

Language Teaching with Wikimedia



Imagine a World Without Free Knowledge

For over a decade, we have spent millions of hours building the largest encyclopedia in human history. Right now, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that could fatally damage the free and open internet. For 24 hours, to raise awareness, we are blacking out Wikipedia. [Learn more.](#)

Make your voice heard



Alannah Fitzgerald

Overview

- Misconceptions of Wikipedia in EAP
- Demo of FLAX collections using Wikimedia
- Open channels for training and OER collections building with Wikimedia resources

Misconceptions about Wikipedia in EAP

20 Myths about EAP

Posted: May 22, 2012 | Author: Alex | Filed under: Uncategorized | Tags: EAP, myths | 13 Comments »

According to the highly reliable and academically valid online resource known as Wikipedia:

An urban legend, urban myth, urban tale, or contemporary legend, is a form of modern folklore consisting of stories that may or may not have been believed by their tellers to be true. As with all folklore and mythology, the designation suggests nothing about the story's veracity, but merely that it is in circulation, exhibits variation over time, and carries some significance that motivates the community in preserving and propagating it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_legend (accessed 21/5/12)

We therefore thought that with this blog, an interesting place to start would be with some of the urban myths and tales that currently exist in the world of EAP.

So please find below our '**top 20 myths of EAP**' that are tutor and student generated. Please note

Issues of lexical density

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The Free Encyclopedia

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Welcome to **Wikipedia**,
the [free encyclopedia](#) that [anyone can edit](#).
4,045,333 articles in [English](#)

Today's featured article

Sebastian Shaw (1905–1994) was an English [actor](#), [director](#), [novelist](#), [playwright](#) and [poet](#). During his 65-year career, Shaw appeared in dozens of stage performances and more than 40 film and television productions. Shaw was born and raised in [Holt, Norfolk](#), and made his acting debut at age eight at a London theatre. He studied acting at [Gresham's School](#) and the [Royal Academy of Dramatic Art](#). Although he worked primarily on the London stage, he made his [Broadway](#) debut in 1929, when he played one of the two murderers in *[Rope's End](#)*. He appeared in his first film, *Caste*, in 1930 and quickly began to create a name

Lextutor Academic Word List analysis

EDIT-TO-A-PROFILE SPACE

WEB VP OUTPUT FOR FILE: Untitled

Words recategorized by user as 1k items (proper nouns etc): NONE (total 0 tokens)

	Families	Types	Tokens	Percent
K1 Words (1-1000):	67	72	154	68.75%
Function:	...	...	(91)	(40.63%)
Content:	...	...	(63)	(28.13%)
> Anglo-Sax <small>=Not Greco-Lat/Fr Cog:</small>	...	...	(25)	(11.16%)
K2 Words (1001-2000):	13	16	21	9.38%
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(4)	(1.79%)
1k+2k			...	(78.13%)
AWL Words academic):	8	8	9	4.02%
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(2)	(0.89%)
Off-List Words:	?	34	40	17.86%
	88+?	130	224	100%

Words in text (tokens):	224
Different words (types):	130
Type-token ratio:	0.58
Tokens per type:	1.72
Lex density (content words/total)	0.59

Pertaining to onlist only

Tokens:	184
Types:	96
Families:	88
Tokens per family:	2.09
Types per family:	1.09
Anglo-Sax Index: <small>(A-Sax tokens + functions / onlist tokens)</small>	66.30%
Greco-Lat/Fr-Cognate Index: <small>(Inverse of above)</small>	33.70%

For easy editing as MS Word table - [Edit/print-friendly table](#)

Page menu: [Tokens](#) (includes AWL subs) [Types](#) [Families](#) (includes VP negative)

Note: In the output text, punctuation is eliminated; all figures (1, 20, etc) are replaced by the word *number*; contractions are replaced by constituent words (*won't* => *will not*); type-token ratio is calculated using said constituents; and in the 1k sub-analysis content words may sum to less than total (depending on user treatment of proper nouns and program decision to class numbers as 1k although not contained in 1k list); single letters are eliminated except for 'a' and 'l'.

