

# Tools That Rule and Apps that Snap: The Manifold Benefits of Using iPads in the ESL Classroom

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### Text That Rules: The Internet

- A vast source of information and content available for the convenience of virtual participation in real-time and asynchronous
- Utilizing social applications, especially a class discussion board, benefits from the benefits of readily available information and can be accessed anytime and anywhere

### Text That Rules: Google Translate

- This free, web-based tool allows users to translate text, photos, and audio files from one language to another
- It is particularly useful for students who are learning a new language or who are struggling with a particular text

### Text That Rules: Socrative

- Open for several years, Socrative is a free, web-based tool that allows teachers to create and administer quizzes, surveys, and polls
- It is particularly useful for students who are learning a new language or who are struggling with a particular text

### Apps Not Included in Conference Handout

- An excellent resource for teachers and students alike, this handout provides a list of apps that are not included in the conference handout

### App That Snaps: Outlook

- Open for several years, Outlook is a free, web-based tool that allows users to manage their email, calendar, and contacts
- It is particularly useful for students who are learning a new language or who are struggling with a particular text

### App That Snaps: Evernote

- Open for several years, Evernote is a free, web-based tool that allows users to take notes, create to-do lists, and manage their files
- It is particularly useful for students who are learning a new language or who are struggling with a particular text

### App That Snaps: VoiceThread

- Open for several years, VoiceThread is a free, web-based tool that allows users to create and share audio and video recordings
- It is particularly useful for students who are learning a new language or who are struggling with a particular text



# Apps Not Included in Conference Handout

**Acceleread -- Very useful timed reading app**

**Grammaropolis -- A fun way for students to learn a lot about grammar**

**Idioms -- A fun cartoon explanation of the origins of quite a few idioms**

**Doodle Hangman Free -- A fun way for students to play the classic vocabulary game**

**Correction:** During the EV Fair session, I represented the Dragon app incorrectly as a way students can record themselves and play the recording back. The Dragon app is a speech to text app and does not have feature of allowing what was recorded to be played back. However, simple audio recording apps are available in the Apple Store with just the keywords "audio recorder," as are simple apps for just about any utility need one could have, such as calculators and timers.

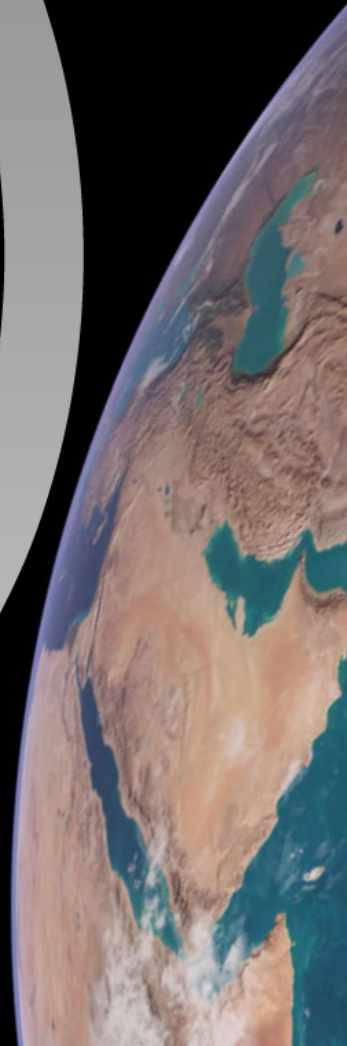
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## **Tool That Rules: The Internet**

- **A literal world of information and images available for any collaborative project as digital multimedia become valued, accepted and expected in any cultural and educational context:**
  - **Working on a presentation, especially a group presentation**
  - **Class discussion about specific topics**
  - **Great variety of constantly available reference resources, such as dictionaries, including audio ([www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com))**

