

## Empowering Voice

### Wimba WebLab

#### Teach oral language skills online

WebLab is the only tool that makes oral language teaching online possible! Teachers can easily create listening and speaking exercises for the web. Students simply listen and respond to their teachers' exercises. All they need is a microphone connected to their computer!

WebLab is a unique web based audio authoring environment specifically designed for institutions and universities specializing in language learning. WebLab allows oral language teaching and testing directly on the web.

- WebLab eliminates the barriers of time and distance for language instruction.
- Language instructors can design lessons that are more dynamic, personalized and adapted to their students' needs. Teachers can author vocal exercises and assign them to students. Once students have submitted their vocal answers, the teacher can correct them vocally! Among these exercises, students are able to listen repeatedly to target dialogues, work on their listening comprehension and check their pronunciation.
- Students can learn a language at their own pace, when and where they choose.



### Specific Tools For Each Stage Of Language Learning

WebLab is composed of four tools that have been designed for each stage of the language-learning process:

#### Stage 1: Voice Comprehension

Hi-fi audio and scrolling text makes it easy for teachers to introduce vocabulary and encourage sight-sound recognition of new language forms. Students can listen repeatedly to increase their comprehension of the new vocabulary.

#### Stage 2: Voice Comparison

The voice comparison tool allows students to verbally practice the vocabulary introduced in the voice comprehension stage by recording their pronunciation and listening to the results. In turn, this allows students to practice and refine their speaking and listening ability.

#### Stage 3: Voice Boards

Teachers can easily post questions or audio exercises for students to listen and reply to. Teachers can then orally evaluate student replies and coach students' pronunciation if required. Voice boards are a unique way to give students the iteration opportunity so important in language learning.

#### Stage 4: Oral Assessment Builder

With the Oral Assessment Builder, language instructors and course administrators can develop a variety of test questions with oral prompts and oral replies, and assemble them into oral assessments. Students simply log into the system and proceed through the test questions recording their answers as they go. Once completed, the test is sent back to the teacher who can then assess the student's replies and provide feedback in the form of recorded vocal comments. The assessment process is complete as soon as the student has received the test and reviewed the vocal comments.

#### Voice Email

Wimba also makes available its Voice Email to WebLab users. This tool enables users to send an email with a recorded voice message from a web page to one or multiple recipients. Recipients can easily respond with their own voice email messages.

### Add Voice Direct, Our Real Time Conferencing Tool To WebLab

With VoiceDirect teachers can conduct online, real-time conferences, invite guest speakers to their lectures, and hold virtual office hours for one-to-one student meetings. Students can participate in interactive discussions and debates, and participate in group work in real-time anywhere in the world.

#### Select Wimba/ WebLab Clients

CNED  
 Pearson Education  
 Assimil/Learnorama  
 British Council  
 Rice University  
 Athabasca University  
 California State  
 University - Hayward  
 West Virginia Virtual School  
 Mt San Antonio Community College  
 Arizona State University  
 Princeton University  
 Montclair Community College  
 University of Alberta  
 Florida Virtual School  
 South West Tennessee CC  
 Miami Dade CC

# Advantages

## Instructor Experience

### Customized Online Language Learning:

With asynchronous vocal communication, instructors can adapt their courses to better suit the needs of students for more effective results.

### New Pedagogical Possibilities:

For the first time, instructors can introduce bi-directional audio instruction over the web opening up new pedagogical possibilities.

### A Lively And Interactive Alternative To CD ROMs:

Asynchronous online vocal communication provides instructors with a dynamic and interactive alternative to CD ROMs and other traditional classroom materials.

### Greater Convenience:

Online, asynchronous vocal communication allows instructors to respond to and teach students from any Internet connected computer, at their convenience.

## Student Experience

### Eliminate the Barriers of Distance:

Students can contact their tutor or fellow students from around the world at any time to practice their oral skills, ask questions and share ideas.

### Open Question Time:

With asynchronous vocal communication, students are not confined by time when wanting to ask a question, but can take time to think about their questions first and ask them in private.

### No More Costly Phone Calls:

Using WebLab eliminates the need for expensive long distance phone calls; students only have to pay for the internet connection time.

### Student Control:

Students can control the time and the pace of learning a new language.

## Additional Benefits

### Location And Time Independent Access

All audio messages are stored centrally on Wimba's Voice Management Server. This means that each voice discussion board, voice email, or language learning tool can be accessed by any authorized users with a web connected computer from any location, at any time of the day.

### Unbeatable Interaction

WebLab brings a level of interaction that is incomparable to learning a language via CD ROM, as students and teachers are actually able to communicate vocally with one another.

### No Physical Media Required

The big benefit of WebLab is that it brings language learning with voice online, eliminating the need for CD ROMs. Keeping information up to date is simple, fast and inexpensive.

### A Cost Effective Way To Go Global

With WebLab there is no need for a brick and mortar language lab, as you can create a virtual language lab online, accessible from any where in the world, allowing your institution to serve more students.

### Improve Student Retention and Re-enrollment

The convenience of interactive online language learning is highly popular with students therefore improving retention and re-enrollment.

### Broad Platform Support

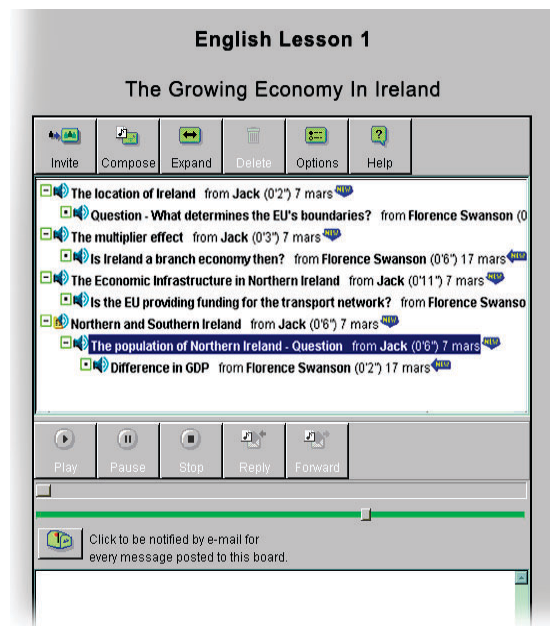
WebLab is compatible with all major browsers on Windows Platforms (Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape).

### No Waiting Time For Listening and Recording

Users can hear and respond to vocal messages without having to wait! Wimba's two way audio streaming provides virtually instantaneous playing and recording of audio even behind 28.8 kbps modems!

### Intuitive and Easy to Use

Learning to use Wimba voice tools is intuitive and fast; there is virtually no learning curve for users, complicated commands to follow, or software to download. Students and instructors can listen to, reply to, and post audio by simply using a microphone connected to their computers.



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