Liveworksheets: Create Your Own Interactive Worksheets

Ali Asiri

Summary: This practitioner-oriented article aims to help teachers make their worksheets more interactive by stating the importance of Liveworksheets and providing guidelines to help teachers implement it in their teaching contexts.

Keywords: worksheet, interactive, liveworksheets, educational technology

The hard times during the pandemic taught us more than we could have learned under any other circumstance. One major change teachers have had to make is ensuring activities are online-friendly. Since we have been unable to be in the same physical classroom to help, sit next to students to provide feedback, or physically hand out our printed worksheets and explain how to complete a particular task, activities had to be accessible online. Liveworksheets is one way to make our worksheets more accessible and help students feel like they are interacting with the worksheet. This article aims to provide teachers with information about how to use this technology in their language classes. To do so, it will explain the importance of Liveworksheets, highlight how it could be used in an English language teaching context, explain the main options you have, provide step-by-step guidance, and finally provide some recommendations that may make students’ experience more enjoyable and authentic.

Description and Affordances

Liveworksheets is a website that allows teachers to transfer their already-made worksheets from hardcopy to digital, interactive, and thus, live worksheets. It provides a considerable number of options to be used. These options can be divided into two big themes: assessment tools and text-enrichment tools. Liveworksheets provides tools such as a Drop-Down Select Box and Checkboxes which allow students to select the correct answer from a list. Another tool is called Open-Answers, which allows students to write their answers directly onto the worksheet. For text-enrichment, Liveworksheets provides tools which allow teachers to add video or audio files into their worksheets so that they can transfer the directions into audio or read the content for the students. These features support content accessibility by making the content more understandable than having text all over the worksheet. Other tools can be accessed as well. These features make Liveworksheets a great website for teachers because it helps them to develop online assessment and create interactive worksheets that may accommodate diverse students and diverse needs.

How-to Steps

This section aims to provide teachers instructions on how to use Liveworksheets in their classrooms. To start, teachers need to create an account by visiting the homepage. Once the account is ready, teachers have two main options: use interactive worksheets already built on the website or start working independently. To begin developing their interactive worksheet, teachers need to click on the "Make Interactive Worksheet" option from the horizontal list at the top of the web page (see Figure 1), then click on “Get Started.” Liveworksheets does an excellent job of taking the teachers through a step-by-step
guide once they click on “Get started.” First, teachers will be asked to upload a worksheet, then directed to an area on the website to edit the worksheet. To start working on them, teachers will need to select an area of the worksheet to make it interactive. For example, to make a multiple choice activity, as shown in Figure 2, a teacher may select an area, draw a box, then write a tag of the activity students should complete. To allow students to select a multiple choice answer, the teacher will need to highlight the wrong answers and the correct answer to make them interactive; in this case, select: no for wrong answers and select: yes for the correct answers. A complete list of these tags can be found under More options on the website.

After developing the worksheet, it is ready to be sent to students. Teachers will have two options: create a class in Liveworksheets or send students a direct link to the worksheet. The first option allows teachers to see student scores in the system gradebook; the second option allows teachers to enter grades on other online platforms.

**Recommendations**

As with the implementation of any other technology, some recommendations facilitate the use of Liveworksheets.

First, it is essential to scaffold by providing examples of how to answer interactive worksheets, such as taking them through the process from opening the worksheet, answering the questions, and submitting their answers. That helps students to understand the process and overcome technical barriers. Also, it is crucial to create a workbook within the website. This step helps to keep a record of all worksheets a teacher develops. It also helps by keeping them all in the same workbook for any future use. Finally, teachers may want to take advantage of the already-built interactive worksheets on the website. (You may have to scroll through to find ones primarily in English.) Liveworksheets has many already-built worksheets that you can use in class or just as examples of what’s possible.

Figure 1: the “Make Interactive Worksheet” option from the horizontal list at the top of the web page

Figure 2: Example of a multiple choice activity in Liveworksheets

Ali Asiri is a Ph.D. student in the Language, Literacy, and Technology program at Washington State University. He has a BA in English Language, an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language from Gonzaga University, and he is now pursuing a Ph.D. degree with a focus on Educational Technology for English Language teachers. Ali’s research interests include CALL, Teacher Education, and Educational Technologies. You can contact him at ali.asiri@wsu.edu.