

**Your favourite website:** I don't have one.

**A gadget you can't live without:** There is no gadget that I couldn't live without but I'm very fond of my iPod Touch and iPod Classic. These marvelous little devices miraculously contain all of my CD collection of 20.000 'songs' - music, audio-books, drama, poetry, podcasts - which I can carry with me wherever I go and listen to virtually at any time. Talk about 'a world in a grain of sand' and holding 'infinity in the palm of your hand'! Magic!

**Something you'd never throw away:** I would never throw away my old school reports - as a reminder of how education can transform the life of the individual and the importance of teachers good and bad - on what happens to us in later life.

**Who or what inspires you?** I think what has influenced me as a teacher since my first efforts till the present is the love of creative artists - writers, musicians, painters - and the possibility that teaching the English language could, in a small way, have the kind of life-long impact and remembered pleasure that art has on people. The miraculous existence of Shakespeare and his mastery of language is a constant inspiration. On a more practical level, the two most important influences on my teaching, training and writing have been Mario Rinvolucri -for his inspiring practical techniques for the classroom - and Henry Widdowson -for his focus on the importance of theory and principle in good practice.

**Useful teaching tool:**

for all its faults and disadvantages - is the coursebook. Although some of our best lessons are based on pure learner input , I still feel a well-designed coursebook provides useful support to hard-pressed teachers - a marriage of dogme (lessons from the learner) and sensitive use of course material is a good thing.

**Your favourite lesson:** I don't really have a favourite lesson but the lessons I taught as a lecturer in Shakespeare at the University of Thessaloniki for several years were the most satisfying of my career - I suppose because one was teaching language that captured so much powerful human experience. It was so easy to make lessons memorable when the language packed so much energy and sheer perception into what it means to be human.

**Your favourite bit about your talk:** from

Socrates to Silicon Valley - is the last slide - a newspaper headline - and the question it poses.

**A lesson you've learnt while teaching:** That in being an effective teacher, there's nothing more important than love for the subject and a capacity to convey to the students your enthusiasm for what you are teaching; and - I suppose - the pleasure you get in helping them fulfil their potential to learn and love learning.