

## TEACHING ENGLISH USING ONLINE PLATFORMS TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS: THE ROLE OF KAHOOT, BLOOKET, AND OTHER DIGITAL TOOLS

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**Abstract:** This article examines the role of online platforms in motivating students, explains theoretical aspects of motivation in language learning, and analyzes the advantages and possible challenges of using digital tools in English lessons. Special attention is given to the relationship between motivation, interactivity, and learning outcomes. The study also discusses how digital tools support independent learning and help teachers organize more flexible and creative lessons.

**Keywords:** online learning, motivation, gamification, educational technology, digital platforms, EFL.

### Introduction

The rapid growth of digital technology has changed the way teachers organize the learning process in schools, colleges, and universities. Modern students grow up in a digital environment where smartphones, computers, and the internet are part of everyday life. Because of this, traditional teaching methods are often not enough to keep learners interested in the lesson for a long time. Students are used to interactive content, fast communication, and visual information, so they expect the same level of activity in the classroom. If lessons are monotonous, learners quickly lose attention and motivation.

In foreign language classrooms, motivation plays a particularly important role. Learning a new language requires regular practice, concentration, and active participation. Unlike some other subjects, language learning cannot be successful without continuous use of vocabulary, grammar, listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. When students feel bored, confused, or anxious, their progress becomes slower and they may lose confidence in their abilities. For this reason, teachers need to use modern teaching methods that make lessons more interesting, meaningful, and comfortable for learners.

Motivation has always been considered one of the key factors in successful language learning. Educational researchers explain that motivated students show more effort, spend more time completing tasks, and usually achieve better results. Motivation can be divided into internal and external types. Internal motivation appears when students enjoy the learning process itself, while external motivation comes from grades, rewards, competition, or praise from the teacher. Both types are important in the classroom, and effective teaching methods should support them together.

### Methods

This study is based on qualitative analysis of modern educational practices and theoretical research related to motivation, gamification, and digital learning in English

language teaching. The research focuses on the use of popular online platforms such as Kahoot, Quizizz, Blooket, and Wordwall, which are widely used in schools and universities to create interactive learning activities.

The study focused on the following aspects:

- the role of motivation in foreign language learning,
- the effect of gamification on student engagement,
- the importance of interactivity in classroom activities,
- the influence of instant feedback on learning results,
- the advantages of online platforms for teachers and students,
- the challenges connected with technical and organizational issues.

Observations of lessons where digital platforms were used showed how students react to interactive tasks, how their participation changes, and how teachers organize the learning process with the help of technology. The collected information was analyzed descriptively in order to identify common patterns and conclusions.

### Results

The analysis shows that the use of online platforms significantly increases student motivation and participation during English lessons. When interactive quizzes, games, and competitions are included in the lesson, students become more active and interested in the learning process. Learners who usually remain passive during traditional lessons often show higher involvement when they work with digital tools.

One of the main results is the positive effect of gamification. Elements such as points, levels, timers, and rankings create excitement and encourage students to complete tasks more carefully. When learners feel that they are playing a game instead of doing a test, they show less anxiety and more willingness to try. This emotional comfort is especially important in foreign language learning, where students are often afraid of making mistakes.

Interactivity is another important factor. Online platforms require every student to participate, because each learner answers questions on their own device. This makes the lesson more student-centered and prevents situations where only a few students are active while others remain silent. Active participation helps learners remember vocabulary and grammar more effectively because they use the language in practice instead of only listening to explanations.

Instant feedback also has a strong influence on learning results. Online systems show correct and incorrect answers immediately, so students can see their mistakes and correct them without waiting for the teacher. This makes the learning process faster and more flexible. Teachers can also see the results of the whole class and understand which topics need more explanation.

Another result is that online platforms help teachers organize different types of activities in a short time. Many platforms provide ready templates for quizzes, matching exercises, word games, and speaking prompts. Because of this, lessons become more varied and interesting. Variety helps students stay focused, especially younger learners who get bored quickly when the activity does not change.

### Discussion

The results confirm that online platforms are effective tools for increasing motivation in English language learning. Interactive learning, gamification, and immediate feedback support both internal and external motivation, which are necessary for successful language acquisition. When students enjoy the activity, they pay more attention, repeat the material more often, and feel more confident in using the language.

The study also shows that online platforms support a student-centered approach. In modern pedagogy the teacher is not only a source of information but also a guide who helps students discover knowledge independently. Digital activities require learners to think, choose answers, and make decisions, which increases responsibility for their own learning. As a result, students develop independence and self-confidence.

At the same time, the use of technology should not completely replace traditional teaching methods. Speaking practice, writing exercises, and face-to-face communication are still necessary for developing language skills. Online platforms are most effective when they are combined with explanations, discussions, and real communication in the classroom.

Another important point is the need for proper preparation. Teachers must select activities according to lesson objectives, student age, and language level. If digital tools are used only for entertainment, they may distract students instead of helping them learn. Therefore, technology should be used as a pedagogical tool, not only as a source of fun.

Technical problems can also influence the effectiveness of online platforms. Lack of equipment, weak internet connection, or insufficient digital skills may create difficulties. For this reason, schools should provide technical support and teacher training in order to make the use of educational technology more effective.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of online platforms in teaching English as a foreign language creates a more engaging, interactive, and motivating learning environment. Digital tools allow teachers to apply gamification, instant feedback, and student-centered approaches, which help learners stay active and interested during the lesson. Increased motivation leads to better participation, improved confidence, and higher academic results.

The study shows that online platforms are especially useful for practicing vocabulary and grammar, organizing quizzes and games, and providing immediate feedback. They also support independent learning and allow students to work at their own speed. These advantages make digital tools an important part of modern education.

Future teaching practice will likely include even more digital resources, and the ability to use them correctly will become an essential skill for every language teacher. When online platforms are used thoughtfully, they can significantly improve motivation, create a positive classroom atmosphere, and help students achieve better results in learning English.

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