Tutoring Strategies: Quizlet Online Flashcards

By ELL Tutor Lane Morgan



Have you tried using online flashcards during sessions to enhance your learner's experience? Especially for teachers and learners who have access to a technological device (computer, tablet, phone, etc.) during their sessions, the Quizlet site is a versatile resource.

Quizlet is a free, user-generated resource that may be perfect for many tutors and learners. It allows you to make flashcards that can be used for studying, quizzes, writing, spelling, listening practice, and online learning games. Users can also print out hard copies of the cards they make. In addition, it gives access to thousands of flashcard collections created by other users. For example, a search on Citizenship Test will bring up more than 500 flashcard collections for practicing vocabulary and knowledge questions.

Cards can be made with both text and images. Quizlet maintains a free, well-stocked image bank. (Users who want to find or provide their own images need to purchase an annual subscription.)

Once you've made the flashcards, you can use them in a variety of ways. You can set up flashcards to flip for memorization practice. You can use terms as spelling tests or knowledge quizzes in several formats, including typed answers, true/false, multiple choice and matching. You can convert the cards to a timed game where the learner must drag each term onto its definition or picture.

The audio function is popular with students who want to check pronunciation and reading comprehension. It will play back whatever is written on the card as many times as the learner requires. Be forewarned that the audio voice is quite mechanical and very fast, even for a native speaker. However, there is an Advanced menu below the audio icon with a Slow button that makes it easier to follow.



To access Quizlet online, go to www.quizlet.com Smartphone apps are also available. You will be asked to create a free account using an email address. A tutorial shows you how to create cards. I began by pulling up other posters' collections for topics that interested me and then created one of my own: Car and Driving Terms

Learners who have internet access at home or on their cell phones may find Quizlet an excellent way to sneak in a few minutes of practice in a busy day.