

# The Role Of Edpuzzle In Online English Language Teaching And Learning-A Revolution Through Gamification During COVID-19 Pandemic

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## Abstract

*The sudden paradigm shift in teaching and learning due to COVID-19 pandemic is just tantamount to this pandemic itself, as online teaching and learning turned up quite a shock for teachers and learners. Though there have been many Edtech tools even before COVID-19 pandemic, this pandemic furthers teachers and learners' dependence on Edtech tools conspicuously better than ever before. However, teachers and learners had to acclimatize to this unexpected shift in the realm of teaching and learning due to COVID-19. It would be intriguing to see teaching methodologies gain more momentum than curriculum does, during this crisis-hit situation. This shift in teaching and learning emphasizes Bertrand Russell's point of view as in 'More than the curriculum is the question of the methods of teaching and the spirit in which the teaching is given'. During this pandemic, at the outset, many teachers must have found it difficult to teach online using various Edtech tools which they may not have got acquainted with. But the problems with online teaching gradually dwindled, because of the teachers' acquaintance with the Edtech tools. At this juncture, our paper discusses how the Edtech tool Edpuzzle plays an important role in online teaching and learning, how it gamifies the activities and thus intrigues teaching and learning online and how it bridges the gap between teaching and learning online. Our paper would analyse numerous advantages of using Edpuzzle in teaching and learning English online and the very purpose of using it with a few limitations as well.*

## Keywords

*Paradigm shift, COVID-19 pandemic, Edtech tools, Edpuzzle, gamification teaching methods, curriculum*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Many countries have had months and months of lockdown with COVID-19 pandemic to fight this Coronavirus outbreak. Schools, colleges, and universities have been unexpectedly placed on lockdown for months together at the cost of quality education, but with a view to

saving human lives. At this juncture, teaching and learning online has suddenly become a tough nut to crack. COVID-19 pandemic challenged and badly affected many professions and teaching is no exception. But simultaneously it helped unveil various optimum resources and provided many opportunities available in ELT. Teachers across the globe found it difficult to cope with this unexpected paradigm shift in teaching and learning during this pandemic. Use of various Edtech tools has drastically gathered momentum and education with entertainment has got its significance. We know that teaching is now almost attached to technology in this era. A simple way to make use of technology to bolster the learning process is by employing video as visual aid. However, Edpuzzle helps to visualize learning to the best use. Edpuzzle is an assessment-centred tool which helps teachers and learners to get immersed in interactive and collaborative learning.

This paper vastly analyses top-notch features and in-depth usage of Edpuzzle and how it fructifies teaching and learning English online through its best trait of gamification. This paper gives an outline of how various problems with teaching and learning online gradually dwindled with the use of Edpuzzle.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Edpuzzle has an extremely easy user interface and a video platform, with the aim to help teachers in enhancing the engagement of students and improving their learning through video lessons (Tabassum[2], 2020).

EdPuzzle helps teach using videos in the classroom. Importing any video from the available sources is its best feature. Teachers can easily upload their videos to YouTube and then import them into EdPuzzle (Polovin[6], 2019).

Edpuzzle creates a flexible environment for students to develop their self-regulated learning skills (Silverajah & Govindaraj[3], 2018). Edpuzzle is an awesome tool to introduce collaboration and participation, engaging students in the process. Teachers can see how much a student watched the video and how many did not watch. Teachers can collect the responses from their students (Norman[5], 2017).

Edpuzzle is a tool, used by all the teachers to give interesting and interactive video lessons and materials from sources like YouTube, Khan Academy, Crash Course (Amaliah[1], 2020). Edpuzzle gives teachers a report that includes information about what students have or have not understood, how many times they have watched the video, or whether they have done their homework or not. The teachers can use this information to give their students feedback (Yasar[7], 2018).

