Classroomscreen.com All The Classroom Tools at Your Fingertips



A Guide for MFL Teachers

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Introduction

Classroomscreen is a free online resource that places a suite of interactive instructional tools on your desktop which can be utilised when using a projector or -when teaching online. The tools include a timer, a calendar, a name randomiser as well as a host of other tools.

It works best from a computer or laptop rather than a phone or tablet due to the size of the screen.



To get started

- Go to <u>www.classroomscreen.com</u> on your computer or tablet.
- When the tool is ready to use, the instructional tools, known as 'widgets', are displayed at the bottom of the screen.
- You can create a free account which will allow you to personalise your settings and save some data, but not all.

Pricing

Classroomscreen is free but there is an upgrade option available which will give you more options, such as saving all your screens.

Benefits for students and teachers

- It is engaging for students
- Easy set-up and navigation for the teacher
- It is an efficient way of merging many instructional tools
- The teacher can use several widgets at once
- It is an effective classroom management tool
- The screen can be set to display in the target language and there are many languages available
- The background can serve as an excellent cultural reference

Setting the language



On the right-hand side of the screen, click the settings button (the cog) and select the language.

Widgets

The instructional tools or widgets are the functions available to the teacher. These are displayed along the bottom of the screen. Click on the widget to place it on your screen. You can move the widget around the screen and have as many as you require.



What are the specific widgets on offer?

1. Setting the background

The first widget allows the teacher to set the background. Some of the options provide a cultural reference, e.g. the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate, the Colosseum, etc. You can also select an animation or a block colour. An added bonus is that you can also use your own saved pictures.





2. Random Name



Select the widget and it appears on your screen. Type in your students' names and it will randomly select a student when you click choose. This can be used for answers to homework for example. A handy tip is to copy and paste the class list into a Word doc. Keep this on your desktop so you can cut and paste the list into Classroomscreen when needed. On the free version, you can save three lists.



3. Dice



Roll up to three dice. The dice can be used to revise verbs, making sentences for example.



4. Sound Level



A microphone is needed here and you need to give permission to the site to access it. The sound level allows the teacher to monitor the level of sound in the class and it works well with the Work Symbol widget.



5. Media



The Media widget allows you to add in images, YouTube clips or to hook up to the webcam. This is a great tool for if you want to try Mystery Skype in the classroom. See the guide <u>here</u>.





6. QR Code



Pupils can scan the QR code from their seats to access a website. For more on QR codes, have a read of this <u>guide</u>.



7. Drawing



With the Drawing widget, the teacher can draw diagrams or write text in various colours using any tactile surface such as an interactive whiteboard or tablet.



8. Text



Write instructions in the Text widget using various fonts and font sizes. A quick tip is to have these saved so you can just cut and paste as you need them.



9. Work Symbol



With this widget you can communicate instructions; silence, whisper, ask neighbour and work together. This widget works well with the stopwatch.



10. Traffic Lights



The traffic lights can signal that an activity is about to start (amber), is taking place (green) or finished (red).



11. Timer



Click on the timer to set the time. Then select the sound to mark the end of the activity. This can also work on a loop. The loop would work well for pair work.



12. Stopwatch



Let the stopwatch run during an activity.



13. Clock



Use the clock
when teaching
time.



14. Calendar



Show the calendar in every class to reference days of the week and months of the year in the target language. It is also a great way to highlight work due, assessment dates, etc.



Widget Combinations & Possible Games for the MFL Classroom

1. Text & Dice – Verb and Tense Revision



2. Use the Background Feature: Cultural Research

Use a saved picture from your own bank of pictures to explore a cultural activity. Give the instructions using the text widget.



3. Timer & Text



Use the timer when students are completing an oral task. Give the instructions with the text widget. Challenge your class to talk for a set time on a topic or give them a specific question to respond to orally. This will help develop their fluency.

Add a chart with their names and ask two or three students in every class. Record their progress. This can be done individually or in pairs. This activity promotes oral work in a fun way.