a sentence of/short extract from a text where the word is used in a typical context)

Students actively involved in the classroom and encouraged to make their own 'investigations', (collect instances of words that appear to be new in the language, discuss their findings)

Such activities:

1. Improve students' abilities to both explore and store vocabulary

2. Increase their awareness of the structure and use of English words

3. Increase their awareness of some basic principles of language change that have affected the English language

4. Alert students to the creative aspects of word-formation (eg. finding interesting and amusing examples)

Humorous examples (Teacher)

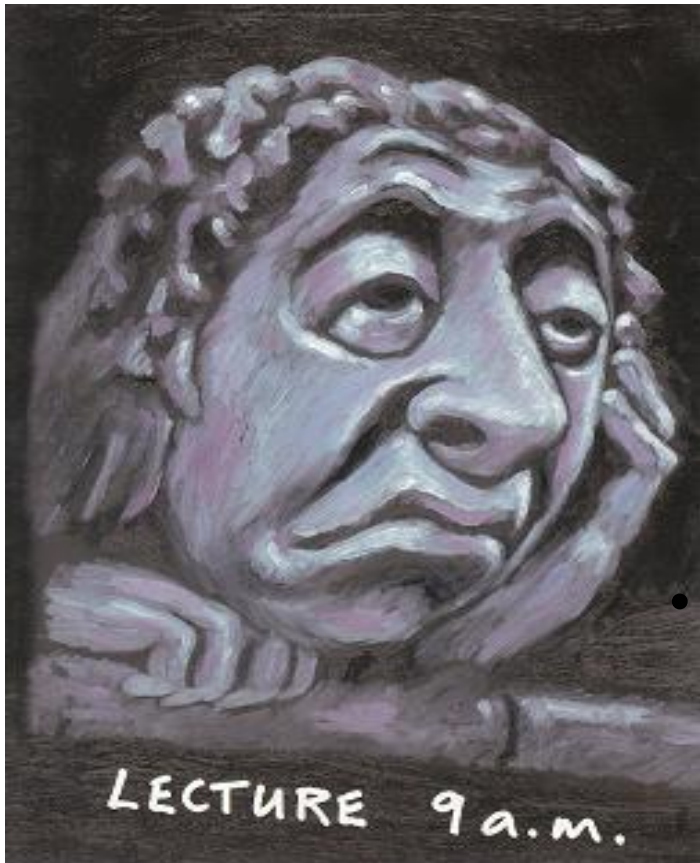For establishing more relaxed and open communication with the students,

It's so cheap

You can afford to be talkaholic

Type of word-formation: Affixation (adding prefixes and suffixes)

Teacher's humorous comments
warm-up questions

Tired and sleepy students   **Teacher's comment**

'Clickerati', 'technorati' (modern, tech savvy generation) *'social networking fatigue'* (mental exhaustion and stress caused by creating and maintaing an excessive number of accounts on social networking sites) has become your problem! Keep your online socializing to a minimum!

- (Type of word-formation: Affixation adding prefixes and suffixes, Compounding, combining existing words)

Activities that followed in the classroom after the initial input by the teacher

TASK 1

LEARNING STRATEGY: analysing word structure and type of word-formation (as a deeper processing strategy), note-taking in a vocabulary notebook or simply notes along the margins or between the lines of the text.

Try to analyse **the italicized words** in the text in terms of their structure and types of word-formation they exemplify, and guess their meaning.

" By the end of the day, your eyes are red and your vision a little blurry. Your secretary is complaining of neck pain, and your graphic designer has a bad case of ***mouse wrist***. You know you need to do something. It's time to ***ergonom-ize*** your office."

mouse wrist n.

Category: equipment and health problem

Meaning: pain in the wrist caused by excessive or improper use of a computer mouse, one of the most common RSI (repetitive strain injury) problems

Type of word-formation: Compounding (mouse + wrist), a similar word compound for a health problem *tennis elbow*. Combining two or more existing words to form a new lexical unit.

ergonom-ize v.

Category: activity

Meaning: to use egronomically designed equipment to reduce fatigue and discomfort when working. To make office become ergonomic.