NEW - Edit-to-a-Profile

Original text [\[Lengthen\]](#)[\[Shorten\]](#)[\[Narrow\]](#)[\[Widen\]](#) space]

RECATS NONE

Profiled text Edit, Check with RE-VP, and SAVE

Today's featured article

Sebastian Shaw (1905–1994) was an English actor, director, novelist, playwright and poet. During his 65-year career, Shaw appeared in dozens of stage performances and more than 40 film and television productions. Shaw

Current profile	
68.75%	Cumul.
9.38	78.1
4.02	82.1
17.86	100

today featured article

sebastian shaw number was an english actor director novelist playwright and poet during his number year career shaw appeared in dozens of stage performances and more than number film and television productions shaw was born and raised in holt norfolk and made his acting debut at age eight

From descriptive to discursive writing in Wikipedia

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Revolution



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Revolt" redirects here. For other uses, see [Revolt \(disambiguation\)](#).

For other uses, see [Revolution \(disambiguation\)](#) and [Revolutions \(disambiguation\)](#).

A **revolution** (from the Latin *revolutio*, "a turn around") is a fundamental [change](#) in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time.

[Aristotle](#) described two types of political revolution:

1. Complete change from one constitution to another
2. Modification of an existing constitution.^[1]

Revolutions have occurred through [human history](#) and vary widely in terms of methods, duration, and motivating [ideology](#). Their results include major changes in [culture](#), [economy](#), and [socio-political institutions](#).

Scholarly debates about what does and does not constitute a revolution center around several issues. Early studies of revolutions primarily analyzed events in [European history](#) from a [psychological](#) perspective, but more modern examinations include global events and incorporate perspectives from several [social sciences](#), including [sociology](#) and [political science](#). Several generations of scholarly thought on revolutions have generated many competing theories and contributed much to the current understanding

Part of a series on

Revolution



Methods

[\[show\]](#)

Causes

[\[show\]](#)

History

[\[show\]](#)

Discursive writing in Wikipedia

WEB VP OUTPUT FOR FILE: Untitled

Words recategorized by user as 1k items (proper nouns etc): NONE (total 0 tokens)

	Families	Types	Tokens	Percent
1 Words (1-1000):	243	319	1242	64.86%
Function:	...	...	(691)	(36.08%)
Content:	...	...	(551)	(28.77%)
> Anglo-Sax	...	...	(179)	(9.35%)
<small>=Not Greco-Lat/Fr Cog:</small>	...	...
2 Words (1001-2000):	40	43	62	3.24%
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(14)	(0.73%)
1k+2k			...	(68.10%)
AWL Words (Academic):	97	133	304	15.87%
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(11)	(0.57%)
Off-List Words:	?	220	307	16.03%
	380+?	715	1915	100%

Words in text (tokens):	1915
Different words (types):	715
Type-token ratio:	0.37
Tokens per type:	2.68
Lex density (content words/total)	0.64
<i>Pertaining to onlist only</i>	
Tokens:	1608
Types:	495
Families:	380
Tokens per family:	4.23
Types per family:	1.30
Anglo-Sax Index:	55.66%
<small>(A-Sax tokens + functors / onlist tokens)</small>	
Greco-Lat/Fr-Cognate Index:	(Inverse of above) 44.34%

For easy editing as MS Word table - [Edit/print-friendly table](#)

Page menu: [Tokens](#) (Includes AWL subs) [Types](#) [Families](#) (Includes VP negative)

Note: In the output text, punctuation is eliminated; all figures (1, 20, etc) are replaced by the word *number*; contractions are replaced by constituent words (*won't* => *will not*); type-token ratio is calculated using said constituents; and in the 1k sub-analysis content words may sum to less than total (depending on user treatment of proper nouns and program decision to class numbers as 1k although not contained in 1k list); single letters are eliminated except for 'a' and 'l'.

