

# Using the IWB

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An interactive whiteboard, or a digital whiteboard  
that *can* be used interactively?

## From Promethean...

- The IWB enlivens teaching and learning.
- It focuses attention.
- It boosts the interactivity of lessons.
- IWBs are undeniably very useful, **but...** How skeptical can we be? Should we be? Must we be?



## Spot the Difference...

- Technology may have advanced, but what about the classroom dynamics?
- Teacher-centred
- Students come to the board individually
- Is it time-saving or can it actually kill creativity? (“Who has a good flipchart on...?”)
- Ken Robinson
- “A good teacher cannot be fixed in a routine...during teaching each moment requires a sensitive mind that is constantly changing and constantly adapting” (Bruce Lee)



# Current ELT thinking...

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- Unlike the syllabus laid out in many coursebooks, language learning is not logical and linear, and it cannot be pre-determined.
- To teach is not *to transfer knowledge* but to create the possibilities for the production or construction of knowledge. (Paulo Freire 1998)
- Success depends less on materials, techniques and linguistic analyses, and more on what goes on inside and between the people in the classroom (Earl Stevick 1980)

# Bridging the Gap

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- Edmodo - (summaries/comments)
- Able to save/record emergent language work
- Open dynamic (looking at the board, not with their heads buried in books). Eyes-up rather than eyes-down culture
- Paper-light
- A tool to access the true bastion of connectivity - the Internet...