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(previously shared on the Facebook group Modern Languages Teachers' Lounge.)

He also shares a Slidedeck :

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1clbWYJF0_SwuGwv9aVQG0lohUdCbNR5LZHy0CaV-dml/edit#slide=id.ga37a9b30b0_0_912

And a webinar recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQvGMzo-D5A&feature=youtu.be>

Practising listening and speaking skills and giving audio feedback while remote teaching

A question which I'm often asked by language teachers on Twitter during these strange days of lockdown is how can we help our students practise their speaking skills remotely. Here are some of my recommendations:

Quick and easy cross-platform solutions include SpeakPipe Voice Recorder, Vocaroo and recordmp3online. SpeakPipe Voice Recorder lets you record for up to 5 minutes per recording and save it anonymously if you wish. It provides you with a link to where the audio is stored and this can be emailed to the teacher too. There is also the option to download the file if you click open in a new window. Recordings are stored on the servers for up to 3 months and will be deleted after this time.

Vocaroo is a similar tool. It also lets you record in the browser, share the link to the recording and give the option to download it. Vocaroo also lets you create a QR code automatically which could be inserted into a Google Doc or Word Doc to allow students to practise sharing a presentation or for the teacher to give some audio feedback. If you upload the QR code to Google Keep, you can access it in the right hand side panel of a Google Doc and drag and drop it into place. This could be particularly useful if you are giving whole class feedback. Audio recordings are kept on their servers until you choose to delete them, but may automatically expire and be removed if they are accessed infrequently. Google Keep has an inbuilt voice recording feature too in the app version, but if you drag and drop a Google Keep note into a Doc the audio is not transferred too. That said, two people can collaborate on the same note so one could record an audio description and the other could draw it using the inbuilt drawing tool. You can't record audio on the web version but you can quickly see all the recordings you've made via the app by using <https://keep.google.com/#search> and clicking on recordings. You can even download the audio as ADTS files, open them in the VLC player and convert them to mp3. Have a look at recordmp3online too which keeps your audio for up to 30 days.

Talking of ways of creating audio QR codes, QWIQR is a free web tool which allows language teachers to record personalised audio feedback for their students' work and attach it to a QR code. The audio is stored in servers in the UK and is available for up to 3 months after which time it is deleted unless the teacher upgrades to a premium account which costs £1.50 a month. A premium account also allows users to record conversations using one QR

code where students can respond back to your feedback. Conversations can also be used for practising dialogues or dictation activities.

For Office 365 users, students can record audio files in OneNote Class Notebook for practising their speaking and the teacher can give audio feedback too. Using the screen recording function in PowerPoint, the teacher can also give video feedback to a student's work, upload it automatically to Microsoft Stream and share the link in Microsoft Teams. Alternatively, teachers can record a narration over all the slides in PowerPoint, save the results as a video and share it via Teams. Simple

For Google Classroom users, you could ask students to use the iOS and Android app Voice Record Pro or the web tool Online Voice Recorder and attach it to an assignment or create a new post and upload to Classroom. Both allow you to edit the beginning and ends of your recording too to remove any extraneous gaps.

It is now possible to insert audio directly into a Google Slides presentation too from Google Drive and so Online Voice Recorder would be ideal for this or any app which lets you save to Google Drive such as Voice Record Pro. For Chromebook users, I would recommend the free Chrome app ChromeMP3 Recorder which records mp3 files and saves straight to Drive too. Once the audio is in Drive, simply click Insert/Audio and select the audio you want to add. You can then resize the player and format it too. So in a remote teaching context, you could create a collaborative Google Slides presentation with one slide per student and ask students to add audio of themselves practising their speaking skills and you could give them audio feedback too.

In Google Docs in the browser version, you can click Tools and Voice Typing then change the language from the drop down menu and dictate in that language. A transcript of what you are saying should appear as if by magic in front of your eyes! You can also play a video or mp3 file into your microphone to create a transcript of the original sound source. This may need some editing depending on how clear the audio is. In the iOS version of Voice Record Pro there is also a multilingual transcript option.

Leaving voice comments in Google Docs is also possible with the Add on Kaizena available in the web browser, but not the app version. Go to Add-ons and Get add-ons to search for Kaizena to install it. Please note students need to have the Add-on installed too to listen to the audio feedback. The Chrome extensions Talk and Comment and Mote also lets you record audio comments. With Talk and Comment, you click on the blue microphone floating on the right of the screen. You speak into the microphone and click the green tick when you've finished. A little box will appear showing the link to the audio. Click OK. Highlight some text and click the Add a comment icon and paste in the link which is automatically copied to your clipboard. Click Comment and an audio player appears so students can listen to your feedback.

Mote is a new extension currently in Beta which I heard about this week from Jon Neale during the Edtech Smackdown featuring Google enthusiasts from around the world. Once installed, the Mote icon appears within the comment box. You click on it, record your voice and click DONE. Click Comment to add your voice comment. Mote also automatically generates a transcript of your audio. This feature is only available in English at the moment.

The Chrome extension Read&Write also allows for voice comments but as a premium feature. It also offers other useful accessibility functions too.

