

## Jan 18th: Integrating Digital Tools with Daniel Martin and Helbling Publishing

### ELTAS Event Review by Angeline Fischer

Daniel Martin, author of "Activities for Interactive Whiteboards" flew in from Spain to start off the first ELTAS workshop of 2014 on digital tools.

To celebrate the New Year, participants were greeted with a tote bag and book from Helbling Verlag. Heike Barkawitz, from Helbling Publishing also provided a table filled with books for teachers to peruse during the breaks.

Daniel began with a quick informal survey of which tools teachers currently using. By far wordle was the most recognized, other tools such as vocaroo or twitter were seldom used in the classroom and most had not heard of todaysmeet or songify.

Daniel moved step by step through websites and apps, while teachers followed along on laptops or handheld devices. Daniel was able to illustrate the use of each tool, while teachers paired up, as not all users were able to get online due to wlan problems.

Some of the tools illustrated include:

- **Songify (smule)** – a telephone app which students can speak and a rap song is made (suggestions for classroom use: vocabulary learning, dictation, counting syllables, sentence order: students sort out teacher's mashup and put sentence in correct order)
- **Padlet.com** – allows multiple users to post messages and comments (suggestions for classroom use: using word of the day and having students post sentences allowing group members to read all posts as homework assignment)
- **just-the-word.com** – an online databank which retrieves phrases and sentences based on word inputs (suggestions for classroom use: finding common word combinations, learning collocations, learning prepositions)
- **twitter.com** – an social networking service allowing registrants to post short phrases and news (suggestions for classroom use: enter key words or phrases to demonstrate vocabulary relevance in current context and use of informal language: users see frequency and get up to the minute "tweets")
- **youtube.com** – an online video sharing website (suggestions for classroom use: use of short clips to arouse interest and get students exposed to authentic language using "The Time You have in Jelly Beans" to test listening comprehension or and generate creative writing ideas)
- **recordmp3.org** – an online recorder which allows users to record and access recordings online (suggestions for classroom use: before and after accent reduction, script reading, student introductions, giving feedback online, self correction)
- **todaysmeet.com** – a temporary online chat room to connect to your audience real time (suggestions for classroom use: student interaction and exchange, teacher supplementing lecture with useful online links, student review of lesson materials after class)

As in the past, technical workshops have always been a hit with ELTAS members and Daniel's workshop was no exception. Trainers walked away with many tools to bring back and test in their own classes. Daniel even provided an ELTAS online link to his lecture slides [www.todaysmeet.com/usingdigitaltools](http://www.todaysmeet.com/usingdigitaltools)

*Workshop handouts are available for members after logging in*

