

Your favourite website: I think I'd have to say "The Guardian" – nothing to do with teaching but lots to bring up in my classes. With teaching websites I'm a bit faddy – I overuse something for a while then flit onto something different.

A gadget you can't live without: possibly my leatherman (swiss-army-type tool). I'm not really that much of a boy scout but it is very useful and sounds better than just a corkscrew!

Something you'd never throw away: I can't think of anything, I've lost important material things to thieves and fire and in the end, people are what matter.

Who or what inspires you? I know it sounds corny but my teenage students – their views on the world, their hopes and the things they say and do in class are honestly inspiring. Another thing are teaching conferences – I couldn't sleep after the last one with ideas for my next presentation buzzing round my head!

Useful teaching tool: I think this question's very difficult – I've thought of everything from a pencil to the digipen, pictures to pebbles but really I think it's just all the bits around us that both students and teachers bring into class every day, the more varied the better!

Your favourite lesson: I love teaching conditionals and modals – an opportunity to unleash the imagination and lead to some real, interesting communication

Your favourite bit about your talk: the buzz of talking once the activities have started, then I know they're going well; people are working together and sharing – just what I'm aiming for in class.

A lesson you've learnt while teaching: To really listen to what your students are saying to you – and then be flexible – and I'm still learning!