

Personalized learning: the past, present and future of ELT

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The Future of English
Language Teaching
2018

Defining personalized learning

differentiated learning differentiation
individualized instruction individualized learning
individualization individually guided education
individually prescribed instruction
learner-centred education personalized instruction
personalized learning personalization

Personalized learning in ELT: early days (1970s)

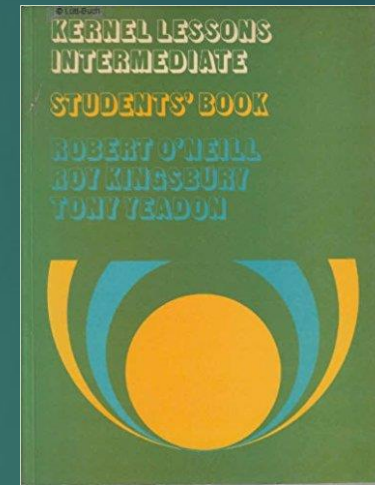
4. Transfer Exercise

Write 5 or more true sentences about yourself, friends or relations, using the word *ago*.

Example:

I left school 5 years ago.

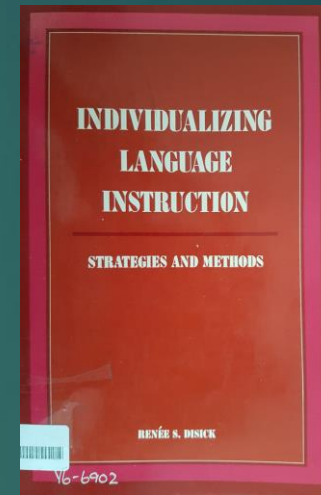
My parents and I spent 2 months in Italy
3 years ago.



O'Neill, R. et al. 1971. *Kernel Lessons Intermediate*. (Longman)
p. 37

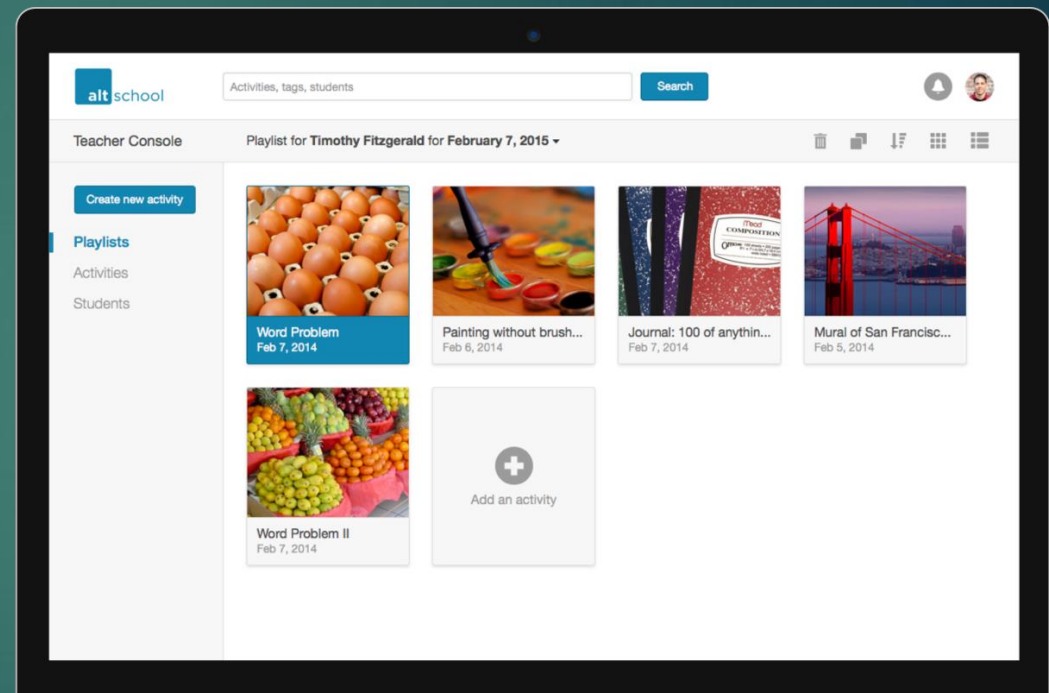
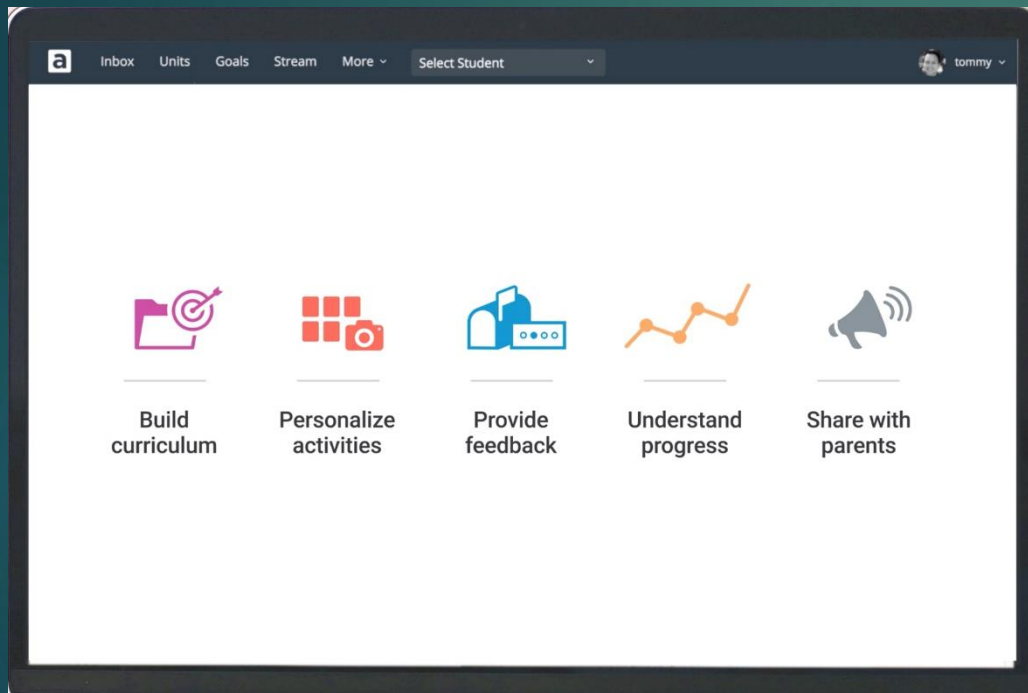
Personalized learning in ELT: early days (1970s)

