

Keynote Session 2

Motivating Children to Learn English in the Digital Age

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Abstract

Teaching English to today's "digital natives" introduces a host of challenges and opportunities for teachers. On the one hand, the internet and digital entertainment such as video games seem to compete for our students' attention, making it more and more difficult for us to motivate them. On the other hand, digital media also make available unprecedented opportunities for students to engage with the English language and communicate with people all over the world.

Drawing on research in psychology, linguistics and communication studies, this talk will explore the new kinds of "literacies" children must develop to successfully communicate using digital media, and the new kinds of skills teachers must develop to motivate students to learn English and help them to take advantage of the new opportunities digital media make available.



About the speaker

Dr Rodney Jones is Acting-Head of the Department of English at City University of Hong Kong. He holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Virginia and a PhD in Linguistics from Macquarie University in Sydney. For the past 20 years, he has been conducting research on language education, intercultural communication and digital literacies. He is co-author (with Ron and Suzanne Scollon) of *Intercultural Communication: A discourse approach*, and (with Christoph Hafner) of *Understanding Digital Literacies: A practical introduction*, and author of *Discourse Analysis: A resource book for students*, and *Health and Risk Communication: An applied linguistic perspective*. His work has appeared in numerous international journals.