

Your favourite website: Youtube – I use it all the time for resources, documentaries , songs and news items for my classes.

A gadget you can't live without: my new internet radio – it was a Christmas present and it's great for listening to my favourite UK radio stations (Radio 4, Radio 3, BBC World Service and Radio Merseyside for when I feel homesick for Liverpool!). It's a Roberts radio and I listen to it when marking, relaxing or planning my lessons.

Something you'd never throw away: photographs of friends and family. Today I don't tend to print out photos but living abroad, I like to have favourite photos of my family and friends around me.

Who or what inspires you? My students inspire me to be creative and as a diploma teacher trainer I am often inspired by the teachers I observe!

Useful teaching tool: Word Reference – I teach a lot of proficiency classes and it's a useful point of reference

Your favourite lesson: A video based lesson based on a short BBC documentary with monkeys who steal cocktails on a tropical island. The students find it amusing and the vocabulary is good too! With classes using course books I like to alternate by using authentic materials where possible.

Your favourite bit about your talk: The end! No...seriously...I enjoyed doing the research and dipping into *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* by Lynne Truss which is a really funny read. I enjoyed trying out activities with my class and seeing the improvement in their writing.

A lesson you've learnt while teaching: you inevitably can't always follow your plan – be flexible and don't cram too much in. I often plan far too much. Less is more!