

Crawley, UK: Helbling Languages. Resourceful Teacher Series activity book w/ CD-ROM/ audio CD].

\* *Thinking in English*. Hunter, L. Tokyo: Cengage Learning, 2009. [Coursebook for logical communication and beginning written technical English].

! *We Can*. Matsuka, Y., & McDougall, D. New York: McGraw-Hill ELT, 2009. [6-level children's coursebook for goal-oriented English incl. student book w/ CD, workbook w/ CD, class audio CD, teacher's guide (in English or Japanese), flashcards, posters, and phonics workbooks and guides w/ songs and chants].

## Books for Teachers (reviewed in *JALT Journal*)

Contact: Bill Perry

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*Narrative Identity in English Language Teaching*.

Kiernan, P. Houndsmills, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

! *Young Learner English Language Policy and Implementation: International Perspectives*. Enever, J., Moon, J., & Raman, U. Reading, UK: Garnet Publishing, 2009.



TLT RESOURCES

# TLT WIRED

## Teaching original writing with Turnitin's WriteCycle

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Technology is a double-edged sword for the writing teacher. While the Internet offers a wealth of information for students to access and incorporate into their research and writing, it also tempts students, including second

language learners, to pass off the words of other authors as their own. A few students are looking for shortcuts, but many students simply do not know how to properly paraphrase, quote, or use citations. Turnitin.com, a product of iParadigms LLC, may be a useful tool to address these problems.

### What is Turnitin and what does it cost?

Turnitin is a web-based originality checking software program that assists students and teachers in maintaining academic integrity and encouraging original writing. It is a popular commercial Plagiarism Detection Service (PDS) used at thousands of academic institutions worldwide. Costs for the service vary depending on the type of license and the number of students. For an

### ...with Ted O'Neill

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In this column, we explore the issue of teachers and technology—not just as it relates to CALL solutions, but also to Internet, software, and hardware concerns that all teachers face.

As well as our feature columns, we would also like to answer reader queries. If you have a question, problem, or idea you would like discussed in this column, please contact us. We also invite readers to submit articles on their areas of interest. Please contact the editors before submitting.

<jalt-publications.org/tlt/wired>



individual license with a limit of 500 papers, the cost is \$580 for a year. A campus license which allows unlimited instructors, classes, and papers starts at \$1,835 including \$1.55 for each student with a minimum of 500 students required.

### How does it work?

Instructors set up the class name, class assignments, and assignment due dates. To enroll students in a class, email addresses can be collected and entered manually or uploaded as a batch from a list. Students will be sent an invitation email with a class ID and enrollment password. Alternatively, instructors can provide a class ID number and a password for students to join on their own through the Turnitin website. After students enroll through the step-by-step process they can then upload their documents in any text-based format and Turnitin will compare it to a continuously updated database that includes over 12 billion websites, 100 million student papers, 80,000 newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals, and thousands of books. After the document has been compared to the database, within minutes Turnitin provides an originality report to the teacher and the student that highlights areas that are similar to other documents and shows the matching web links in a side by side comparison. The links will either lead you to the webpage or provide an email request to institu-

tions, authors, or publications to view private documents.