NEW - Edit-to-a-Profile

Original text [\[Lengthen\]](#) [\[Shorten\]](#) [\[Narrow\]](#) [\[Widen\]](#) space

RECATS NONE

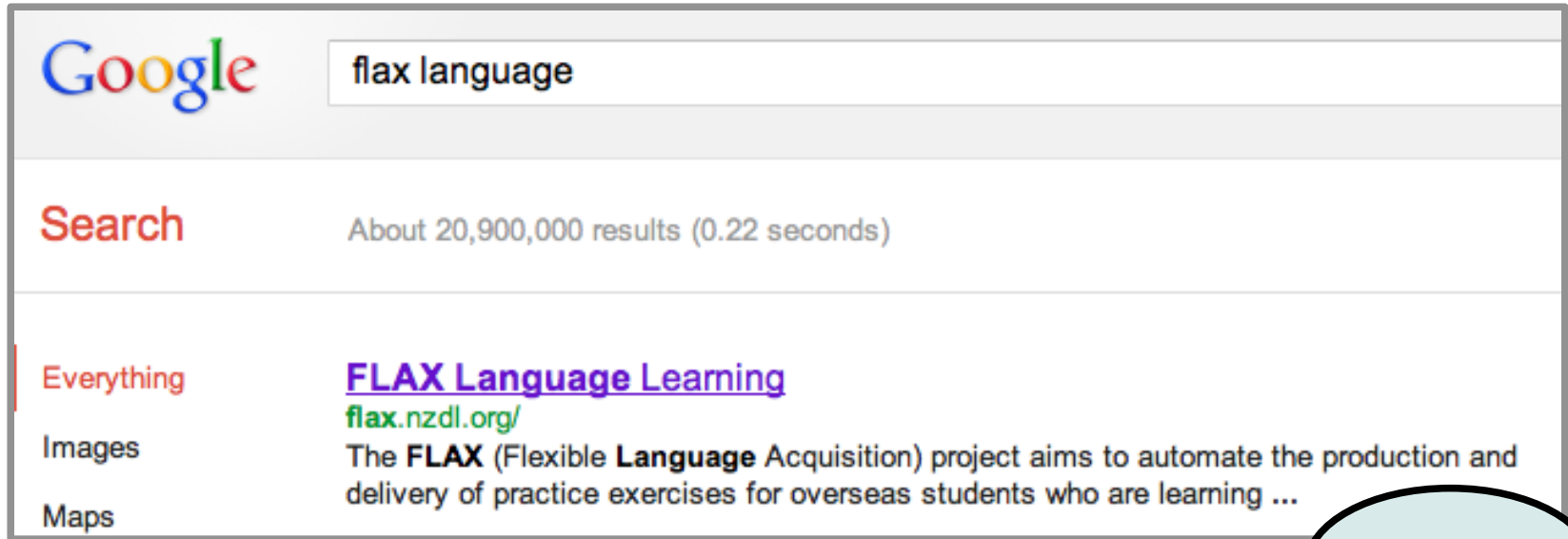
Profiled text Edit, Check with , and

A revolution (from the Latin *revolutio*, "a turn around") is a fundamental change in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time. Aristotle described two types of political revolution:

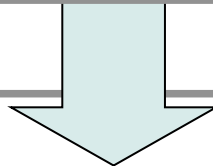
Current profile	
64.86%	Cumul.
3.24	68.1
15.87	84.0
16.03	100

a revolution from the latin *revolutio* a turn around is a fundamental change in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time aristotle described two types of political revolution

FLAX – Flexible Language Acquisition



Google search results for "flax language". The search bar contains "flax language". The search results show "About 20,900,000 results (0.22 seconds)". The top result is "FLAX Language Learning" with the URL "flax.nzdl.org/". The description of the result states: "The FLAX (Flexible Language Acquisition) project aims to automate the production and delivery of practice exercises for overseas students who are learning ...".



flax

interactive language learning



home library demos downloads about

library

library

The **FLAX** (*Flexible Language Acquisition*) project aims to automate the production and delivery of practice exercises for overseas students who are learning English. Exercise material comes from digital libraries, which can supply a virtually endless supply of collaborative and competitive language activities. (*All software produced by this project is open source, issued under the GNU General Public License.*)



flax

interactive language learning

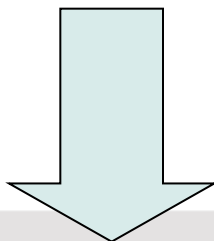
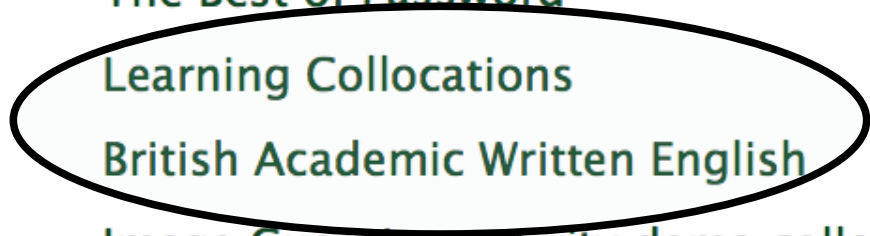
Standard Collections