Each learner is unique in personality, abilities, and needs. Education must be personalized to fit the individual; the individual must not be dehumanized in order to meet the needs of an impersonal school system. Educating students in a humane way can lead ultimately to a better society characterized by tolerance, co-operation, and greater concern for others.



Disick, R.S. 1975. *Individualizing Language Instruction: Strategies and Methods*. (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) p. 38

Personalized learning: now



Personalized learning: technology



Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

February 9, 2016 · 🌐



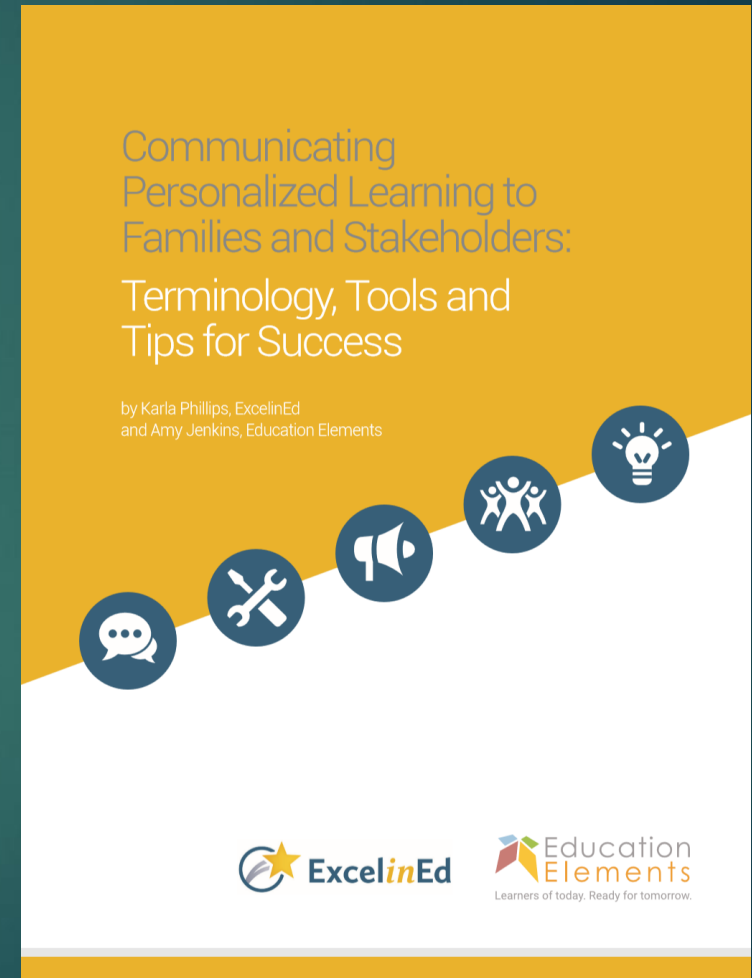
We believe in personalized learning, an approach to customizing each student's learning path to meet their needs and interests. Digital learning is one tool that enables this approach, and leaders in our local Bay Area schools identified it as a priority for our support.