In addition to adding voice comments in Google Docs, you could paste the link of a screencast you've made in Loom, Screencastify or Screencast-O-Matic. This could be a recording of some feedback you've given while marking a piece of work in a Google Doc or Kami where all your highlights, drawings and voiceover are captured in real time.

In one to one iPad classrooms, students can record audio in the Voice Memo app and airdrop it to the teacher. Likewise, the teacher can create one audio file in Voice Memos and share it with the whole class via AirDrop in Apple Classroom. The teacher could also set up classes in Showbie and send voice notes to the whole class. In turn, students could record voice notes for the teacher and the teacher can add voice notes to a scanned copy of their written work from within the app.

It is also now possible to record audio directly into Keynote, Pages and Sheets. So students for example can produce creative animations with voice overs in Keynote and export them as videos. In Pages, there is also a default teleprompter allowing you to make the text scroll up the screen at a speed which suits your reading speed. Having written your transcript, tap on the three horizontal dots top right of your Pages document and tap Presenter Mode. Your transcript now appears as a teleprompter meaning if you tap the screen the text will start to scroll upwards. You can adjust the scrolling speed by tapping on the Aa icon and moving the slider from left to right. Annoyingly you can't record in Pages when the teleprompter is enabled, but you record with Voice Record Pro in the background and a little red and white microphone will appear when doing so. Once you've finished recording, you tap on the microphone and tap Stop. You can then export the audio to different places in the cloud as well as save it to your camera roll. If you have a newer iPad, you could also go into Split View so you can have the teleprompter in Pages on one side and be recording in Pages, Voice Record Pro etc on the other.

Cueprompter.com is a web-based equivalent to the teleprompter in Pages and will work on all devices. You just need to use an app or web tools to record your voice while you read the text, the idea being that this process improves the fluency of your final outcome.

If you're a fan of photo stories, Book Creator and Remove.bg make for an awesome combination. Remove.bg allows you to remove the background from any image contain a human being or beings and add a new background or solid colour. Download the results and import your picture into Book Creator for Chrome (which also works in Safari and Edge). Add a speech bubble, write in what the character is saying and record a voiceover with the inbuilt audio tool. Better still, select the loudspeaker icon which appears, drag it over the speech bubble and resize it so it covers as much of the area as possible. Next, tap on the i icon and enable the Invisible when reading option. Your loudspeaker icon will now be semi-transparent, but when you tap the preview button top right, it will be completely invisible. Repeat the process and your students can be stars in their own personalised narrated photo stories!

Clips by Apple is another great iOS way of practising speaking as it can turn your voice into subtitles in real time in a range of languages. A brilliant and easy way of captioning your videos. The Clipomatic app offers similar functionality, but is not free.

Flipgrid is proving to be a popular option for practising listening and speaking skills plus feedback asynchronously during lockdown. Using a Google or Microsoft school account, the teacher can set up unlimited private grids and topics for students to record or upload their videos complete with emojis to hide their identity if desired. Videos can be moderated too so only the teacher sees them. Teachers and students also have the possibility to annotate over a whiteboard or screen record a web page or document while narrating and have the results saved to the grid. Recordings can be up to 10 minutes each and all the students need is the grid code to get started. Typically the teacher records the first video asking a question and the students post their videos in reply. If the student does not want to appear in the video they can point the camera at the wall for example so they are not in the shot. The teacher can leave video feedback for each video as can the students if the teacher enables this feature. Before using Flipgrid, the teacher needs to obtain parental consent first of course. This is true whenever publishing student work online even in a private grid.

For Office 365 users, you'll be delighted to hear that Flipgrid can be embedded directly into ClassNotebooks in Teams. There is also an Edge and Chrome extension too. So all you need is the grid code to add videos straight from your browser.

Padlet is another popular tool for publishing multimedia content to the web. For practising speaking and listening skills in particular, I would recommend choosing the Shelf format in Padlet which allows the teacher to create different columns in the online notice board. In the first column, the teacher records a number of questions for a given topic, one question per post using the inbuilt audio recorder and numbers them Q1, Q2, Q3 etc. He or she then creates one column per student and asks them to listen to each question then record their answers in the same order labelling them A1, A2, A3 etc.. Students can listen to each other's recordings but only delete their own if they wish to re-record an answer. If the teacher enables commenting, the students can leave written feedback too which the teacher can edit or delete if it is deemed inappropriate. The teacher can also turn on moderation so that he or she will see any post before it goes live. In episode 4 of the #mfltwitterati podcast @MrsBellacat describes how she uses this technique to help her students revise for their GCSE speaking exam.

Seesaw is also a great free platform designed for educational use for uploading audio and video files as well as creating screencasts and narrated photos. Students can leave written and audio comments on each other's work too moderated by the teacher of course. There's a Seesaw Chrome extension which lets you capture your screen or part of your screen and post it to Seesaw where you can record a voiceover, add annotations and save the results as a video.