The Best of Password

Learning Collocations

British Academic Written English

Image Guessing activity demo collection



flax

interactive language learning



home library demos downloads about

Learning Collocations



BNC/BAWE

your name:

My Cherry Basket

in BAWE go

Learning Collocations collection in FLAX

FLAX team collections building:

Shaoqun Wu, Ian Witten, Margaret Franken, Xiaofeng Yu – Waikato University

used as a noun

Research grant
in research
social research
research aims to
piece of research
undertake research
engaged in research

related collocations

research	hypothesis	scientific	empirical	method	prediction	academic	hourglass
quantitative	journal	know	academic scholars	academic publications			
search	matter	obse					
electronic	data	necessa	Academic publishing describes a system that is necessary in order for academic scholars to peer review the work and make it available for a wider audience.				
guideline	analysis	accurac					

definitions

Research can be defined as the search for **knowledge**, or as any systematic investigation, with an open mind, to establish novel facts, solve new or existing problems, prove new ideas, or develop new theories, usually using a **scientific method**.
[Wikipedia]

[extended definitions from wiktionary](#)

related topics in Wikipedia

[Social sciences](#)

[Research and development](#)


Wikipedia mining tools

(1) extracting collocations from Wikipedia articles for the "related collocations" section of the Learning Collocations collection.

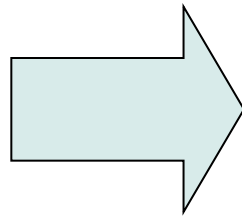
(2) using a Wikipedia server running at the University of Waikato's Computer Science Department to retrieve definitions and related topics for each query term.

When a user issues a query, e.g. “economic bubble”, FLAX is doing the following:

economic bubble in BNC go

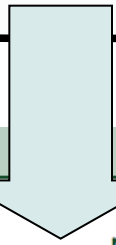
 *economic* used as an adjective

(1) Grouping collocation types e.g. noun + noun from the selected corpus (BNC, BAWE, Wikipedia)




economic growth
social and economic
in economic terms
purely economic
transfer economic benefits
economic in
damaged beyond economic repair
make it economic
economic to supply

(2) If the query term, e.g. "economic bubble" matches an article in Wikipedia, collocations of that article are presented as related collocations, grouped by the keywords of that article. The keywords are ranked using their term frequency-inverse document frequency (TF-IDF) scores.



 related collocations

bubble	asset	financial	price	monetary	economic	overvalued	fool
market	rate	investor	cause	mania	tend	risk	liquidity
intrinsic	value	policy	bank	leveraged	investment	housing	commodity
participant	speculation	burst	tulip	excess	leverage	explanation	interest

 Dutch tulip mania

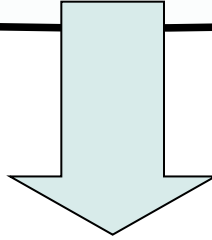
 in the Dutch tulip mania

great

- This was one of the earliest modern financial crises; other episodes were referred to as "manias", as in the **Dutch tulip mania**.

ubble, a price bubble,

(3) Retrieves the definition of the query term (normally, the first sentence of the matched article (e.g. the "economic bubble" article) from the Wikipedia server.




definitions

An **economic bubble** (sometimes referred to as a **speculative bubble**, a **market bubble**, a **price bubble**, a **financial bubble**, a **speculative mania** or a **balloon**) is "trade in high volumes at prices that are considerably at variance with **intrinsic values**". [Wikipedia]

[extended definitions from wiktionary](#)

(4) Retrieve related articles for the "economic bubble" from the Wikipedia server and present as 'related topics'.

 related topics in Wikipedia

Real estate bubble
United States housing bubble
Financial crisis
Tulip mania
Debt deflation
Irving Fisher
Mainstream economics
Austrian business cycle theory
Post Keynesian economics
Japanese asset price bubble
Spanish property bubble
Federal funds rate
Herd behavior

South Sea Company
Mississippi Company
Austrian School
Asset price inflation
Behavioral economics

Behavioral economics and its related area of study, **behavioral finance**, use social, cognitive and emotional factors in understanding the economic decisions of individuals and institutions performing economic functions, including consumers, borrowers and investors, and their effects on market prices, returns and the resource allocation.