Personalized learning: the backers



Personalized learning: marketing

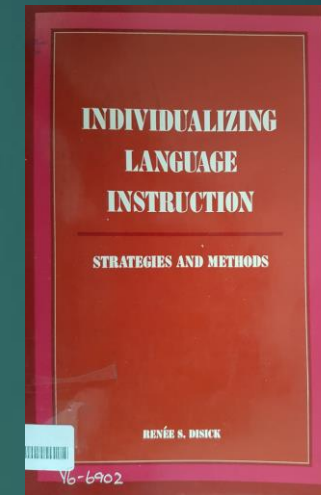
<https://www.excelined.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Communicating-Personalized-Learning-to-Families-and-Stakeholders.pdf>



April, 2018

Defining personalized learning

<i>Areas of Individualization</i>	<i>Instructional Style</i>
Choice of Course Objectives	Independent Study Development of Preferred Skills
Choice of Rate of Learning	Continuous Progress Flexible Pacing
Choice of Methods of Learning	Multimedia Program
Choice of Content of Learning	Mini-Courses Interdisciplinary Studies Elective Assignments



Disick, R.S. 1975. *Individualizing Language Instruction: Strategies and Methods*. (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) p. 58

Personalized learning: the research

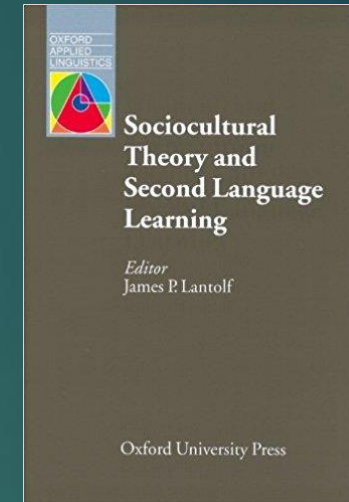
- ▶ Course objectives Goal-setting
- ▶ Rate of learning Self-pacing
- ▶ Methods of learning Learning styles, learning preferences, SpLDs
- ▶ Content of learning Learning materials

Goal-setting

Benefits

Learner autonomy and learner agency

“ultimate attainment in second-language learning relies on one’s agency ... [it] is crucial at the point where the individuals must not just start memorizing a dozen new words and expressions but have to decide on whether to initiate a long, painful, inexhaustive, and, for some, never-ending process of self-translation”




Pavlenko, A. & Lantolf, J. 2000. Second language learning as participation and the (re) construction of selves. In J. P. Lantolf (ed.) *Sociocultural theory and second language learning*. OUP, pp. 155-177.

Goal-setting

Problems

- ▶ High-stakes standardized testing
- ▶ Organizational contexts
- ▶ Content requirements
- ▶ Teacher workload
- ▶ Necessary conditions of personalized goal-setting

Self-pacing



The screenshot shows the ABC News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Sites', 'ABC', 'Log In', and 'Search'. Below this is the 'NEWS' logo and a 'SET LOCATION' button. A horizontal menu lists various news categories: Just In, Politics, World, Business, Sport, Science, Health, Arts, Analysis, Fact Check, and More. Below the menu are social media sharing options: Print, Email, Facebook, Twitter, and More. The main headline reads: 'Malcolm Turnbull backs Gonski report call to move from mass learning to tailored education'. Below the headline, it says 'By national education reporter Natasha Robinson' and 'Updated Mon at 5:34am'. A video player shows a close-up of Malcolm Turnbull. To the right, there are two smaller article teasers: 'NEW GONSKI PLAN' with an image of colored pencils and the text 'Cassidy: Why are Coalition MPs still so grumpy about Gonski?', and another with an image of children and the text 'What's happening with...'.

Too many Australian children are failing to reach their potential at school because of the restrictive nature of year-level progression, the report said.

