



BILINGUAL BLOGLINGUAL:

*Using a Blog to Promote Bilingual Learning
in the Primary Classroom*

<http://bilingualbloglingual.wordpress.com/>

- Welcome! Getting to Know You / My Favorite Blog
- Questions for the Audience
- Introduction: Kate Dana
- Presentation:
 - What is a blog?
 - Benefits of Blogging
 - Creating your Blog
 - Words into Action
 - Maintaining your Blog
- Questions and Answers
- Wrap up and thanks



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Welcome! Getting to Know You / My Favorite Blog

Please turn to a person near you and take a few minutes to discuss your favorite blog



Ask the person:

- Their first name
- Their role as a teacher (or other occupation)
- Their favorite blog (uniform resource locator - “url” - or web address)
- About the blog
 - Why they like it
 - Some special features of the blog
 - How often they read it
- What is a blog or website you don't like? Why?

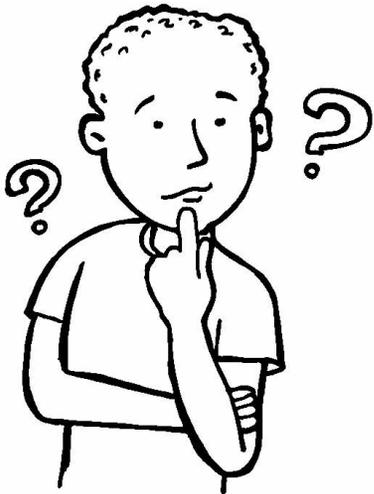


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Questions for the Audience:



- Where are you from?
 - What is your level of education? (Certificate, Bachelor's, Master's, etc.)
 - Do you teach primary or secondary?
 - What is your level of technology - novice, intermediate, advanced?
 - Do you use technology in the classroom?*
 - If yes, how?
 - If not, do you plan to start using it soon?
- What do you hope to learn today?

**In my class, resources and equipment are scarce. Technology is done at home or in Informática class. Many students do not have a computer at home. We use Internet resources for a warm up or discussion a few times a week.*



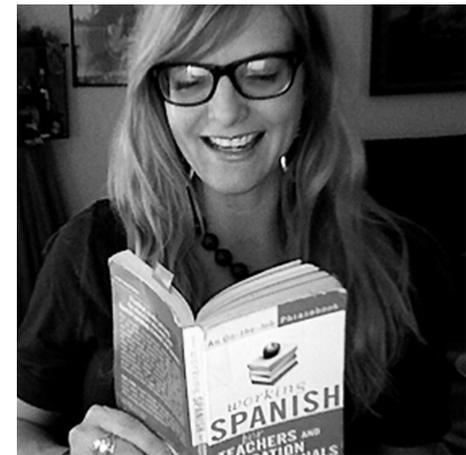
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Introduction: Kate Dana, creator of Bilingual Bloglingual

- Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with additional coursework in Multimedia and Writing
- Certifications in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Business English and TESOL Technology
- Lived in California for ten years; worked for five years as a graphic and web designer and five years as an IT professional
- Additional teaching experience includes:
 - one year teaching art in the United States at the primary level in public schools
 - six months teaching English in México at intermediate (young adult) level in a language center
 - six months teaching Informática in México at the secondary level in an international school
- Currently a WorldTeach Colombia 2014 volunteer at Colegio Distriál Hogar Mariano in Barranquilla
- Maintains two websites, www.katedanateaches.com and www.katedana.com; created a website for this presentation, <http://bilingualbloglingual.wordpress.com/>





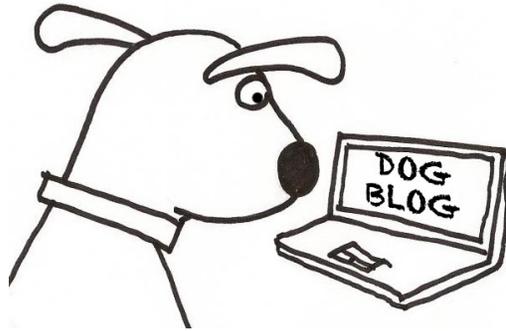
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What is a Blog?

The word “blog” is a truncation of the expression weblog or web log



- A blog is an article or discussion of information published on the Internet, typically made from a series of entries (“posts”) displayed in chronological order (date reverse or newest first)
- First blogs appeared in the late 1980’s, evolving from online journals and moderated newsgroups
- Early weblogs (blogs) were simply manually updated components of common website
- Blogs became more popular around 1994, as writers added photos and media to their writing
- Blogger, one of the first user-friendly, free blogging websites, was founded in 1999
- By 2004, blogs became mainstream: celebrities, gossip magazines, business consultants, news services and countless media resources began using them as tools for outreach and opinions
- In 2007, Tim O’Reilly proposed a Blogger’s Code of Conduct to maintain civility and moderate comments. “The Code” is followed today by websites and professional organizations worldwide

sources: Wikipedia www.wikipedia.org/ www.webdesignerdepot.com/2011/03/a-brief-history-of-blogging/



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Benefits of Blogging

- More students are online or use a computer daily for research and projects now than ever before
- Use of a blog to post projects and assignments may encourage students' writing skills
- Students can take ownership of their writing and improve their reading through a blog
- Posts or sidebar items ("widgets") may include links to language-learning sites such as DuLingo www.duolingo.com or Memrise www.memrise.com
- Students enjoy interaction on websites, such as "liking" each others' posts or leaving comments
- Bloggers can control viewable information, keeping a blog "fresh" as well as providing its history
- Websites and blogs that are public may be viewed by parents and family to monitor class activity



For more information and ideas on using a blog in the classroom, download the source .pdf at www.lsa.umich.edu/UMICH/sweetland/Home/Instructors/Teaching%20Resources/UsingBlogsInTheClassroom.pdf



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Creating Your Blog

- What company to use? Many are free and offer tutorials and user forums for support and discussion

WordPress - free and open source blogging tool

Tumblr - brand-preferred, microblogging platform

Blogger - traditional blog platform with dashboard

Weebly - “drag-and-drop” website builder



- What is the blog name (url)? Will the url be hosted or will it use a free service (adds to the name), such as www.bilingualbloglingual.com versus <http://bilingualbloglingual.wordpress.com>
- Choose a theme and create the “look” of the site to work to your best advantage



- Single person or Multi-author?

