



How to Use Instagram in Language Classes

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sebah-alali.com/confinsta

[instagram.com/confinsta](https://www.instagram.com/confinsta)



Instagram

Born: October 2010

150
MILLION
monthly active users

16
BILLION
photos shared


1.2
BILLION
likes every day

55
MILLION
photos per day



Hopefully...

- *actually start using it*
- *experience* how entertaining it could be
- consider active applications in *your* classes

A stack of books is shown on the left side of the slide. The top book has a light brown cover with a quote in a serif font. The background is a blurred blue and white pattern.

"The secret to
getting ahead is
getting started."

- Mark Twain



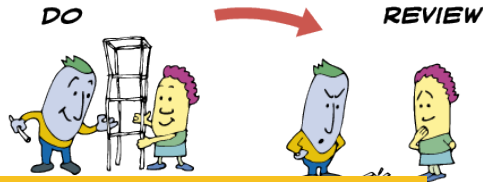
It's a learning process

- Not perfect
- Could use some improvement

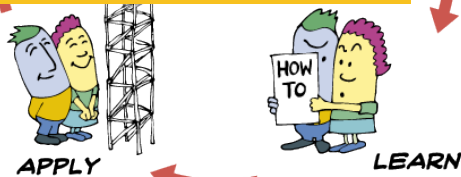
Well... maybe a lot of it



Instagram helped with...



Active participation



source: me-and-us.co.uk

Keeping them busy

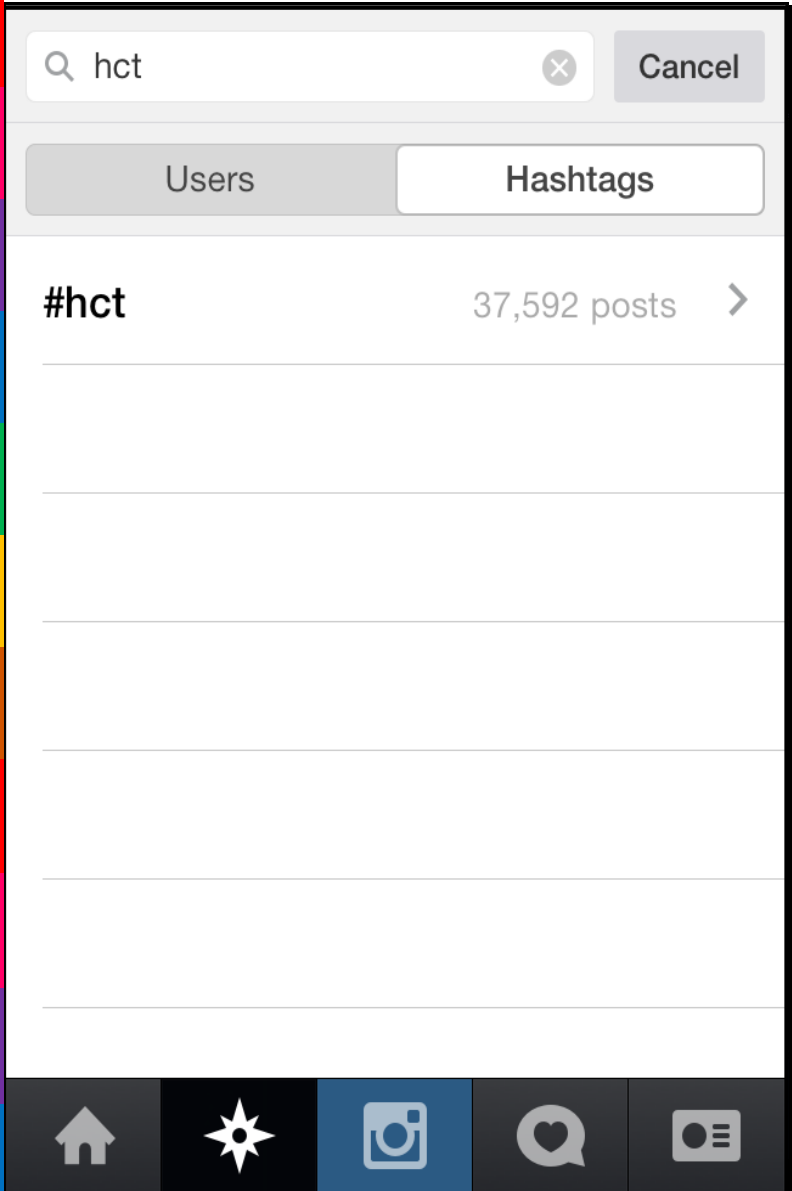


Noticing structures outside



Generating content

What is Instagram?



