



# SEBAH AL-ALI

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## PROJECTS:

[swcenglish.com](http://swcenglish.com)  
[howdoipassielts.com](http://howdoipassielts.com)  
[iosapps4esl.com](http://iosapps4esl.com)

## SUMMARY:

Sebah is an Apple Distinguished Educator (class of 2015), a passionate teacher, and a creative designer and web developer. She's always looking for new ways to empower her students, to support and share with her colleagues, and to serve the community.

## EDUCATION:

- **Spring 2008 – Spring 2010:**  
Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at the American University of Sharjah  
Thesis: "Understanding Teachers' and Students' Use and Attitudes of Web 2.0 in ESL Classrooms at the American University of Sharjah"
- **Fall 2004 – Fall 2007:**  
Bachelor of Arts in English Language at the American University of Sharjah  
Awards: Dean's List academic award (Spring 2007 – Fall 2007)

## CERTIFICATIONS:

- **Apple Distinguished Educator**  
May 2015 - Present
- **Microsoft Fellow Faculty**  
March 2015 - Present

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

- **Fall 2014 – Present:**  
English faculty in the Foundations program at Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah, UAE.  
Levels: pre-foundations 1 and 2 (beginner - elementary), level 2 (intermediate), level 3 (high-intermediate), and level 4 (IELTS preparation)  
Awards: Director's Award (for faculty) — June 2015  
Excellence in commitment to technological innovation — June 2016
- **Fall 2013 – Spring 2014:**  
Adjunct English faculty in the Foundations program at Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah, UAE.  
Levels: pre-foundations 2 (elementary) and level 1 (pre-intermediate).  
Awards: Certificate for excellence in inspiring creativity — May 2014

- **Fall 2012 – Summer 2013:**  
 ESL instructor in the English Language Institute at the American University in the Emirates, Dubai, UAE.  
Courses: Essay writing (university course), TOEFL preparation, and IELTS preparation  
Committees: Research committee (college level); Library & resources committee (college level); Graduation committee (university level); Student council election committee (university level)
- **Fall 2010 – Summer 2012:**  
 ESL lecturer in the College Preparation Program at Dar Al-Hekma University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Courses taught:

  - Writing (levels: intermediate and high-intermediate)
  - Listening and speaking (levels: intermediate, high-intermediate, and advanced)
  - Reading (levels: intermediate, high-intermediate, and advanced)
  - Study skills (levels: intermediate)
  - Grammar (levels: high-intermediate)

Following a class observation, the director commented,  
*“Extremely nice personality – Very knowledgeable – Punctual – Well organized – Very successful in getting her message across – Makes good use of technology – Excellent class and time management – Projects interest and enthusiasm – Has a lively spirit and a nice sense of humor.”*

Committees: Research committee (university level); Textbook committee (department level)
- **Spring 09:**  
 Taught at the English Language Center at Sharjah University to fulfill the practicum requirement. The mentor of this teaching requirement commented,  
*“I think that Sebah shows excellent potential to be a very effective language teacher. What impressed me most was her ability to built rapport with the students in such a short time. They responded very well to her and really enjoyed her classes. Her examples and illustrations were also engaging and she constantly reminded the students of the purpose of their activities. This kept them engaged and focused.”*
- **Spring 2007 – Spring 2009:**  
 Graduate Assistant in the MATESOL program at the American University of Sharjah.  
Accomplishments in this job include:

  - Assisting in organizing two international conferences: “TESOL in a Globalized World: Exploring the Challenges” & “International Conference on Bilingualism and Bilingual Education.”
  - Assisting professors in their field research that covered various areas in English Language Teaching.

## PROJECTS:

- **SWCENGLISH.COM:**  
 An e-bank for iPad-friendly language learning activities. Activities are designed using a variety of e-content software, including BookWidgets and SoftChalk. For more information, please visit: [swcenglish.com](http://swcenglish.com)

▪ **IOSAPPS4ESL.COM:**

A blog to share a variety of iOS apps that can be used for language learning purposes. For more information, please visit: [iosapps4esl.com](http://iosapps4esl.com)

▪ **HOWDOIPASSIELTS.COM:**

A project designed to create and share videos and materials to help Arabic-speaking students learn more about IELTS and how to get ready for it. For more information, please visit: [howdoipassielts.com](http://howdoipassielts.com)