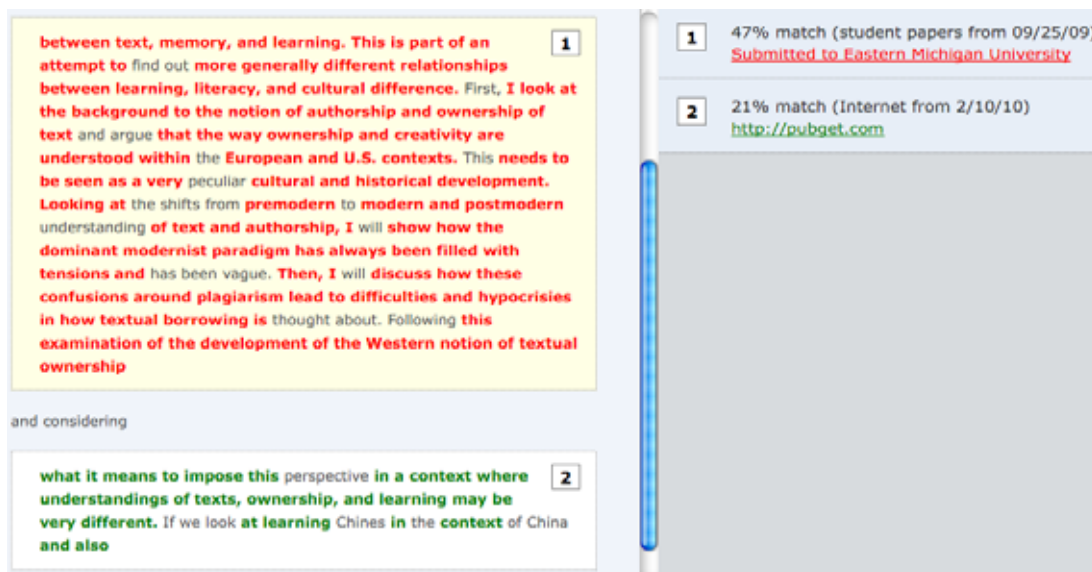


author	title	score	status	date
Anonymous	Turnitin.doc download 2 Descriptive Pass...	100%	✓	1/27/2009 09:45:00
Anonymous	Turnitin.doc download 2 Descriptive Pass...	75%	✓	1/27/2009 09:45:00
Anonymous	Turnitin.doc download 2 Descriptive Pass...	80%	✓	1/27/2009 09:45:00
Anonymous	Turnitin.doc download 2 Descriptive Pass...	85%	✓	1/27/2009 09:45:00

**Figure 1. Student submission page displaying the similarity report**

### What are the benefits?

Although it has the potential to deter students from copying from each other or the Internet, Turnitin can be utilized as a learning tool and not just a “gotcha” device. Instead of simply policing students, Turnitin can be used to help enhance students’ original writing and language use by highlighting areas that need to be revised, rewritten, or properly cited. One of the main benefits of using the software is the ability to submit multiple drafts of the same paper and compare how each draft has changed. This is extremely useful in courses with an emphasis on process writing. Additionally, originality reports can provide an excellent opportunity to teach about intellectual property and plagiarism. These are often difficult concepts for students and particularly language learners who write within a limited range of vocabulary and word usage.



**Figure 2. Side by side comparison of originality report**

### How effective is it?

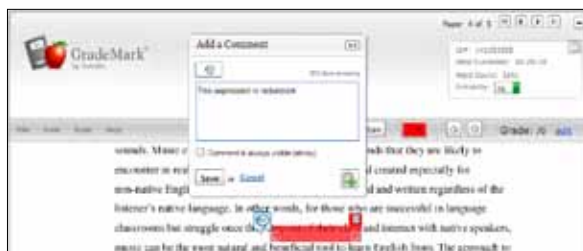
Because language learners often have such limited expressions, Turnitin will often report a high percentage of matches. These high percentages are often due to the use of redundant expressions, particularly when several students are writing on the same topic. Although this may seem alarming to some students, Turnitin provides side-by-side color-coded references for its matches, allowing teachers and students to determine which need to be rewritten and which can be ignored. Depending on the class, level, and topic, instructors should decide an appropriate percentile range for students to aim for. A high matching percentage does not necessarily indicate plagiarism. Essentially, Turnitin does the matchmaking work, but it stops short of determining what constitutes plagiarism; this is still a decision left to the keen eye and judgment of the instructor and not the software. Additionally, instructors can print or allow student access to the online originality reports, providing for the opportunity for self-correction.

### What else can it do?

The developers continue to add features, functions, and uses. It currently works on Mac and Windows platforms including Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari browsers. It can also be integrated into several major learning management systems such as Moodle and Blackboard. In addition, the Turnitin interface has a multi-lingual function that currently features 11 major languages.

More importantly, Turnitin2, an updated version being released this year, will include an additional software suite that has an online peer review and grading system as part of the WriteCycle. The peer reviewing software, called PeerMark, not only rids students and teachers of the process of shuffling papers, but also enables students to peer review anonymously, thus reducing any biases and encouraging authentic corrective feedback. Likewise, GradeMark eliminates the teacher burden of collecting and carrying piles of paper and burning through tons of red ink. Rather, GradeMark allows teachers to provide corrective feedback and scoring electronically from any computer connected to the Internet (please refer to Figure 3). GradeMark

also allows teachers to create customized rubrics and grade books to track student grades.



**Figure 3. Making comments using the GradeMark feature**

### Who is Turnitin for?

Although Turnitin is widely used in first language pedagogy, its use in the second language classroom is perhaps more limited depending on the situation. For many experienced EFL teachers working with beginner writers, sophisticated plagiarism detection software is probably unnecessary to detect copied passages. Moreover, writing classes which focus on personalized or creative writing texts will most likely produce authentic student texts regardless. Turnitin is probably best suited for English for Academic or Special Purposes, Content Based Instructional programs with a heavy focus on process, or research and academic writing. Using Turnitin does require a small learning curve for both the teachers and students. However, iParadigms LLC provides multiple levels of support including manuals, video tutorials, online training sessions, and local representatives. In the end, Turnitin simply provides one more tool in the fight against plagiarism and offers instructional support to teachers and students on their way to achieving original writing.

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