# How to Use This Site for ESL

**Description: 'How to Use This Site for ESL' is displayed on the screen.**

**Description: Barry Bakin has fair skin and graying brown hair. He has a very short gray beard and mustache. Barry is wearing a black polo shirt and is sitting in a classroom with a plant on a table behind him. He speaks with a very slight accent.**

**Barry Bakin, ESL Instructor, LAUSD Adult and Community Education:** My name is Barry Bakin and I teach Intermediate Low ESL for the Division of Adult and Career Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District. I have been working with my students on job search, and I wanted to give them a writing assignment to practice some of the vocabulary and expressions we've been practicing for job interviews. I know there are sites that let students create comic strips, and I thought that my students could practice the conversations by creating comics using the vocabulary. I went to OTAN's Teaching with Technology site to find some specific Web sites.

**Description: The screen becomes an active view of the OTAN page: Teaching with Technology. The cursor moves and navigates through the page while Barry speaks.**

**Barry:** First, I selected <u>English as a Second Language</u>. I could have chosen my level and writing as a subject, but since I knew I was looking for sites that allow students to make comics, I typed comics in the Keyword Search instead.

**Description: A Search Results page is displayed that shows the search for English as a Second Language program with the Keyword of 'comics' found 2 results. The results are listed alphabetically with the name of the Resource, a brief description, keywords for this resource and a link to their page.**

**Barry:** I got two links right away. I decided to look at the first one, MakeBeliefsComix.

**Description: The hand cursor clicks on the result listed as MakeBeliefsComix and a Description page is opened. This page contains a link to the homepage as well as a sample comic that a student created and a description of the activity. Barry views the student sample and then returns to the description page and shows each category as he speaks about it.**

**Barry:** The <u>Resource Description</u> page has a link to the home page of MakeBeliefsComix, and also a link to an example that a student created. I looked at the example first. It looked just like what I was looking for, so I went back and read the rest of the description.

The <u>Activity Description</u> describes how to frame the activity. It suggested some pre-writing activities such as having the students work in pairs to write their dialog before they go to the site.

The <u>How To</u> section had step-by-step instructions for creating the comic strips. I actually copied these and pasted them into a handout for the students to use.

The Sections on <u>Preparation</u> and <u>Teacher Tips</u> reminded me to try everything out before I have my students do it, and pointed me to a video tutorial on the site.

<u>More Ways</u> has suggestions on other ways to use the comics in the classroom. One of them, creating a comic in advance to pose a question gave me an idea I will use next time. I will create comics with several "tough" interview questions, print them out, and have students fill in the final frame of the comic with their own responses.

There are certainly lots of ways to use this site because it's so flexible.  You can adapt the comics to any topic or grammatical point.

There are also a lot of printable worksheets on the site that can be handed out to students to work on at home if they don't have Internet access.

It would also be a great site for parents to work together with their children to practice English skills.

**Description: Barry's interview continues with him seated in the classroom.**

**Barry:** The students enjoyed seeing each other's comics and we printed some and put them on our bulletin board

I hope you explore the Teaching with Technology site and find some good resources to enhance your classroom activities!


**The OTAN logo is displayed on the screen and is dated 2012.**