Type of word-formation: Affixation (suffix -ize changes an adjective into a verb meaning 'to make something become' , e.g. *modern→modernize*
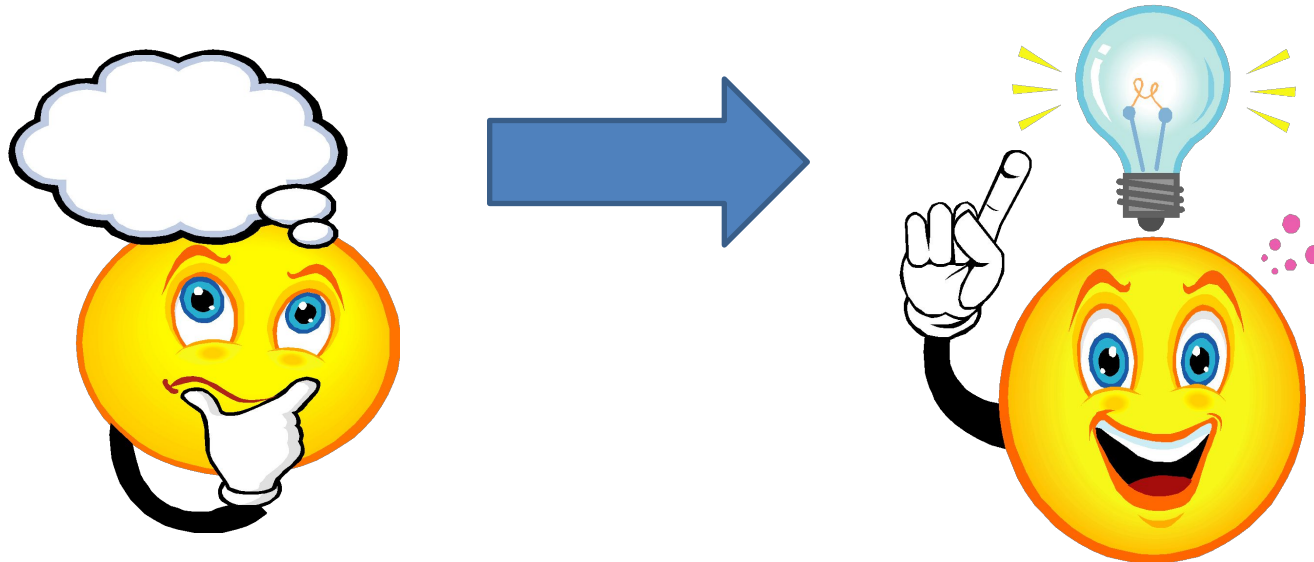
Possible guidance or intervention on the part of the teacher:

Relate italicized words to the following terms when guessing their meaning: tennis elbow, mouse arm, phone neck, RSI problems,

ergonomic, ergonomically, ergonomic design ,
ergonomize similar to *globalize*, global, globalize.

Motivated by making progress in learning

● When students figure out the meaning of the word, they are motivated.

● Perhaps feel clever for having succeded in doing this.

● Thus a positive attitude is created which will probably reinforce the student's intention to remember the word, and further maintain their motivation as they have successfully reach their objective.

Activities that followed in the classroom after the initial input by the teacher

LEARNING STRATEGY: noticing neologisms

analysing word structure and type

of word-formation

Spot instances of words that appear to be new in the language, and and then analyse them in terms of word structure and types of word-formation. Guess their meaning and provide definitions.

" *Twitter*, that microblogging tool that caught on with teens and twentysomethings using it to tell loyal followers what they're doing at any given time – in 140 characters or less – is now becoming part of business strategy for a wide range of brands, from Skittles to Fairfax County. Shashi Bellamkonda, Network Solutions' social media swami (yes, that's his real title), organized the tutorial, attended by about 30 people. He's more prolific *Twitterer* than most, posting anywhere from five to 15 *tweets* per day about anything from his daily routine to the news. Big companies such as Dell are active in the *Twitterverse* addressing customer service issues, he said." (Kim Hart, 'Firms Take to The *Tweetable* Business Model', The Washington Post, March 9, 2009)

Expected explanation using the guidelines on how to analyse a neologism

Twitter n.

Category: people, communication

Meaning: a brand name for a social network

Type of word formation: Root creation, creation of entirly new word for a brand name. Although the idea probably was to play with sounds (sounds like *tweet*)

Twitterer n.

Category: people

Meaning: a person who uses social networking service Twitter

Type of word formation: Affixation (Twitter + -er suffix gives the meaning 'the person that does the activity)

Tweet n.

Category: Activity

Meaning: a short message sent via the Twitter

Type of word-formation : Semantic neologism. Not the formation of new words *per* se but the formation of new senses for existing words.Original meaning → the short high sound that a small bird makes, new meaning → a short message sent via Twitter

Tweet v.

Category: Activity

Meaning: to send a tweet (a shor message) via the Twitter

Type of word formation: Conversion (tweet n. → tweet v.)

Similar coinages are: text n. → text v.(to send a text message via a mobile phone) or SMS n. → SMS v., blog n. → blog v., Google n. → google v.

Twitterverse n.

Category: people and activities

Meaning: Social networking service Twitter and people who use it

Type of word formation: Blending (Twitter + universe)

Tweetable adj.

Category: Activity

Meaning: activity you can be engaged in using a Twitter, able to tweet in any given time, posting anywhere, about anything, in 140 characters or less

Type of word formation: Affixation (tweet v. + suffix –able, changes verb into an adjective meaning 'able to be', e.g. admire → admirable, avoid → avoidable)

. "Like most Homo sapiens, I have 10 fingers (in need of manicure), 10 toes (that could look a whole lot better) and at least 10 kinks in a back that aches for regular TLC. Ah, yes, the modern white-collar ailments: *'Computer spine'* and *'phone neck'* ."

