

Tartu Folk High School

Using ICT in language learning and teaching. Our practices.

Terje Kruusimaa, Language programme coordinator Tartu, 11.10.2018



- TFHS is the biggest non-formal adult training school in Estonia founded in 1987 https://www.rahvaylikool.ee/
- about 600 different courses per year to 6000 students in 9 different fields ICT skills and work related courses being one of them
- 18 languages taught in about 80 language courses in one semester



Our language learners

- 541 adult hobby learners learning 18 different languages in 83 different courses in Tartu. Half of the students study English. Average course length is between 30 – 55 ac hours.
- 50 beneficiaries of international protection learning Estonian in 10 different groups all over Estonia (project AMIF2017-8) in 300 ac hours course.



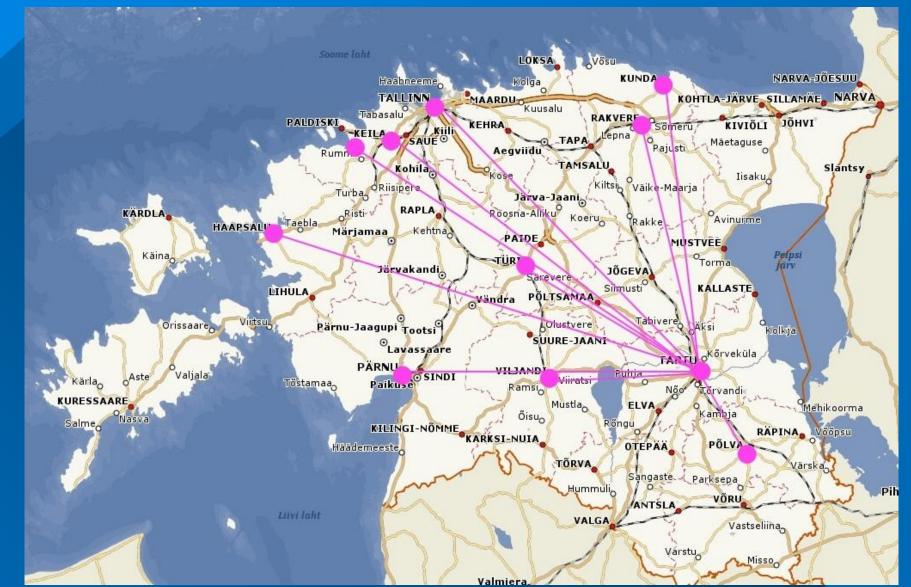
Two different target groups with different needs

adult learners, coming to courses after work, busy,
 learning for fun or because of work-related reasons

 Refugee students with different educational background (some of them are low-literate and don't speak any foreign language)



Estonian language courses for refugees run by TFHS 2016-2018





Using ICT in language class

... is based on every teacher's personal preferences, judgements and skills!

It is assumed that Kahoot! and Quizlet are most used and loved applications, but also LearningApps and other apps.

Using social media channels are quite common (FB, WhatsApp groups).



Main approaches in using ICT in language class

- to make the lessons more engaging and varied
- to bypass the barrier of written materials and help illiterate and low educated learners improve their speaking and listening skills (recording, taking photos)
- to develop necessary life skills

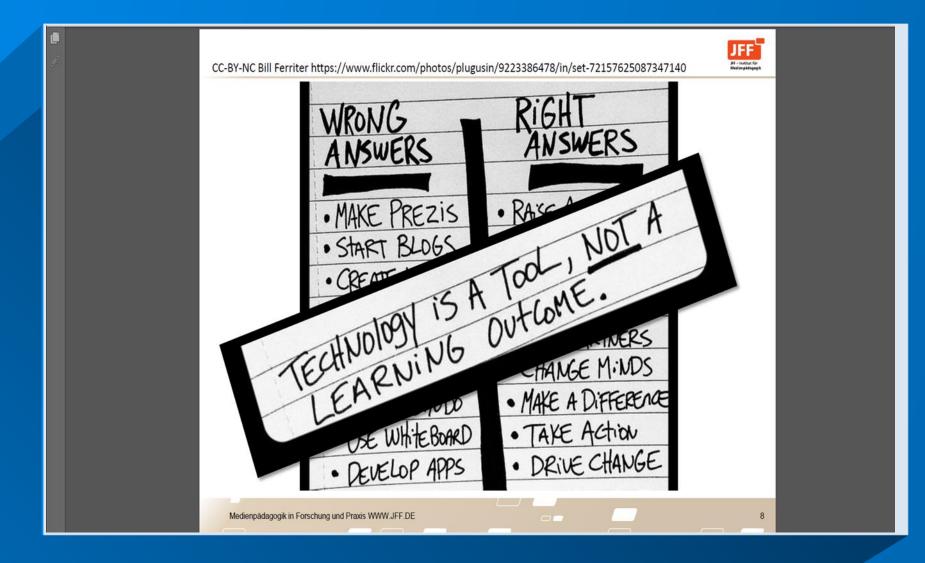


But face-to-face communication comes first!





We agree on that ...





Using different websites and apps that are not meant for language learning

is what we consider to be task-based approach. It's an approach in which the focus in not as much on the language itself but on accomplishing the task given. Language is "merely" a mean for developing life skills.

We start the course with numbers and shop catalogues (groceries). It's a free material © available both in printed version and online.



