

Using Technology for Education

Irma G. Laboy

Pronunciation, Vocabulary, and Grammar

For me, technology is a powerful tool for learning. For example, I am studying English, and my school gave me different programs to use on the computer such as Rosetta Stone, Lexia, and Spark 3000. These programs help me to improve my comprehension and pronunciation. In Spark 3000,

I need a lot of practice to learn English, and these programs make it possible for me to keep learning after school.

I read different articles and then answer questions about the article. Lexia helps me hear the differences between long and short vowels. With another program called Rosetta Stone, I can practice

vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, listening, and reading. I have an excellent teacher. She is always looking for different ways to teach English.

I need a lot of practice to learn English, and these programs make it possible for me to keep learning after school. At home, I use interactive games to practice my English. For example, I like to study vocabulary words by playing Hangman and Word Scramble. I also do crossword puzzles. These games make it fun to learn the spelling and meaning of words. You can find a wide variety of websites that teach English on the computer. My favorite websites are <www.manythings.org> and <www.usalearns.org>.

Advanced Studies

Finally, technology has created enormous opportunities for education. Today it is possible to take online classes on almost any topic. This is a great opportunity for people who want to get a career but have limited time. My sister got her degree in Business Administration by taking online classes.

She is married, has children, and has a job, so taking online classes was a good solution for her. Now she works as an executive secretary at a high school during the day and gives computer classes in the afternoon.

Technology is changing the world by giving people opportunities to improve their education. For me and my sister, technology has helped us improve our skills and pursue our dreams. How do you use technology for your education?

Irma Laboy, originally from Mexico, is a student at The Adult Education Center in Hartford, CT. Her hobbies are reading, walking in the park, and spending time with her husband. In the future, she would like to work in a day care center with preschool children.



You Try It!

Go to the websites Irma mentions in this article. Pick an activity you especially like, and share it with your classmates.

Explore the Web. See p. 31 and note the list of additional free websites. Search for free apps for learning English and try some out. Share them with others.

Plan your time. When can you fit in some extra moments of study? (See “Education on the Go...” on p. 33 for more ideas.)

Teachers! Get more ideas at <www.nelrc.org/changeagent/extras>. Read:

1. “Technology in the Classroom” by Dylan Emerick-Brown
2. “Weebly Comes to CT” by Aileen Halloran.