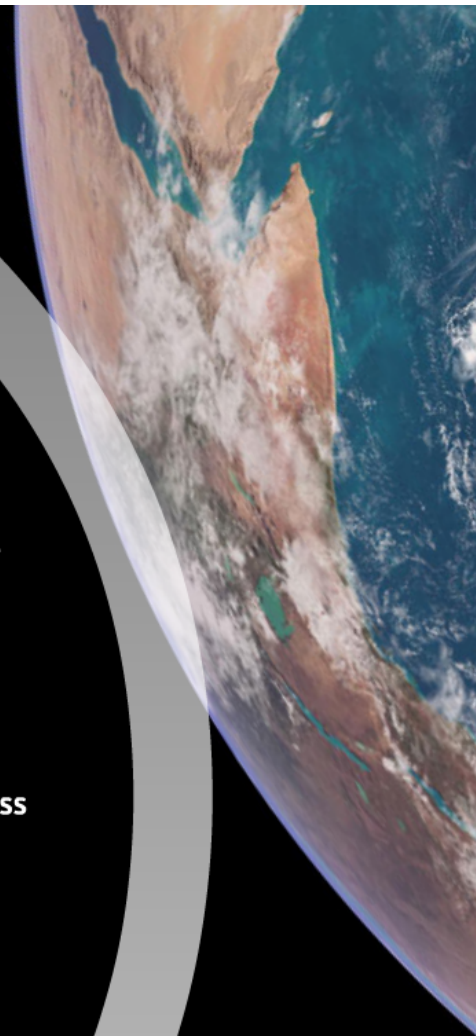


## **Tool That Rules: Google Drive (Google Docs)**

**Allows a truly paperless classroom right now:**

- **Open free account at [docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)**
- **Google Drive (Google Docs) available as a free app on both Apple iOS and Android**
- **Good for quizzes/tests for any skill area with Form function**
- **Reading: with Sheets (spreadsheet) function, easy way to monitor/constantly update timed reading and outside reading progress**
- **Writing and Making Presentations: with Document and Slides (presentation) functions, allows truly collaborative/real time editing, skill-building, and writing activities; tutoring many students at once possible; Document, Sheets, and Slides functions allow convenient, totally shared access and constant updating**

**(Besides Google Docs, inexpensive apps allow reading, making, and editing documents, spreadsheets, and presentations on both Apple iOS and Android, and inexpensive apps on both platforms even allow writing directly on a PDF.)**





## **Tool That Rules: Socrative**

- **Open free account at [www.socrative.com](http://www.socrative.com)**
- **Good for any skill area or level**
- **Provides anonymous and useful class and skill-building feedback**
- **Accessible online (no app)**



## App That Snaps: Evernote

- Open a free account at [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)
- Designed as a way to keep track of all of one's images, videos (only as an attachment), spoken and written notes, and other kinds of attachments (as uploads or to be actually made in the program), but can be used to make an ongoing, transferable multimedia album or portfolio
- Album/portfolio of notes can be put together and exported either in an email or as a web archive; teacher feedback directly on specific parts of the portfolio possible with free version through use of course management system
- Accessible online and through mobile app (both Apple iOS and Android has an app) (though several functions only available through desktop download)



## App That Snaps: VoiceThread

- **Open a free account at [www.voicethread.com](http://www.voicethread.com)**
- **Allows students to have a synchronous or nonsynchronous discussion about an image (or topic) using writing, audio, and video**
- **Students can also make marks on the image under discussion itself**
- **Accessible online and through mobile app (only Apple iOS has an app; Android does not)**





## App That Snaps: Quizlet

- **Open free account at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com)**
- **Makes vocabulary and spelling practice convenient, useful and enjoyable with digital flash cards and related games, tests, dictations, and audio of vocabulary**
- **Flash card format fits iPad/other tablets very well because of the mobility of these devices**
- **Instructors just type in vocabulary covered in class and choose quickly from suggested definitions**
- **Accessible online and through mobile app (only Apple iOS, not Android has an app)**