Share photos & videos *(15 seconds)*

Add filters

Add captions ,#hashtags, locations

Tag people

Like pictures

Comment on pictures

Explore pictures, #hashtags, users

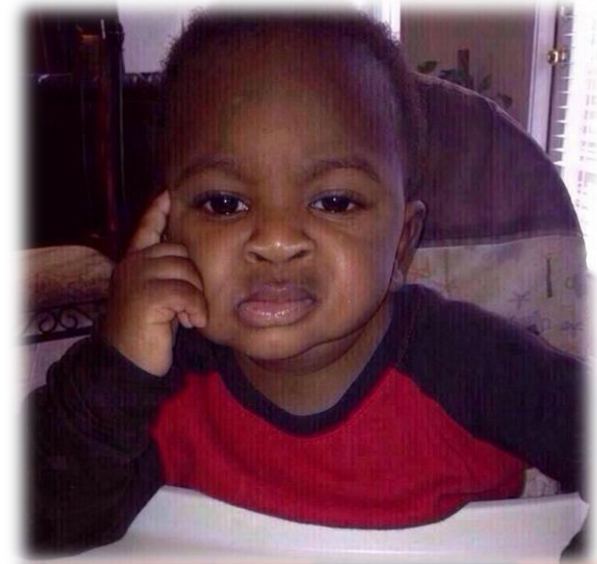
What Can Students Do?

- **Generate content**

- **Take pictures**
- **Take screenshots**
- **Record 15 second videos**

- **Use content**

- **Explore content (users, hashtags)**
- **Comment on posted content**





Other Ideas???

Writing Activities



- Post a screenshot of your brainstorm & give feedback to one of your classmates' brainstorms
 - Post a collage of two pictures representing your main supporting points
 - Create a story using
 - X number of vocabulary items, Y number of sentences, etc.**
- and post it with a creative picture
- Build a story: comment with one sentence considering what has already been posted

Reading Activities



- **Skimming and scanning activities**
- **Imagine how character X looks, draw him/her, and post your drawing.**
- **Take a screenshot of a paragraph. Your caption should state the main idea.**
- **Read a short story. Take a picture of your favorite part. Your caption should tell us why.**

Listening/Speaking Activities



- Answer questions about videos/audios (posted by the teacher)
- Post a video with a sentence using a vocabulary item
- Post a video talking about one useful thing you learned this week
- Interview someone

Grammar Activities



- **Take pictures of occurrences of a certain structure outside**
- **Think how today's structure can be used in your daily life. Take a picture and post a sentence with that structure**
- **Respond to activities posted by the teacher**

Vocabulary Activities



- Post creative pictures of vocabulary items
- Respond to activity posted by you
- Look around you (or in the library) for vocabulary words. Take pictures/screenshots.
- Write one word creatively, and post a picture of it.

Go Wild!

But..



When designing a task



- A task needs to
 - serve a learning objective
 - challenge your learner (i+1)
 - deliver a doable outcome
 - reflect real-life applications

Do



- Use academic accounts
 - Ask students to comment on a picture with their names
- Display/share content in class
 - Reward active students
- Use content in your class
 - Comment on common mistakes
 - Use it for your own classes (*give credit!*)
- Create a general class hashtag
 - They like to take pictures, *without* being assigned to do so!

Don't



- **Expect miracles from the first time!**
 - **Students are not used to it being a learning tool**
- **Forget to assign a unique hashtag**
- **Ignore students' outcome**
 - **Like/comment on their posts**
- **Post questions that require one answer**
 - **They *will* copy each other**
- **Overuse it**

Possible Problems



- There is no official iPad app for Instagram
 - Look for iPhone apps
- Creating accounts can only be done via tablets/smart phones
- Too many accounts
 - Use another device

Finally...



Final thought

- These activities might not be as “creative” as one would hope
- But... they do the trick!
 - They keep students busy/moving
 - Students are familiar with the tool and love to spend time using it
 - & students do enjoy these kinds of activities and love to show off their creativity!

GET STARTED!

Get Started: Resources

- Visit: <http://sebah-alali.com/confinsta>
- View/download slides
- Visit a link to **Instagram Basics** guide
- View/download a list of **helpful apps**
- Contact me for **any** kind of **Instagram help!**

Thank you! :)

ΤΙΣΤΙΚ ΛΟΓΙ: :)

Get Started: Assignment! :)



iTunes Gift Card Alert!!

- Take a 15-second video of yourself telling us:
 - what you learned from this workshop,
 - what you liked the most,
 - or how you think it can be improved.
- Add **#confinsta** AND **#confinstahw**
- Prize: highest number of likes by 11:59 PM tonight
- Will send you the code *(or the card itself)*