Enhancing Your Lessons with the Power of AI

Andrew Shapira

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Objectives

- Identify ways that chatbots like ChatGPT and Gemini can be used in the adult education classroom
- Create activities using the artificial intelligence features in educational tools like Quizziz and Padlet
- Save time and effort by making use of powerful AI capabilities

Agenda

- Poll

- AI and chatbots

- Chatbots in education

- AI in tools like Padlet, Quizizz, and Quizlet

- Discussion

- Feedback

Who am I?

- Adult education teacher for about 15 years

- Currently the coordinator of the ELL program at the Newton library and a teacher at Framingham Adult ESL

- Have led workshops at First Literacy, Network, SABES, and individual programs on Google apps and other tech tools (Padlet, Quizizz, Nearpod, Edpuzzle, etc.)

- Not an AI expert!

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Poll

- Go to joinmyquiz.com and enter the code.

- Feel free to put questions and comments in the chat at any point!

What's the deal with AI?

- AI has been around for decades, depending on how you define it

- Recent advancements have resulted in "generative" AI, which is able to produce text, images, sound, video, and more

- Entered the mainstream through "chatbots" based on large language models (LLMs)

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Chatbots

- LLMs = systems "trained" on vast amounts of text from the Internet; the AI in a chatbot "learns" from patterns in the text so that it's able to provide appropriate answers to all sorts of questions/prompts

- More complex and conversational than a search engine, more versatile than Alexa or Siri

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Chatbots

- Best-known is [ChatGPT](#)

- Others: [Gemini](#) (formerly Bard) from Google, [Copilot](#) from Microsoft, [Claude](#), [Pi](#), [Perplexity](#), etc.

- Access on websites or through apps; typically require a free account, with more advanced, paid versions also available

- Available in many languages

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What can people do with chatbots?

- Plan a vacation

- Create a recipe

- Get shopping recommendations

- Design a fitness program

- Ask for life advice

- Discover popular books, TV, movies, etc.

- Draft letters, emails, etc.

- Learn trivia and jokes, write poetry and stories, and more

Benefits of chatbots

- They provide answers the way a human would — not just a list of links.

- They can engage in a back-and forth, drawing on previous questions/responses to give better answers.

- They can modify their responses, adjusting the length, complexity, tone, etc.

Other uses of AI

- Generative AI can create images, audio, video, 3D models, and computer code

- AI is increasingly able to perform tasks across a range of industries — e.g., creating protein sequences to help develop new drugs

- Other examples of AI uses (sometimes not so new): recognizing cars and pedestrians for self-driving cars, detecting credit card fraud, monitoring crop health

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What are the downsides?

- Sometimes chatbots make things up ("hallucinations") – need to check for accuracy

- Potential for plagiarism and cheating

- Less creativity and original thought

- Possible bias

- Societal and philosophical implications: loss of jobs, AI-generated art, "deepfakes," threats to humanity? 😨

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Using chatbots as a teacher

- Draft lesson plans
- Brainstorm ways to differentiate
- Provide examples and explanations
- Design assessments (e.g., based on your objectives)
- Compose word problems
- Create discussion/writing prompts
- Write or adapt texts
- Generate activities and exercises

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Padlet discussion

- Go to the [Padlet](#).

- Share one idea about using chatbots in education that you find intriguing or exciting. Feel free to like or comment on others' posts.

Examples of activities

- "Create a conversation activity for English learners, focusing on the simple past."

- "Write a short dialogue between a restaurant server and a customer. Design an accompanying activity for intermediate ESOL students."

- "What is a good listening activity for beginner ESL students?"

- "Give me an activity for GED or HiSET students to practice similes and metaphors."

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Examples of exercises

- "Write 15 sentences using irregular verbs in the present perfect tense."

- "Create 5 true/false questions about animals that are appropriate for low-level English learners."

- "Make a fill-in-the-blank exercise with 10 common English idioms."

- "What is a pronunciation exercise involving minimal pairs like 'ship' and 'sheep'?"

- "Give me some conversation questions about life in the United States for intermediate English learners."

Let's practice!

- Go to ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, or Pi.

- Ask it to generate an activity or exercise that would fit a recent lesson of yours or be appropriate for your students.

- Post it on the Padlet. Feel free to comment on others' posts.

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Using chatbots as a student

- Conversation practice – text or audio

  - Talk to ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.

  - Language chatbots: <u>GoPenPal</u>, <u>TalkPal</u>, <u>Lingful</u> (currently in beta), <u>Deep English</u>, various others

- Ask for writing corrections and feedback

- Answer questions and prompts, write essays, etc.

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Using chatbots as a student

- Research topics

- Simplify and summarize difficult texts

- Tutoring: "Help me study _____," "Quiz me on _____," "Teach me _____"

Padlet

- Interactive bulletin boards

- Create Padlets with AI

- "I can't draw" feature

  - Let's practice!

Quizizz

- Engaging quizzes, assessments, polls, etc. – similar to Kahoot and Nearpod

- Quizizz AI: create multiple-choice quizzes from a prompt, pasted text, a link, Google Slides/Docs, YouTube videos, or uploaded files (PDF, Word document, etc.)

- Enhance with AI: simplify questions, add similar questions, convert to a real-world scenario, add explanations, "make it fun," and more

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Quizlet

- Online flashcards and related practice activities

- Magic Notes: create flashcards, talk with an AI tutor, and generate essay questions and outlines, based on pasted text, uploaded files, Google Docs, or YouTube videos

- Generate definitions and search for images of vocabulary

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Some questions you had

- AI in advising

- Guidelines/precautions for students' use of AI

- Using AI with ABE and basic literacy students

- Discouraging uncritical reliance on AI

- Independent learning with AI

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Discussion

1. If you have used chatbots or other AI tools before, how have you done so?
2. How would you like to use chatbots or other AI tools in your classroom or for work purposes in the future?
3. What concerns do you have regarding the use of AI in adult education?
4. What are your takeaways from today's workshop?

Help with tech tools

- Padlet
  - [Create Padlets with AI](#)
  - [I Can't Draw (AI Image Generation)](#)
- Quizizz
  - [Create Quizzes with AI](#)
  - [Enhance Quizzes with AI](#)
- Quizlet
  - [Create Study Materials with Magic Notes](#)

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Further reading

- "ChatGPT, Chatbots, and Artificial Intelligence in Education"

- "Teaching with AI" – from OpenAI (makers of ChatGPT)

- "ChatGPT examples to use artificial intelligence in education"

- "Exploring Applications of ChatGPT to English Language Teaching"

- "I checked out 9 language learning AIs"

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Questions and/or feedback?

- Email me at ashapira@faesl.org.

- Thank you for attending!

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