

## Techie Tickles Teachers

Teachers fainted and others threw items of clothing at a recent Inset event run by a teaching guru at the O2 arena on Thursday. Police and St John's Ambulance staff said they had never seen anything like it. Michael Gove, the Education Minister, is considering banning such events in the future. Among the numbers played was Football Grid. For the Football grid you need to come out of slideshow mode and just use the ordinary slide. The team with possession can move towards the goal by answering the questions correctly. Failure to answer correctly gives the other team a chance to tackle and gain possession. Drag the ball around according to who has possession. It can generate a lot of excitement so you need to manage it carefully e.g. only use max 5 players per team while the rest do something else. A lowtech variation is to draw the grid on the board and use a blu-tac piece of card as the ball. Some teachers put pupil-players' names on the board on coloured post-its. Pupils have to pass the ball 3 times before they can score.

## Mini Meier's Techie Roadshow

### Highlights for Non-Techie Teachers

#### Part 1 'Off the shelf' Network resources- no need to change anything

See Network – T-drive, Staff Topics, Games for Learning

Racegrids	Folder contains boat race, car race, Verulam horserace stakes. 'first past the post' team-games. 5 or 10 correct answers gets the team over the line.
My fridge	Fridge magnet letters. Pupils could come to the front to spell keywords. They could start to spell a word for their team to complete
clock	One of many clocks that you can use for tasks. See also classtools.net which lets you choose theme tunes of a certain length
Staircase grid & football grid	Staircase: A simple idea – slide can be copied and pasted to your own Powerpoint. Use the left right arrows to go up or back down the steps. Pupils go up the staircase answering questions. They can work alone, 1 pairs or groups.  For the Football grid you need to come out of slideshow mode and just use the ordinary slide. The team with possession can move towards the goal by answering questions correctly. Failure to answer correctly gives the other team a chance to tackle and gain possession. Drag the ball around according to who has possession. It can generate a lot of excitement so you need to manage it carefully – e.g. only use max 5 players per team while the rest do something else  A lowtech variation is to draw the grid on the board and use a blu-tac piece of card as the ball. Some teachers put pupil-players' names on the board on coloured post-its. Pupils have to pass the ball 3 times before they can score.
Dartboard	A Matt Clarkson favourite. You can have up to 20 questions. Players score 1, 2 or 3 points depending on the detail they give in their answer. Good for developing thinking skills, depth and detail in the sixth form.
Scrolling objectives	Does exactly what it says. Allows you to display your objectives (or any message) at the top of the screen

## Part 2 T- drive Staff Topics - Games for Learning- Datafile-based resources e.g. Hangman, Bash, Jigsaw, Celebrity Death Match.

IMPORTANT: These work by reading data off a file which can be opened through Notepad or Textedit. **WARNING: DO NOT CHANGE THE ORIGINAL FILES**

DO NOT CHANGE THE ORIGINAL FILES ON T-DRIVE. INSTEAD- COPY THE WHOLE 'GAME FOLDER' TO YOUR OWN 'MY WORK' AREA AND RENAME IT.

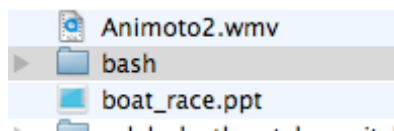
THEN CHANGE THE DATA IN THE DATA FILE – **ONLY CHANGE THE WORDS** - LOOK CAREFULLY AT HOW THE DATA IS ENCODED & KEEP THE SAME FORMATTING- USUALLY STARS OR DASHES BETWEEN QUESTION AND ANSWER

e.g. capital of France\*Paris

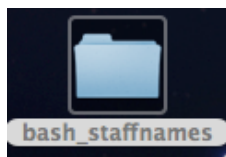
LOOK AT THE START AND END OF THE DOCUMENT AS WELL.

**WARNING: DO NOT CHANGE THE ORIGINAL FILES**

1) copy the original folder from T-drive to My Work



2) In My Work, rename the folder based on the topic e.g. bash\_staffnames



3) In the folder, find the text file (also known as the data file). It normally has the extension .txt Right click and Open With Notepad or Textedit.