Single Person. A single person gathers information and adds it to the blog individually or on behalf of a group

MAB. "Multi-author blog" (MAB) with several contributors writing the blog

- A public or password protected blog? Consider the “worldwide” audience



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Words into Action



- Decide on content guide - Reading, Writing, Speaking - all three? Just one?
 - Add tags and categories so users can search. Link to other social media
 - How often will you write? Once or twice a week is average for most blogs
 - Ask students if they want to contribute and create a “team” for posts, to be done as an individual reward or done as a group project for extra credit
-
- If you use students' work on the site, be sure they know their work is appearing on the Internet
 - Allow feedback and comments with moderation to measure the effectiveness of the blog
 - Learn a little about the “analytics” of the web platform and what you can measure
 - Some platforms allow you to learn the demographics and statistics of visitors
 - View the “search keywords” and where users linked from to find your website
 - Try to maintain the same format as this will keep the look and readability of the site consistent



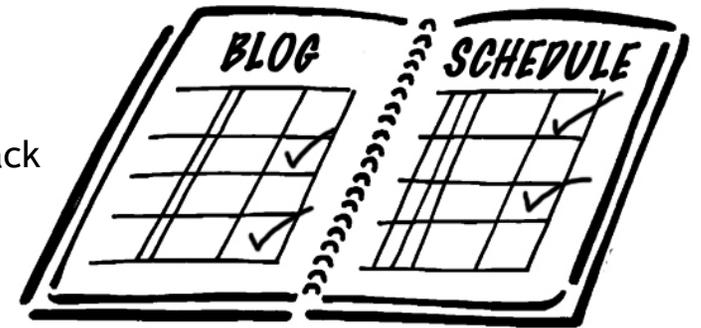
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Maintaining Your Blog

- Establish a “blogging schedule” to add content, such one specific day of the week
- Monitor the site regularly for errors, comments and feedback
- Check active links (url's) and change or delete broken ones
- As the site evolves, consider new ideas to improve user readability and audience
- Inspire, motivate and involve! Ask a secondary-level class or individual students for help
- Stay updated on your web platform's user agreement
- Remember the renewal date of your url (if needed) and if any annual fees are due
- Decide if you will continue to blog after school ends, start a new one next year, or have an end blog
- If you leave, consider helping the new teacher with some training on the blog
- Keep the password and other administrative rights safe but accessible in case they are needed





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Questions and Answers / Thanks

- **Questions and Answers**

Any remaining time will be used for Q and A

- **Thanks**

Elsa Noguera - Alcadesa de Barranquilla, Atlántico Colombia

Maria Rada Carrillo - English Teacher, Distrial Colegio Hogar Mariano, Barranquilla

Samara Romero Caballero - English Teacher, Distrial Colegio Hogar Mariano, Barranquilla

Brigid Carey - WorldTeach Colombia 2014 Assistant Field Director

Jessica Zlotnicki - Worldteach Colombia 2014 Field Director

Today's audience - *you!*

**PLEASE
RAISE YOUR HAND
IF YOU 
A QUESTION**



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About Kate Dana, creator of Bilingual Bloglingual:

I earned a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in 1991 from the Atlanta College of Art and worked as a public program art instructor in Atlanta GA and a public school art teacher in Baltimore, MD. In 2003, I moved to California, where I studied multimedia at the City College of San Francisco, working as an independent graphic and web designer. In 2007, I moved to Sacramento and worked with the California State Government as a publication designer posting exams on the web, and later as a Systems Analyst, assisting employees with technical computer issues.

In 2012, I completed an online course in WordPress for Web Designers and moved to Guadalajara, México, earning certificates in Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), TESOL Technology and Business English from the International Teacher Training Organization. I taught in a language center in Tlaquepaque before moving to Puerto Vallarta, where I taught secondary-level Informática in a private international school with curriculum including software and hardware, programming, Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suite. Classes were presented in school and remotely via the website *Informática BAS* <http://informaticabas.wordpress.com/>, adding web design to the curriculum and requiring students to create a user-friendly, multi-functional website for their final exam.

In 2014, I moved to Barranquilla, Atlántico, where I am currently a WorldTeach volunteer teaching 4th and 5th grade English in Colegio Distrial Hogar Mariano. In addition to teaching, I maintain two websites, www.katedanateaches.com, featuring information on my educator experience, and www.katedana.com, where I write about my cultural discoveries and travel adventures in Colombia.

Thanks to everyone who attended the workshop for *Bilingual Bloglingual: Using a Blog to Promote Bilingual Learning in the Primary Classroom*, originally presented as part of *VI Semana Distrital de Bilingüismo (Bilingual Week) October 27-31, 2014*, an event sponsored by the *Alcaldía de Barranquilla* and the *Secretaría de Educación*. <http://bilingualbloglingual.wordpress.com/>