

On-Line Resources Supporting Functional Skills.

The resources below are examples of what is available to support your delivery of Functional Skills. The resources outlined in this paper are a mixture of free, open source and commercial resources or free examples of what is available as part of available commercial packages. There are resources available on the on-line repository Jorum Open www.jorum.ac.uk including the Fit For The Future programme described below and of course the BBC Key Skills, National Learning Network – NLN etc, which while not expressly constructed for Functional Skills can hopefully be used to support its delivery by providing exercise materials etc to build into an individual's learning plan.

Interactive Resources:

Fit For The Future: An interactive programme at L1 and 2 for English and Maths and L1 for ICT. This is a freely available programme and is based on a series of exercises themed around sport and the 2012 Olympics. It contains animated tutorials, interactive exercise and much more. Fit for the Future is available as a free download from Jorum Open or from your RSC e-Learning adviser on a DVD as are the next 3 programmes below.

Showtime: Another freely available scenario based programme again at L1 & 2. This time the theme is music performance and drama with plenty of integrated exercises, feedback and how to hints and tips. It is available as a free download from the company which runs the Albert Hall or on the DVD.

Functional Skills –Business Admin & Health & Social Care: These are Level 1 programmes only; however, this is a starter programme with an important difference in that it can be changed by anyone with access to the on-line e-learning content creation system UDUTU which is currently free to use. These two programmes are available on the DVD together with an instruction booklet on how to modify them.

Guroo: Originally intended as a resource for schools but now revised for use with Apprentiships, this is a fully functioning and commercial on-line Functional Skills programme for more information go to www.guroo.co.uk

Axis Education: A publisher based offering with a considerable amount of free resources in the form of worksheets for Maths, English and ICT available from www.axiseducation.co.uk. Or <http://www.functionalskills.com/Functional-Skills/Functional-Skills-Free-Functional-Skills-resources.php>

LJ Create: A company which specialises in producing specialised teaching resources both physical and software, which includes its FS560 Functional Skills programme available as a series of SCORM packages <http://www.ljcreate.com/products/product.asp?id=723>

Other commercial offers with free resources include <http://www.what2learn.com>, AQA – Functional Skills which offers on-screen testing <http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/functional-skills/> and WJEC / CBAC <http://www.wjec.co.uk/ictfunctionalskills> which offers electronic submission of assessments.

Extra Exercise Based Resources

Maths

Draggable Maths: A site packed with Addition, Subtraction, Division and Multiplication drag and drop exercises. Some learners might need some support to get them going as the instructions are not the clearest but once they get going hopefully they will enjoy the interaction and instant feedback. <http://www.mrnussbaum.com/draggable.htm>

Number Nut: A site packed with exercises with many different types of interaction, typically 20 or so exercises under each heading, Multiplication, Division etc as well as Ratio's, % Values, Decimals etc. The content covers all the usual types of problems and each interaction also provides a countdown of success with a running total as instant feedback. <http://www.numbernut.com/>.

Manga High: Basically a schools site so learners may be familiar with the content and interactions but this should not de-value it as a learning resource, some of the exercises are fiendishly difficult some are easy just pick the level which suits your learner. http://www.mangahigh.com/en_gb/

English

Spell the Word: An open source downloadable interactive spelling activity with instant feedback. Produced by NGFL Cymru and part of the extensive open source school and vocational Functional Skills resources, supported by the Welsh assembly <http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/eng/vtc-home/vtc-post16-home.htm>. Some of the content can be re-purposed but even those that cannot are innovative and useful.

Twurdy: Everyone has different reading abilities Twurdy has been created to provide people with access to internet search results that suit their own readability level. Twurdy uses text analysis software to "read" each page. It then gives each page a readability level which is clearly shown on the page along with a colour coded system to help users to determine how easy the page will be to understand. <http://www.twurdy.com/search.php>.

Nationwide Education: Produced by the world's largest building society with Flash based interactions, focused on 3 main areas but useful as a resource for English at a basic level as it is a largely visual resource. The material is aimed at the school age learner so maybe not ideal material in itself for Post 16 but depending on how it is used it could form an invaluable back up to other resources. <http://www.nationwideeducation.co.uk/>

Literacy Centre: A site designed primarily for pre-school age children but it does have some simple flash based exercises in 3 languages which might prove useful as additional or diversionary exercises or even for those learners whose first language is not English. <http://www.literacycenter.net/index.php>

Embedded Learning: Basically a Skills for Life resource but the interactions/resources still do a good job. There is also a downloadable PDF based Teacher Guide which contains ideas on how to use the resources. <http://rwp.qia.oxi.net/embeddedlearning/>.

Vidinotes: A fun site for building literacy skills by uploading videos and editing them into still images. Literacy skills are built by the creation of a series of instructions and the creation of a PDF version of the video, plenty of examples, how to guides etc. What has this to do with Functional Skills, well anything which gets learners to look at and interpret or re-purpose existing videos and resources must be a good thing as it gets them to apply other functional skills in order for them to create a fun output. <http://www.vidinotes.com/>.

Time for Time: A resource site based around the need to tell the time, or learn about the concept of time. A simple exercise you might think but each exercise has been carefully constructed to fulfil literacy needs as well. <http://www.time-for-time.com/>

Nice Letter: A free on-line resource for building writing skills with example letters/templates. Chose the example closest to your need, edit it within the Letter Creator, save the document and you have a properly constructed letter. Not intended to replace traditional letter writing skills but maybe use of this resource may help some to pick up the skills much more quickly than with traditional methods. <http://www.niceletter.com/>.

There are many more resources out there but the ones above are the most useful I have found so far.

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