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- **August 2015:** Al-Ali, S., & Ahmed, A. (2015). E-textbooks in language classrooms: Are learners on board? *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education: Gulf Perspectives*, 12(2), 1-20.
- **February 2015:** Al-Ali, S. (2015). How can language skills be tested using an iPad. *Perspectives*, 23(1), 33-36.
- **December 2014:** Al-Ali, S. (2014). Embracing the selfie craze: Exploring the possible use of Instagram as a language mLearning tool. *Issues and Trends in Educational Technology*, 2(2), 1-16.
- **November 2014:** Al-Ali, S. (2014). SoftChalk in ESL Classrooms: Is It “The One”? [Review of the software SoftChalk Create]. *TESL-EJ*, 18(1). Available from: <http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume18/ej71/ej71m1/>
- **October 2014:** Al-Ali, S., & Ahmed, A. (2014). E-textbooks in foundations: A preliminary analysis of students’ views & opinions. In S. Dowling, H. Donaghue, C. Gunn, J. Raven, S. Hayhoe (Eds.), *E-Learning in action: Learning by doing* (pp. 39-49). HCT Press: Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- **February 2013:** Al-Ali, S., & Gunn, C. (2013). Students and Teachers Expectations of Web 2.0 in the ESL Classroom: Do They Match?. *Study in English Language Teaching*, 1(1).
- **June 2011:** Fayed, I. & Al-Ali, S. TACON Online: A Dream that Became True, published in TESOL Arabia Perspectives.

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS:**

- **April 2016:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Transforming learning” presented at IAT TEC 2016, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- **March 2016:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Thy phone shan’t be seen” presented at the 22nd TESOL Arabia International Conference, Dubai, UAE.
- **November 2015:** Sebah Al-Ali: “3 Mobile-friendly Tools to Assess Understanding” presented at M-Learning in Context :Localizing a Global Trend, Dubai, UAE.
- **April 2015:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Reflection in ESL Classrooms: Why? & How to Do it with iPads?” presented at Foundations System-Wide PD Day, Dubai, UAE.
- **April 2015:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Make Your Student's Voice Heard with Adobe Voice” presented at the 3rd Annual Mobile Learning Conference 2015, Dubai, UAE.

- **March 2015:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Best Practices for mContent in ESL Classes” presented at the 21st TESOL Arabia International Conference, Dubai, UAE.
- **January 2015:** Nick Bates and Sebah Al-Ali: “Teaching Digital Skills to Foundations Students” presented at Mobile Learning Festival 2015, Dubai, UAE.
- **January 2015:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Empower Your Students With SoftChalk” presented at Foundations System-Wide PD Day, Dubai, UAE.
- **December 2014:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Culture and Religion in the UAE” an invited seminar at the American University in the Emirates, Dubai, UAE.
- **May 2014:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Instagramize Your Language Classroom” presented at TESOL Arabia’s first Mobile Learning Best Practices Conference, Dubai, UAE.
- **April 2014:** Sebah Al-Ali: “How to Use Instagram in Language Classes” presented at Mobile Learning Conference 2014, Dubai, UAE.
- **December 2013:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Instamania: Creating Engaging Learning Opportunities Using Instagram” presented at the Mobile Learning Festival, Dubai, UAE.
- **May 2012:** Maryam Malki and Sebah Al-Ali: “From Weeping to Speaking” presented at the 5th KSAALT Annual Conference, Saudi Arabia.
- **April 2012:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Utilizing Technology to Develop Learner Autonomy: Practical Tools” presented at Qatar TESOL’s Eighth International Conference, Qatar.
- **May 2011:** Sebah Al-Ali and Jihan Albayati: “How Can Web 2.0 Develop Saudi Students’ Speaking Skills?” presented at the 4th KSAALT Annual Conference, Saudi Arabia.
- **April 2011:** Sebah Al-Ali and Jihan Albayati: “How Can Web 2.0 Develop Speaking Skills?” presented at the Second International Language Conference, Malaysia.
- **April 2010:** Sebah Al-Ali: “Web 2.0 at the Intensive English Program at AUS” presented at the Teaching with Technology in ELT: Tips, Tools and Techniques Conference at the American University of Sharjah, UAE.
- **April 2010:** Betty Lanteigne, Fatiha Hanani and Sebah Al-Ali: “Repeated Taking of the TOEFL: Reasons, Rationale and Results” at the Faculty Research Forum presented at the American University of Sharjah, UAE.
- **March 2010:** Sebah Al-Ali and Cindy Gunn: “Understanding Uses and Attitudes of Web 2.0” presented at the 16th International TESOL Arabia Conference 2010, UAE.
- **January 2010:** Sebah Al-Ali: “How Can Web 2.0 Services Make a Better ESL Classroom?” presented at the English Language Center, Sharjah University, UAE.

#### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

- **April 2015 - September 2015**  
Vice President Public Relations - TESOL Arabia Toastmasters

#### **COMPUTER SKILLS:**

- Professional knowledge of web design, development, and management
- Excellent knowledge of programming languages (SWIFT, Java, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, ActionScript)

- Very good knowledge of multimedia and publishing programs (Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash, InDesign, etc.)
- Professional knowledge of Microsoft Office and iWork

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**LANGUAGE SKILLS:**

English: Fluent (native language)

Arabic: Fluent (native language)

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**OTHER SKILLS:**

- Developing suitable syllabi, creative course materials, and detailed course reports
- Engaging students in an interactive learning environment
- Interacting with and managing troubled students
- Utilizing technology in teaching effectively
- Producing under stress and managing it successfully
- Working with and leading teams, with minimum supervision

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**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- **Research interests:** e-curriculum development, social media in learning, & teacher training and development.