30 April 2018

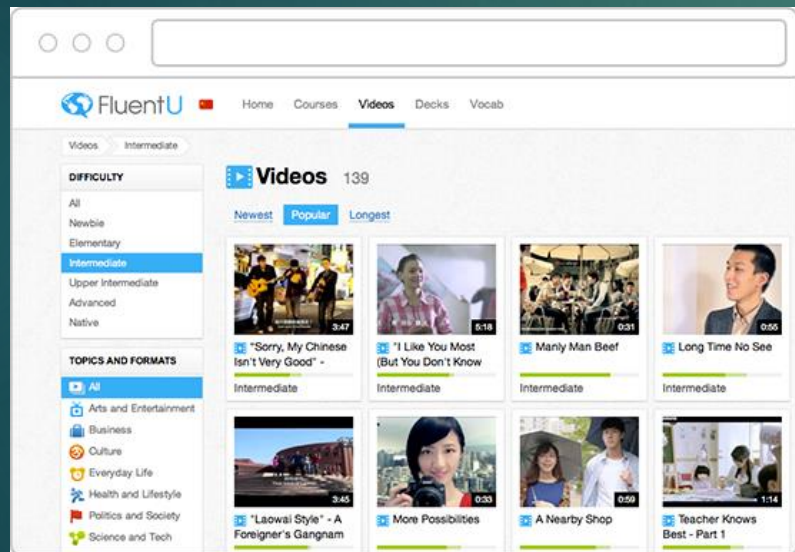
Self-pacing

- ▶ The Pueblo (1884 – 1894), Burk (1912 – 1915), Winnetka (1920s), & Dalton (1920s) Plans
- ▶ Programmed Instruction (1960s / 1970s)
- ▶ Classrooms and individual study (carts and horses)



Instructional approach & learning materials

► Personal interests



The screenshot shows the FluentU website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Courses', 'Videos', 'Decks', and 'Vocab'. The 'Videos' section is active, showing a grid of 139 videos. The left sidebar has a 'DIFFICULTY' filter with options: All, Newbie, Elementary, Intermediate (selected), Upper Intermediate, Advanced, and Native. Below that is a 'TOPICS AND FORMATS' section with categories like Arts and Entertainment, Business, Culture, Everyday Life, Health and Lifestyle, Politics and Society, and Science and Tech. The main content area displays a grid of video thumbnails with titles and durations, such as 'Sorry, My Chinese Isn't Very Good' (3:47), 'I Like You Most (But You Don't Know)' (6:18), 'Manly Man Beef' (0:31), and 'Long Time No See' (0:55).



The screenshot shows the Voxy website homepage. The top navigation bar includes 'Español', 'Português', and 'Sign in'. The main headline reads 'Improve your English while reading the news.' with subtext 'Vocabulary Building | Reading Comprehension | Listening'. Below the headline is a grid of six video thumbnails. To the right is a 'Get Started' section with three buttons: 'I SPEAK ENGLISH', 'HABLO ESPAÑOL', and 'EU FALO PORTUGUÊS'. Below this is a call to action: 'Questions? Call us! 1-888-351-4519'. A dark banner below the main content states 'Every month: 120 stories / 1200 useful words & phrases including 108 words today.' The bottom section features logos for 'veja', 'The New York Times', 'TechCrunch', 'Mashable', 'CNNMoney', and 'Aol Latino'. On the right, there are icons for downloading the Voxy app on 'Go to the App Store >>' and 'Go to the Android Market >>'.

Instructional approach & learning materials

- ▶ Personal interests
- ▶ Learning styles
- ▶ Learning preferences
- ▶ SpLDs

Read and listen.

Starbucks, summer, and other things I love about Britain

Mark Vanhoenacker, an American journalist who lives in London, says the UK's not just OK – it's paradise. **These are some of his reasons...**

Walking

Britain isn't a good place for cyclists. But for pedestrians it is wonderful. When you walk on a zebra crossing, all the drivers stop.




Banks

British banks are great – you do everything online, and you don't pay when you take money out of an ATM. And if you want to change banks, the banks do all the work, not you.



Drivers

The British are very polite when they drive. They don't hoot, and they are patient with other drivers. They always say thank you when you let them pass.



English File third edition Elementary • Student's Book • Unit 3A, p.21 © Oxford University Press PHOTOCOPIABLE

English File
Elementary 3rd
edition Unit 3A
(OUP)

Personalized learning: recent research

- ▶ Pane, J. F., Steiner, E. D., Baird, M. D. & Hamilton, L. S. 2015. *Continued Progress: Promising Evidence on Personalized Learning*. Seattle: Rand Corporation retrieved from http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1365.html
- ▶ Pane, J.F., Steiner, E. D., Baird, M. D., Hamilton, L. S. & Pane, J.D. 2017. *Informing Progress: Insights on Personalized Learning Implementation and Effects*. Seattle: Rand Corporation retrieved from https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2042.html
- ▶ Freeland Fisher, J. 2016. 'The inconvenient truth about personalized learning' [Blog post] retrieved from <http://www.christenseninstitute.org/blog/the-inconvenient-truth-about-personalized-learning/> (May 4, 2016)

Thanks!

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