

# ELECTRONIC TEACHING AIDS FOR ELEMENTARY LEVEL ENGLISH LEARNERS

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## Abstract

This paper presents background information about electronic teaching aids(ETA) and teaching aids in general and lists possible beneficial sides of ETA in the educational process. Moreover, the question of the ETA implementation on elementary level students is discussed, mentioning both good sides and limitations of ETA integration.

## Key words:

Technology, ETA, teaching aids, electronic, multimedia, elementary level, English language.

Technology in the modern world is surely one of the most powerful phenomena. In the educational sphere it was clearly stated that it is tremendous to point out the main steps of IT integration in classrooms. One of these steps contains the wide usage of electronic aids in the educational process. According to [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com), teaching aid is anything by a teacher used to help him/her to make lessons more enjoyable for students and makes the lesson process more convenient. Therefore, “electronic” teaching aid has the same defining background with addition of electronic device accessibility in the classroom. A lot of researches related to this topic have been conducted and resulted in clearing the importance of information technology, finding clear benefits and disadvantages of its implementation and presenting various ways of displaying the content through electronic devices. However, the question of implementation of electronic teaching aids in the process of teaching elementary level learners, or mostly children at the age of 11-13 has not been yet researched thoroughly. Electronic teaching aids (ETA) have a number of beneficial sides regarding the age and skills of learners. Some of them include:

- Accessibility and portability. The electronic teaching aids can be accessed at any time of the day and can be viewed on any device as the learner would prefer himself/herself;
- Accomodation of various learning styles. Electronic teaching aids, with the high availability of multimedia (video, photo, visuals) and charts with diagrams, show higher impact on students rather than the books with the plain text on them. Learners tend to show more interest in an English language subject and perform better during examinations;
- Experience of online learning. With the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the necessity of teaching students to work with electronic devices and get used to online learning has been cleared. Electronic teaching aids, being used even in traditional classrooms as additional supporting technology, can become a useful tool for students to be ready for online learning at any time of the semester/ quarter;

Elementary level students are usually those who are in need for visual representation of new words and expressions and their similitude to those words that they are used to actively implementing in their target language. Related to this fact, electronic teaching aids are believed to be very effective for learners at elementary level. First of all, let's figure out the basic characteristics of English language learners who are at elementary level. The word "elementary" itself points to the fact that this level of understanding language is the foundation for future language elements layering. Therefore, elementary English learners can express themselves on a basic level with a limited range of vocabulary and expressions. Moreover, the learners are expected to be able to understand some sentences and phrases said by native speakers and write short letters on a narrow topic that contain no more than 200 words. Defining the characteristics of elementary level students, we can make a conclusion that elementary level of learning English language is can be considered as a turning point for any learner; to continue learning the language by having a great interest or give up because the next levels of Intermediate and Pre-intermediate seem to be very complex and hard to reach. The usage of electronic teaching aids during this period awakens students' motivation to move forward without pressure. There are a number of reasons why ETA has such kind of impact on elementary level students. The first and the most prominent reason is the availability of interactive elements that modern teaching aids have. By the wide usage of electronic teaching aids building applications, every teacher can add pictures, videos, interactive dialogues, glossaries, audio tracks and tests in ETA. All of the multimedia mentioned above enables learners' interest in the subject and makes the process of memorizing new words and data less difficult. In addition, based on the research made by a number of Indian methodologists the elementary level students who are taught English language with integration of ETA show different behaviour, attitude and the level of knowledge with those learners who are not taught with the help of electronic teaching aids. All these three elements are inter-connected for the former students. On the other hand, even if the usage of ETA is proven to increase learning outcomes, it is no exception in terms of limitations. The overuse of these teaching aids may lead to teacher's low performance and interaction with students. It is crucial for teachers to develop an established strategy of implementing electronic teaching aids in the educational process in order not to leave out main points of the lesson and deliver as good performance as possible.

## References

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