Adobe Spark Video is a great free web tool and iOS app for producing multimedia slideshows incorporating royalty free images and icons. You can record your own voice too over each slide and export the results to your device or publish them privately online and share the link via Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams. For dialogue practice students can record each line of a conversation and use an icon per slide to represent that line e.g in a

transactional conversation buying groceries at the market. They can then record the audio for each slide and export the final outcome which can be used for revision later. If they publish their videos online, students can turn the links into QR codes using a free tool such as QR Code Generator or QR Code Monkey. If you then make a display out of all these QR codes accompanied by screenshots of the first slide of each slideshow, you can create a talking wall. So when anyone scans the QR code they can watch a replay of the video on their device. Admittedly making a talking wall during lockdown would be a challenge but food for thought when everyone can go back to school.

For listening practice in a remote teaching context, you could create a Quizizz activity where you record up to 10 seconds of audio per question and the students can compete against each other live or complete the task independently as homework. Edpuzzle is another popular option for turning videos into listening comprehension exercises. The teacher can place markers in a YouTube clip or one they've created themselves perhaps using one of the tools above and when the student reaches that moment of the clip, a question appears on the screen which they have to answer to progress. The results can then be exported to an Excel spreadsheet by the teacher. You can connect your Edpuzzle account to your Google account and Google Classroom and post assignments directly to Google Classroom from Edpuzzle. You can also Import your students from Google Classroom into your Edpuzzle classes as well.

Podcasting while in lockdown could be another great way to practise listening and speaking skills. Anchor is a great all in one BYOD solution to get started including recording, editing and hosting your audio for free. I put together a step by step guide for the eTwinning Conference 2019 which you should find useful if you're interested in podcasting through the pandemic.

Another option for practising listening comprehension is by adding a YouTube clip to a Google Form and make it into a quiz. This way all the answers can be automatically marked and the teacher can export them to a Google Sheet. A Google quiz works best when there is only one possible answer per question so if the student's answer matches what the teacher has selected as the correct answer it will be marked as correct by the quiz. If you upload your own content to YouTube I would suggest making the clip you use unlisted so it can't be found through a search on YouTube.

Learningapps.org is a free suite of interactive exercises including drag and drop and matching exercises. There is also the option to record audio files as answers so students can practise their listening skills independently. The tool provides immediate feedback too. Quizlet also offers listening resources for students to make sound spelling links.

Finally, I would recommend checking out the Technology in Language Teaching (TiLT) webinars organised by the Association of Language Learning and supported by Linguascope for some practical demonstrations of some of these ideas. (For example, Jan Chalmer showcasing how to use ClassKick for collaborative work including voice recording).

Links:

SpeakPipe

<https://www.speakpipe.com/voice-recorder>

Vocaroo

<https://vocaroo.com>

Recordmp3online

<https://recordmp3online.com>

QWIQR

<https://qwiqr.education>

Online Voice Recorder

<https://online-voice-recorder.com>

ChromeMP3 Recorder

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/chromemp3-recorder/iipifbplbkfqlpemmbhmaijlknkaiih?hl=en>

Kaizena

<https://www.kaizena.com>

Voice and Comment

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/talk-and-comment-voice-no/djnhkfljnimcpelfndpcjcgngmefaobl?hl=en>

Mote

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/mote-voice-notes-feedback/ajphlblkfppdpkgokiejbjfohfohmk>

Edtech Smackdown!

<https://sites.google.com/abidpatel.com/edtech-smackdown/home>

Read&Write

<https://chrome.google.com/.../inoeonmfapjbbkmdafoankkfajkcphgd>

Flipgrid consent form

https://static.flipgrid.com/docs/Flipgrid_consent_form.pdf

Flipgrid Chrome extension

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/flipgrid/nijejdnikeoaldbcoagjlibadkabiae>

Flipgrid Edge extension

<https://microsoftedge.microsoft.com/addons/detail/flipgrid/mjmgjhffcjmjgjhiiemcolopcfheglde>

@MrsBellacat talking about her use of Padlet to help her students revise for their GCSE speaking exam (starts at 26.20)

<https://mfltwitteratipodcast.com/podcast/ep-4-podcasting-language-stones-exam-revision-tips-and-techtalk-interview-with-jane-basnett>

Reflect in Seesaw

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/reflect-in-seesaw-extensi/lhgiigkiddoalobhmmcpdhddlccindji>

Audio questions in Quizizz

<https://quizizz.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360030860132-Audio-questions>

QR Code Generator

<https://www.qr-code-generator.com>

QR Code Monkey

<https://www.qrcode-monkey.com>

Promoting BYOD podcasting with Anchor (step by step guide)

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nxviNdlpjmoZvNCW6h8-VkIScPo6j7bBIATr8_6Bo8Q

Creative Project Ideas for Remote Teaching: Make a Podcast!

<https://youtu.be/BLzKpNMfR9s>

Start a podcast with Anchor

<https://twitter.com/AshrafRebecca/status/1241292406731014144?s=20>

<https://anchor.fm/rebecca-ashraf>

TiLT webinars

<https://www.youtube.com/user/joedale100/videos>

<http://www.all-london.org.uk/site/index.php/webinars>