What is useful in Edpuzzle is the ability to embed questions either open-ended or multiple-choice in the video. Teachers can keep their students engaged and entertained while they are watching video lessons (Michael Brand[4], 2015). The best part of it is it collects data as students watch and interact. Edpuzzle saves time for the teachers and a free application, easily downloaded, and used by both the teachers and students (Tabassum[2], 2020).

Edpuzzle allows teachers to easily create interactive video lessons for students and teachers can easily track their students' progress at their convenience (Amaliah[1], 2020). Edpuzzle

helps students to make and share their own videos with their classmates to hone their creativity (Yasar[7], 2018).

### 3. ANALYSIS

The unexpected and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic badly influenced many professions and made lives miserable. It made no exception for teaching as well. On one hand the actual focus was on the amendment of the curriculum based on the needs of the industry. But focus was suddenly shifted to adopting teaching methodologies due to the pandemic. Things suddenly worsened. At the outset, many teachers lost their employability, and some felt insecure due to drastic decline in economy and the rest had to find alternative ways for their teaching. At this juncture, emergence of Edtech tools came to teachers' rescue in their hour of need. Amongst many Edtech tools used during and even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Edpuzzle emerged victorious in making teaching and learning English online more interactive with its best feature of making lessons through videos.

#### *Edpuzzle: An Easy-to-use Tool for Interactive Video Lessons*

Edpuzzle is an assessment centred Edtech tool that helps teachers and students to get immersed in interactive and collaborative learning. It allows teachers and students to create certain videos for learning by giving either open-ended or multiple-choice questions. Edpuzzle basically has several websites, YouTube videos, TED talks of inspiration, National geographic videos, and many such to foster students' learning.

Edpuzzle allows the users to pick either already embedded videos from its content or to choose a video from other resources and prepare questions during the video. Thus, the learners can develop their understanding of that particular video by answering the questions that appear while watching that video. Edpuzzle videos assess students better than any other tool, as it is particularly made for the video assessment. The users can also embed the prepared video on their LMS (Learning Management System) and can share their videos with their colleagues as well. The same video can be assessed on Google classroom or by any other such means by copying the link of that video.

The best thing in Edpuzzle is its curriculum which is designed, based on the needs of elementary, middle, and high schoolers. This content gives both the teachers and learners a lot of scope to explore learning. While preparing a video on Edpuzzle, the users can cut the unwanted part of the video, give their voiceover wherever necessary and give relevant questions. Any video that is taken from the other sources and made ready for use is available in 'My Content' of Edpuzzle. This way any video can be edited, duplicated, or assigned as per the requirement of the user. Edpuzzle can be created just using an email id. It has both mobile and desktop compatibility and a couple of versions for both teachers and learners each.

Edpuzzle offers certifications to both teachers and students. Teachers can use it to learn at their own pace and get certified in topics like project-based learning, gamification, tech integration and such. Teachers can get certified in personality development as well. Teachers can also educate their students on topics like emotional intelligence, building character, health, and the like. This way the teachers can copy the course modules available in Certifications and adapt them to their students' needs. Edpuzzle analytics helps the teachers and learners get the proof of completion of their course. Edpuzzle is a repository of many resources that can be used to develop learning.

*Advantages of using Edpuzzle in ELT:*

Edpuzzle nurtures language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Its best key feature is the ability to crop videos and it can embed the questions such as open-ended or multiple choice in the video. It best suits to be used in both traditional and flipped classrooms. It can be used at school and home as well.

Earlier teaching students English in the classroom would be easy for the teachers but not all students found it interesting. Thus, it resulted in a mediocre success. But Edpuzzle succeeded in involving all the students in learning, as it turns the boring lessons into interesting ones. Edpuzzlegamifies the video made on it and asks various questions to the learners during the video to test consistent growth in learners' performance. The keynote feature of Edpuzzle is to provide genuine assessment and feedback to the learners instantly. This helps learners to further their progress in learning.

