



Video 4 – Getting the balance right

In the previous videos, I introduced you to some digital tools, and looked at how they can be used to help support teaching and learning vocabulary.

In this video I'm going to look in a little more detail at some of the possible advantages and disadvantages of using these kinds of tools. And I'll look at some important dos and don'ts that you should consider as you plan how to introduce digital tools into your vocabulary teaching and learning sessions.

Knowing how to design learning by developing and evaluating digital learning materials effectively is one of the six key categories of the Cambridge English Digital Framework. The more you experiment, the more confident you will become.

First of all, be ready to experiment! Don't be afraid to try something new. Sometimes teachers can be put off by how quickly technology is changing. But try and see the positive things about the many ways that technology can help you to make teaching and learning more stimulating, enjoyable and memorable for your learners.

It's important to learn how to support your teaching through technology, but also important not to let technology dominate too much; you need the right balance. If you only use technology for activities in a lesson, the lesson may seem too impersonal, and may not work for your learners' different learning styles. Try to use technology for about one quarter of the time you spend in class and no more.

All the tools I have used in these videos are commercial products developed by companies. They are all available to use for free. However, some of them may charge a subscription to access all of their features or functions. You may choose to subscribe if you find one tool very useful, but don't pay for subscriptions you won't use. Perhaps you can try using the free content first, and then move up to a paid subscription if you're sure you are going to use it.