

Education on the Go at TV411.org

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“I never get enough time for myself,” students in adult education classes often say. “So I have trouble finding time to study.”

Sound familiar? It’s true that carving out a time each day for reading, studying math, or doing homework is hard for busy adults. New types of technology can help. They’re ubiquitous – that is, everywhere around us – and right at hand when we can snatch a few minutes to, say, read a poem, think through a math problem, or refresh our knowledge of science.

Use Little Chunks of Time

The producers at the nonprofit Education Development Center had those little chunks of time in mind when they created a free educational website for adult learners, TV411.org. They noticed that more and more people were buying devices that could connect to the Internet via cellular technology or WiFi “hotspots.” Why, thought the TV411 team, couldn’t adult education students use their devices to connect to TV411.org while riding the bus or taking a coffee break?

Instead of playing Angry Birds or checking out Facebook, learners could visit TV411.org to watch short and entertaining videos that help them expand their vocabulary, get the point of view in a news article, learn about healthful bacteria in yogurt, or brush up on percents, decimals, and fractions. The site includes 135 free, entertaining, and educational videos on reading, writing, math, and science, as well as 75 interactive web lessons and 31 printable activity sheets.

What’s Your Strategy?

How would the learn-as-you-go strategy work for you? How do you make time to study and learn?

Find Out What’s Cooking

An exciting new feature, *TV411 What’s Cooking?*, is a real cooking show starring a real chef, Jamika Pessoa, who blends math and science into the preparation of simple, tasty, and nutritious recipes.

For example, in the *Bacteria* video, Chef Jamika explores the benefits and dangers of bacteria, while whipping up a tangy yogurt dip to complement skewers of lemony chicken.



Jamika Pessoa teaches math and science in her cooking show on TV411.org.

Learn as You Go

So how do we imagine learners on-the-go can use TV411.org? Let’s count the ways:

- On the bus to work, watch a 10-minute video about bacteria and learn the benefits and dangers of these microscopic organisms and the conditions under which they multiply.
- For 15 minutes at lunch, check out the companion science and math web lessons to the *Bacteria* video on a tablet or laptop.
- For 30 minutes after dinner, log on and discuss how “good” bacteria are essential for pickling. Share pickling recipes with other users.

That’s 55 enjoyable minutes of extra learning time in your day!

Lora Myers works at the Education Development Center. For another article about teaching science with TV411, see <www.nelrc.org/changeagent/extras>.