Both neologisms were explained by a student as examples illustrating:

a) *compounding* as a type of word formation

b) describing RSI problems caused by excessive use of a computer, and holding a cellphone between one's shoulder and ear for extended periods.

c) They represent compoundings similar to *mouse wrist* or *tennis elbow*. . "

phone neck

This is the form of a bad habit, which is caused by the actions of constantly looking down for long periods of time at smart phones (iOS, Android, etc.) that eventually results with neck pain, or feeling as if one's neck is strained from being in an uncomfortable position. Phone neck isn't a common problem now, but with technology constantly advancing, and with new innovative ideas for communicating and entertainment on the rise in most modern societies, this will be a reoccurring problem with most people. This all started with the millennials.
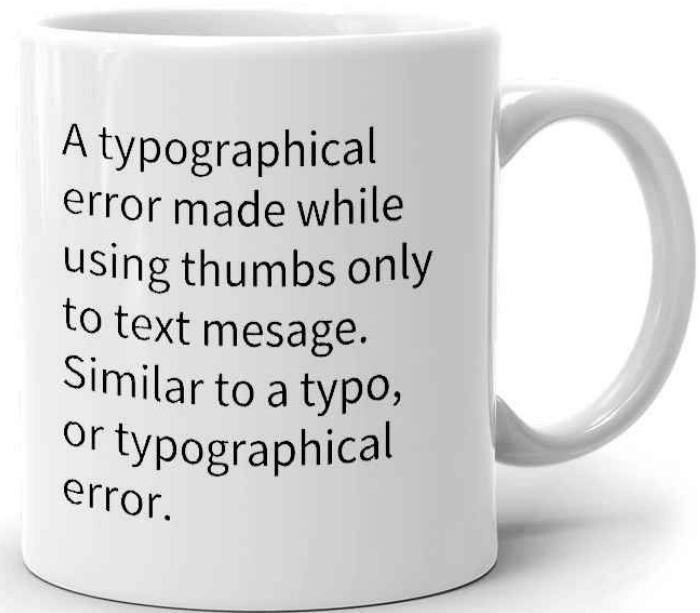
Interesting examples spotted and analysed by students:

"Touch type with your thumbs. How do you get rid of **'*thumbos'*,** those cellphone message typos? Practice. And some handy tips."

The type of word formation that **thumbo** represents is *blending* (thumb + typo),

coined on the model of *typo* a word for an error in typing or printing, and *speako* a word for an error in speaking.

Adding a suffix 'o' to a word thus forming groups that resemble each other

45

thumbo

ud

A typographical
error made while
using thumbs only
to text mesage.
Similar to a typo,
or typographical
error.

Examples of ICT related neologisms that can be explored and analysed in the class, exemplifying the processes by which new words enter the vocabulary.

Infobesity

jomo
ud

digital
detox
ud

| fomó |

noun

a state of m
strain cause
missing out

• Evolution-
omnipresen
by our cogt
recognize
opportunit
last-slice fo
what was b

Fomo
ud

Ringxiety
ud

- ***infobesity*** *n.*
- a <u>blend</u> of *information* and *obesity,*
- the condition of continually consuming large amounts of information, especially when this has a negative effect on a person's well-being and ability to concentrate.

- ***digital detox*** *n.*

- illustrates <u>compounding</u>, a new word formed from already existing words,

- implying not using social media for a particular amount of time and thus avoiding a large amount of meaningless and useless information.

- ***FOMO***

- (<u>acronym</u> standing for the expression *f*ear *o*f *m*issing *o*ut),

- ***JOMO***

- (<u>acronym </u>standing for the expression *joy o*f *m*issing *o*ut)

- ***ringxiety*** n.
- (a <u>blend </u>of *ringing* and *anxiety*)
- the constant need to check one's phone, or mistakenly thinking it is ringing

- ***phubbing*** n.
- (a <u>blend </u>of *phone* and *snub*),
- snubbing/neglecting someone in a social setting by looking at your phone all the time
- ***phubber*** *n.*
- ***phub*** *v.*
- ***phubbed*** *adj.*

- ***BYOD** n.*

- (<u>initialism</u> standing for the expression **b**ring **y**our **o**wn **d**evice),

- the policy of allowing employees to bring their own computing devices to work

- ***BYOC** n.*

- (<u>initialism </u>standing for the expression bring your own computer)

- when gamers taking part in a multiplayer gaming (e.g. LAN parties) bring their own computers to hook up to a network.

BYOC

Bring Your Own Computer

ud

- *swipe* v.
- (<u>semantic neologism</u>, existing lexical units taking on new uses/meaning)
- moving the finger across the touch screen in order to move to a new page or make a choice
- **swipe   across/left/right/up/down**

Thank you

CONCLUSION

There is always

- a way to do things differently in the class
- new ways to make lessons more stimulating.
- ways to stretch beyond the tried and tested

" *Creativity* is intelligence *having fun.* "

- Albert Einstein

CONCLUSION

How can teachers make the educational world a better place?

- By igniting the spark of curiosity in classroom teaching, reducing 'pail filling' increasing 'fire lighting'.

- And if at least something that students do in the classroom becomes their lifelong interest, it will make education worthwhile.

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- Albert Einstein