

## *The Internet and the Language Classroom*

**Review by Carmen-Pilar Serrano-Boyer**

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*THE INTERNET AND THE LANGUAGE CLASSROOM.* Gavin Dudeney. Cambridge University Press, 2000. \$21.95

Nowadays language teachers admit that the Internet is one of the best tools that can be used in classrooms to motivate students and obtain innovative resources and information. The only problem is that sometimes one does not know where to begin. Gavin Dudeney helps the language teacher by sharing his personal experience as a consultant for language schools and educational institutions in this really useful book.

*The Internet and the Language Classroom* is divided into five sections: Guidelines is a general introduction to help teachers know how to use the Internet. Activities is the second section and offers a wide range of themes for students at various levels. A language teacher can choose the activity that best suits his/her students. The classification of activities according to the students' level and according to themes is extremely helpful. In this section, Dudeney shows how to proceed in four steps: preparation, online, offline, and follow-up/variations. Thus he gives teachers the opportunity to adapt the chosen activity to their students. For example, one teacher might try introducing variations while others might avoid them, depending on the students' level, course objectives, and school facilities. Projects is a section for students and teachers who wish to make web pages and exchange email. Advanced Net is aimed at students and teachers who already know how to use the Internet and feel the need to improve their knowledge. FAQs is the last section, where one can find frequently asked questions and answers. In this part of the book there is important information regarding how to get connected to the Internet, such as where to find useful websites for teaching, and how to publish student material. At the end of the book there is an extensive index. In my opinion the second and the fifth sections are the most helpful.

*The Internet and the Language Classroom* points out that one of the main advantages of using the Internet in class is that language teachers do not need to spend so much time collecting authentic material such as newspapers and songs, since the Net offers a great deal of updated material. As Dudeney says, "All this material is quickly, cheaply, and readily available from the comfort of our desks or homes. To the busy teacher, the Internet can be an infinite resource file of texts, visual stimuli, vocabulary, information, video files, live TV and radio, newspapers from around the world . . . The

list is endless" (p. 1). As an EFL teacher I strongly recommend my colleagues read and use this useful tool.

### **About the Reviewer**

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