Technical analysis
Fundamental analysis
Moral hazard

Oxford Text Archive

facebook  Search for people, places and things 



Oxford Text Archive 

Interest

Description

From [Wikipedia](#), the free encyclopedia

Oxford Text Archive (OTA) is an archive of [electronic texts](#) and other literary and language resources which have been created, collected and distributed for the purpose of research into literary and linguistic topics at the [University of Oxford, England](#).

The OTA was founded by Lou Burnard of [Oxford University Computing Services \(OUCS\)](#) in 1976, and is thought to be the oldest archive of digital academic textual resources. The OTA continues to be hosted by OUCS, with associated research and development projects

Info

-  Friend Activity
-  Wikipedia

The BAWE text sub collections

British Academic Written English (Life Sciences)

[About Collection](#) [Search](#) [Browse](#) [Collocations](#)

 [My Cherry Basket](#)

Thromboembolic Event

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[Original](#)

[wikify](#)

[noun](#)

[verb](#)

[adverb](#)

[preposition](#)

[adjective](#)

Referral information

Mr was referred to the accident and [emergency department](#) after presenting at an NHS walk-in clinic. History PC:

Mr presented with acute pain and paraesthesiae in the right ankle. HPC:

Mr awoke from [sleep yesterday morning](#) with pain and paraesthesiae in the right ankle. The pain was described as a sharp, constant stabbing pain that was aggravated by movement and [weight bearing](#). He was fit and well the previous day. There was no history of swelling or bruising. No [chest pain](#), dyspnoea or pyrexia. No [history of hypertension](#) or claudication. No recent travel or localised trauma. PMH:

No history of MI, CVA, TIA, COPD, DM or epilepsy DH:

SH:

Mr works as a painter and decorator. He currently lives in a privately owned house with his wife. He also has two daughters and a son. He doesn't have any [mobility problems](#) and takes regular recreational walks. Analysis of history

Given the [history of acute onset pain](#) and paraesthesiae in an extremity, the most likely cause for's presentation is acute [limb ischaemia](#). This condition typically presents with six classic features (6P 's) , which include pain, paraesthesiae, pallor, pulselessness, perishingly cold and paralysis (due to [nerve damage](#)) and therefore additional signs should be sought upon physical examination. Acute [ischaemia occurs](#) due to sudden [arterial occlusion](#) and can arise as a [result of](#)

Wikify key words & phrases

British Academic Written English (Life Sciences)

[About Collection](#) [Search](#) [Browse](#) [Collocations](#)

 [My Cherry Basket](#)

Thromboembolic Event

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Original

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Referral information

Mr was referred to the [accident and emergency department](#) after presenting at an NHS walk-in clinic.

History

PC:

Mr presented with [acute](#)

HPC:

Mr awoke from [sleep](#) y
sharp, constant stabbing
day. There was no histo
[claudication](#). No recent

An [Emergency Department \(ED\)](#), also known as [Accident & Emergency \(A&E\)](#), [Emergency Room \(ER\)](#), [Emergency Ward \(EW\)](#), or [Casualty Department](#) is a medical treatment facility, specialising in [acute](#) care of patients who present without prior appointment, either by their own means or by [ambulance](#).

Related topics in Wikipedia

- [Blood pressure](#)
- [Obesity](#)
- [Tachycardia](#)
- [Headache](#)
- [Cardiovascular disease](#)

e. The pain was described as a
He was fit and well the previous
No history of [hypertension](#) or

Open channels

Russell Stannard - Teacher Training Videos



ELT/ESL Videos

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Videos for All Languages

About Russell

Where is Russell Speaking?