4) Edit the data file. Check & keep the formatting. **Only change the words**

```
list.xml
<popups>
  <item>
    <right>Bullock</right>
    <wrong>Brown</wrong>
  </item>
  <item>
    <right>Ramsey</right>
    <wrong>Britney</wrong>
  </item>
  <item>
    <right>Freakley</right>
    <wrong>Paris</wrong>
  </item>
  <item>
    <right>Hall</right>
    <wrong>Hilton</wrong>
  </item>
  <item>
    <right>Meier</right>
    <wrong>Balls</wrong>
  </item>
  <item>
    <right>Miller</right>
    <wrong>Cameron</wrong>
  ...
</popups>
```

5) **File- Save** your data file – just click **Save**, not Save As. Don't rename it. As long as it's in the new renamed folder, it 's fine.

**Examples of Data file activities in Staff Topics \_ Games for Learning**

Bash	<p>Pupils have to hit as many keywords as possible – selecting them from lots of other distractors.</p> <p>Works best if the class is busy doing something whilst you have 2 pupils up to the board.</p> <p>Pupil 1 has a go – his score is a target for Pupil 2 to beat.</p>
Celebrity Death Match	<p>4 teams – each chooses one of the celebrity figures. The computer selects a team to start.</p> <p>A question is displayed.</p> <p>Team answers orally.</p> <p>After 30 secs, computer displays the correct answer.</p> <p>If the team got it right, they have a chance to 'hit' a rival team.</p>
Jigword	<p>Simple, no frills word &amp; definition matching. Drag the definition to slot next to the keyword.</p>

### **Part 3 Triptico Desktop Resources**

#### **Triptico is on the Desktop**

#### **Start Menu, all programmes Other resources**

Triptico	<p>Install and update if it asks you to – it doesn't take long.</p> <p>A really useful set of resources- word magnets, pupil randomizers (which can also be used as word randomizers for recap quizzes)</p> <p>Scoreboards, timers</p>
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## Part 4 A few internet favourites – Google the following

<b>Classtools.net</b>	Pupil/ word selector, countdown timer, minmapping
<b>OUP cloze test generator</b>	Google the item on the left and the first hit should be <b>New English File Elementary Cloze Generator</b> . The quickest way to generate a gap fill test. Works really well. Have your text ready on Word then copy and paste into the programme.
<b>Puzzlemaker discoveryeducation</b>	Really user -friendly – instant crosswords, word searches, anagrams, Try the double puzzle – one where you generate a word grid containing a hidden word . Pupils like this one as it gives them a competitive goal.
<b>Imagechef Fodey Glassgiant</b>	3 sites that let you generate fun captions, logos & signs. The fake newspaper at the top uses Fodey.com All these sites let you generate text on common objects (mugs, T-Shirts etc) The pupils could generate these to practise key words or vocabulary and then incorporate them into their own Powerpoint presentations.
<b>Wordle.net</b>	Generates a word cloud. Input a text or extract from a speech. Wordle makes the most common words larger. Great as a starter – pupils could: decide where it's from guess the theme put the words into categories (e.g. noun, verb, adjective) translate / re-use the words in context
<b>Toondo</b>	Comic strip creator. A good homework task - Pupils could make their own comic strip with text to show a key learning point
<b>Wallwisher</b>	Live online message-board. Pupils can add post-it style messages to comment on a theme or post sentences and ideas. e.g. Add comments while watching a film etc <a href="http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/iZiTwupdVL">http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/iZiTwupdVL</a>
<b>Fotobabble</b>	Upload a photo and add an audio commentary; great for homework on aspects of history, geography, RE, language topics etc <a href="http://verulamvle.typepad.com/y8german/2011/01/fotobabbles.html">http://verulamvle.typepad.com/y8german/2011/01/fotobabbles.html</a>
<b>Domo Animate</b>	Animated cartoon creator. Pupils can add music and speech bubbles. The 'drag and drop' interface offers lots of possibilities which pupils enjoy. See <a href="http://verulamvle.typepad.com/y8german">http://verulamvle.typepad.com/y8german</a>
<b>Voki</b>	Speaking Avatar creator. Pupils can create a character, input text, choose the accent (like on a SatNav); the Avatar could be used to teach a key point from a lesson.
<b>Glogster</b>	A poster-making site. Works like Publisher. Good for topic work and a refreshing alternative to Powerpoint.