Edpuzzle is an easy-to-use Edtech tool where you can make any video your lesson. With just one click, teachers can find video lessons created by other teachers, including formative assessment. This way teachers of English can give their lessons using videos on Edpuzzle as they are given in flipped classrooms where the content of the lesson can be given at home and the assigned work done in the classroom. Another click and we can adapt that video by embedding our own questions or audio. With the final click, we can assign it to our students and get beautiful analytics. Teachers can identify who watched the video, who did not watch and understand the lesson and who did a good job. Students can watch the video as many times as they need at their own pace. Teachers can check their students' progress from their own account. This way it bridges the gap between teaching and learning online.

In teaching and learning English, Edpuzzle plays a vital role. Edpuzzle helps teachers to know their students' progress of learning so that they can encourage good learners with more advanced sort of videos and can also build confidence among the students who struggle to learn English by giving them lessons through videos that best suit their abilities. As English language requires learners to engage in communication to help achieve language proficiency, learners can optimize this tool at their convenience. Using technology nowadays is a cakewalk for many students and hence Edpuzzle is the best choice for many students to learn English, as it helps learners to enjoy answering both open-ended and multiple-choice questions to manifest their understanding of the content while watching and listening to the videos concerned and it does not bore the learners. Instead, it keeps learners entertained during learning.

Teachers of English can also make their classes livelier by extracting the videos of other users that have already been used and can give them to their students by embedding those videos with relevant and necessary questions to engage students online. Teachers can also add their voiceover to the video created or taken from the available sources to make their lessons more interesting. Here Edpuzzle allows teachers to use different tones in their voiceover. Unlike any other Edtech tool whichever does not help users access the already used content or material and change based on the needs, Edpuzzle does allow the users to make use of the video lessons to be accessed at their convenience and whim to help better students' learning.

Students would thoroughly enjoy watching and listening to video lessons prepared on Edpuzzle and respond to the timely questions posed. Students would also relish adding their own voice over using a variety of tones and intonation to the video they watch. This fosters students' speaking skills and the tone and intonation of the speakers in the video enhances their listening comprehension as well. Reading skill can be fostered with the closed captioning, the written version of an audio track for videos. Since popular channels like YouTube, TED Talks, National Geographic etc. are connected to Edpuzzle, it serves the

purpose of teaching and learning English. Thus, this Edtech tool boosts one's communication skills in several ways. Edpuzzle helps teachers to maintain an automatic gradebook with due dates, so that students' performance is measured at regular intervals. It also offers certifications for both teachers and students. Teachers can take certification courses to prosper in their professions and students can improve their communication and learning as well. Video lessons on Grammar and Vocabulary can be taken from available resources on Edpuzzle and can also be created to teach effectively.

#### **4. LIMITATIONS**

Edpuzzle does not allow us to merge parts of a video together and we cannot combine different videos. Thus, it lacks this subtle feature. Yet we can include audio notes with pauses in the video, but as far as voice overs are concerned, there is no editing segment: it is all or nothing. Though Edpuzzle has these minor issues, it is one of the most exciting new digital resources out there, providing not merely bells and whistles, but functions which can have a real impact on teaching and learning.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

Edpuzzle helps teachers and learners encourage collaborative and interactive learning because of its feature of gamification. It best suits all kinds of students from primary education to higher education.

Videos made on Edpuzzle can be shared with students via Google classroom and any such social platform easily. As Edpuzzle lends itself to independent study of the students, students can be self-directed in their approaches. Thus, Edpuzzle stimulates students' participation and critical thinking too. Unlike many other Edtech tools, Edpuzzle does not demand its learners to remember user id and password. Instead, for learners, it eases the way of accessing the activities designed and prescribed by the teachers concerned. For all the critics who assert that technology does not let students read books, Edpuzzle claims that it can even bring the story time to life. It is just an incredible library of content including every area of knowledge. However, during this pandemic, many teachers and learners of English and other subjects as well mostly relied on Edpuzzle to make teaching effective and learning interactive during this COVID-19 pandemic.

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