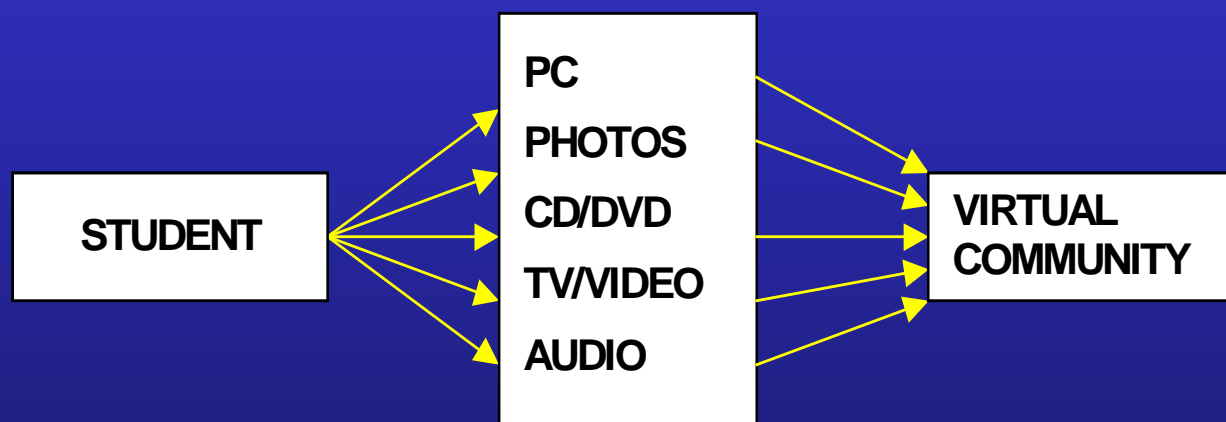# Virtual Communities in Teaching of English Language

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New technologies in the teaching process

STUDENT → PC / PHOTOS / CD/DVD / TV/VIDEO / AUDIO → VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Minimal interactivity → Maximal interactivity

All multimedia aids previously used by English teachers are combined in the creation of a virtual community.

Large variety of virtual communities

English and Information Technology

- English - the predominant Internet language
- Appropriate for English language lessons
- Prerequisite: Previously well organized Information Technology classes

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

1. Choosing the topic and content
2. Finding the provider (homesteading site)
3. Applying for web space
4. Creating the frame
5. Incorporation of various services and tools
6. Uploading process
7. Community maintenance

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

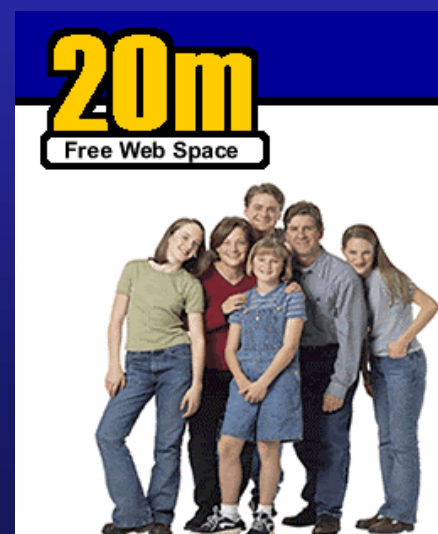1. **Choosing the topic and content**

    -   **Groupwork**

    -   **Brainstorming**

    -   **Idea presentation**

    -   **Compromise**

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

2.   Finding the provider (homesteading site)

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

3. **Applying for space**

-   **Filling in forms**
-   **Making proper choices**

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

4. **Creating the frame**

- **Pupils/students decide on the organization of their community**

- **Everybody gets the opportunity to go through the entire process**

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

5. Incorporation of services

- message boards

    - discussion forums

      - chat

        - guest books

          - instant messaging

            - Internet radio station

              - ...

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

6.   **Uploading process**

-     **Students go through the instructions and upload the pages**

Stages in the creation of a virtual community

7. Community maintenance

- Other classes and schools are invited to participate
- Administrators and moderators are appointed
- New content is constantly added
- Pupils are rotated in their duties
- The official community language is English

The teacher's role

- **Direction**

- **Support**

- **Suggestions**

- **Advice**

Practical use of a virtual community

- **Discussion**

- **School problems**

- **Homework**

- **Textbooks**

- **Advice**

- **Interaction**

- **Language practise**

Communication
pupil/student ↔ teacher

- Communication is greatly improved

- Cooperation

- Exchange of knowledge and experience

- Avoiding of embarrassment

The four skills

- **Speking**
- **Writing**
- **Listening**
- **Reading**

All the skills are activated and practised.

The problems

- Equipment
- Fear

- Lack of training
- Misconceptions

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