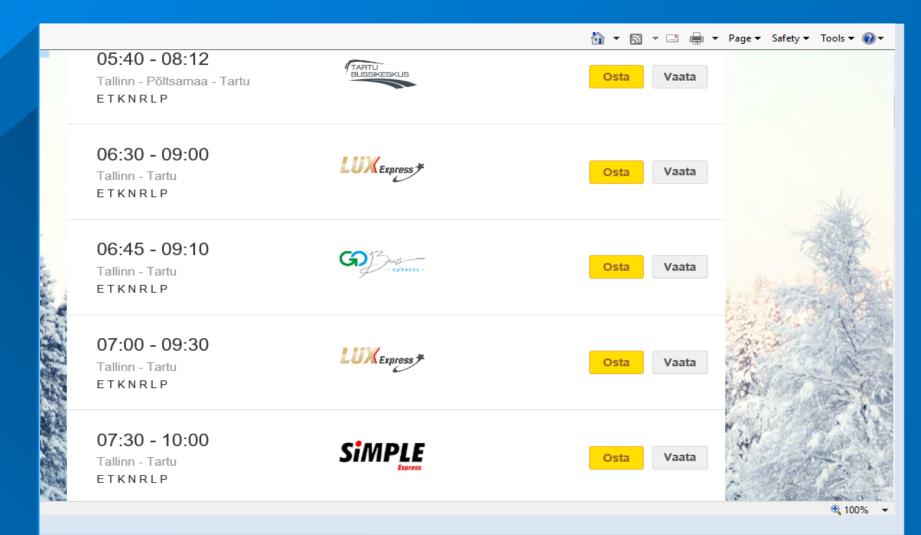
Look for the best offers in real shops, shop catalogues and online







By online bus-ticket





Using the tools they already have and use

When using ICT we are choosing the tasks that require minimum skills or we are "taking advantage" the skills students already have. Even our illiterate students can take pictures.

Making one's own dictionary by using PicCollage https://pic-collage.com/ or other similar apps or just showing the photos in smartphones gallery.

Compare the prices of 3 different shops.



-record your speech and send it to the teacher using online voice recorder https://online-voice-vecorder.com/

-teacher sends a voice message to listen at home or to write

Children 's websites

Are widely used in teaching low-literate students, as there are very little if at all materials suitable for this level

It is not the best solution – adults' dignity!

videos, cartoons and programs for Estonian children http://mudila.ee/; making and texting animations

http://www.zimmertwins.com/ etc;

Online courses

- to study independantly using online courses
 (Keeleklikk https://www.keeleklikk.ee/en/welcome,
 brand-new application Speakly
 http://www.speakly.me/mobile)
- both of them are based on English or some other foreign language.



We are also using an online material Pille ja Lauri lood http://web.meis.ee/vaegkuuljad/, which was originally designed for people with seeing and hearing impairments.

The pace is kept slow and the subjects discussed are from the adults world – it suits very well for our students.

Simple solutions

We (TFHS' teachers) have compiled an 0-A1 Estonian workbook for newly arrived immigrants, who don't know latin alphabet.

- -9 thematic modules
- very simple and visual (synonymes avoided, only the most basic information) and real-life oriented
- small pieces of authentic material included from the beginning (logos, signs)



- our students as characters of our book and actors in small videos. Videos can be opened with QR code reader.

Harjutus 31. Vaata videot ja vasta küsimustele!

1. Mida Beno joob?
2. Mida Beno sööb?
3. Kas Benole meeldib must kohv või kohv piimaga?

The tasks related to the videos start from very simple recognition of words to more complex ones.

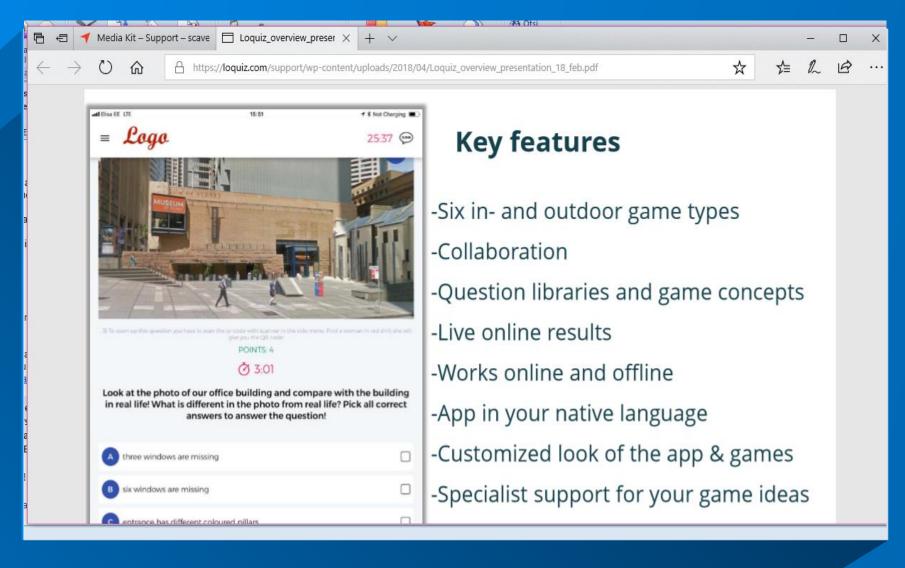


Other ideas and apps that could be useful

Loquiz https://loquiz.com/

Loquiz is the platform to gamify information. Loquiz platform offers an easy way to quickly create custom out- and indoor games based on your needs. You will be able to create the games from start to an end. Games created in Loquiz PRO are played on mobile devices.







Storyjumper

https://www.storyjumper.com

Thank you!



Learning is fun!

www.rahvaylikool.ee