

**Your favourite website:**

[www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com) – I constantly look at this site throughout the day and often get loads of ideas and materials for classes too.

**A gadget you can't live without:**

My ipod. I listen to podcasts of varying genres every day; they are a constant source of entertainment and information, and quite often, inspiring. My ipod is always with me when I run too, music is a great motivator.

**Something you'd never throw away:**

I am someone who hoards stuff, too much stuff. I'm working on it but very slowly. Let's just say I wouldn't throw away anything of great sentimental value (the problem is, if you really try, you can find sentiment in most things).

**Who or what inspires you?**

People in general. One can read an article or see something in the street that inspires you to do something different or think in a different way. Inspiration comes in the strangest of forms and often when we are least expecting it.

**Useful teaching tool:**

Well, these are three, but they go together: A flexible attitude, imagination and an inquisitive mind...being a bit nosy can glean all kinds of information from students which can often lead to lively debate and exploring language you hadn't planned for in that class.

**Your favourite lesson:**

The lessons where you have had a last minute idea (from listening to a podcast on the bus en route to work, for example) and then go straight into class and get 40 minutes of dynamic, responsive class time.

**Your favourite bit about your talk:**

The bit where I get the audience to get up and sing (and act out) '*The Birdy Song*'....only joking!

**A lesson you've learnt while teaching:**

Material can come from anywhere and you can be the most knowledgeable and well-trained teacher in the world but if you don't find that common ground with your students or have a personality that will engage with them, you may not get the desired results.