Russell's Research

Recorded Interviews and Talks

How to Make the Videos

Russell's Podcasts



VIDEOS

My latest videos

- [Brilliant Vocabulary Tool for English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch](#)
- [Animoto-Animation with Text.Great for Low Levels](#)
- [How to use Blogger](#)
- [More advanced features of Blogger](#)
- [Excellent Audio and Podcasting Tool.](#)
- [Ten Brilliant sites to start 2011](#)
- [Brilliant Brainstorming and Ideas](#)

ELT/ESL TRAINING VIDEOS

Just click on any of the topics on the left hand side. All the videos deal with ELT/ESL and provide loads of great sites and tips on how to use them

THE TEN MOST POPULAR SITES

Website of the month

A Brilliant collection of easy and fun sites to get you started in 2011. Something here for everyone in ELT. .
[10 great ELT sites to start 2011](#)

Screen Capture using JING Two sets of videos. One shows you how to use Screen Capture and one shows you some ideas for using it.

[How to use JING](#)

[Ways of using JING](#)

MailVu and Vocaroo Really simple way of getting your students talking.

[How to use MailVu and Vocaroo](#)

Audio Book Brilliant podcasting tool and so easy to use.

[How to use Audiobook](#)

iTunes This set of videos shows you how to download podcasts, how to use iTunes you and how to apps too. An amazing tool.

[Getting content from iTunes](#)

Learning to use Twitter Videos shows you all you need to get started in Twitter. The 2nd and 3rd set shows you how to you Tweet Deck.

[How to get started in Twitter](#)

Russell speaks at Conferences



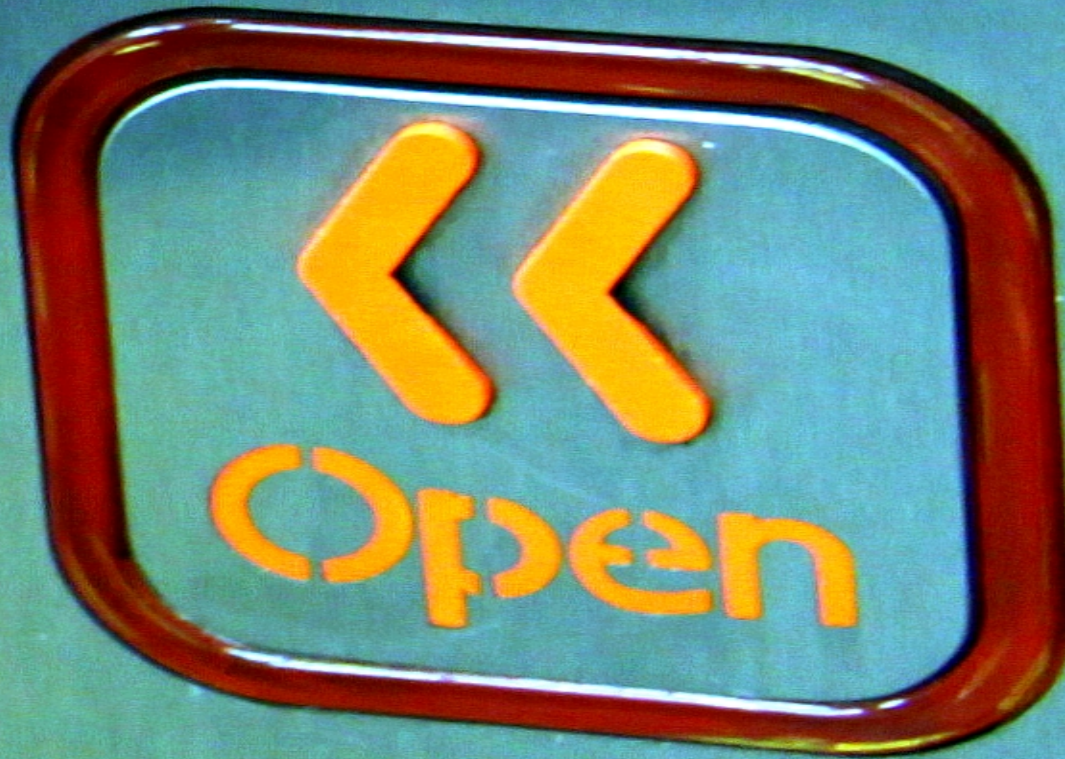
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FREE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Keep up with all the new videos and content with our free monthly newsletter

<http://www.teachertrainingvideos.com>

Thank you



Email: fitzgerald@education.concordia.ca;

Blog: Technology for Open English – Toying with Open E-resources
www.alannahfitzgerald.org

Twitter: @AlannahFitz

Slideshare: <http://www.slideshare.net/AlannahOpenEd/>