

Elite Training Institute

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Best of the Web

Are ESL 'pay' sites worth the money?

As more and more quality sites turn their free online material into a money spinner, are these 'pay' sites worth the money? It's a tough call, but here goes! One of the better sites around that has always been 'pay' is English-to-Go.com, and the quality of the materials available certainly seems to be worth the money they charge.

With a monthly charge of US\$14.99 per month (or about 500 baht in real money) for premium access, this certainly doesn't seem too bad when you consider the vast amount of resources at your finger tips, and the amount of time you now spend looking for free materials. You won't have to be a member for too long to make the most of the site either.

A quick look at the statistics for the site show they currently have over 1,300 resources, the majority of which are based on material from Reuters and are very professional indeed.

An example for the site shows that the PDF versions are exactly as you would find a core textbook and present very well:

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying a PDF document titled "An Eel Pet" from EnglishGo.com. The page is titled "Elementary Student Lesson™" and contains the following content:

Pre-Reading Activities
A: Discussion

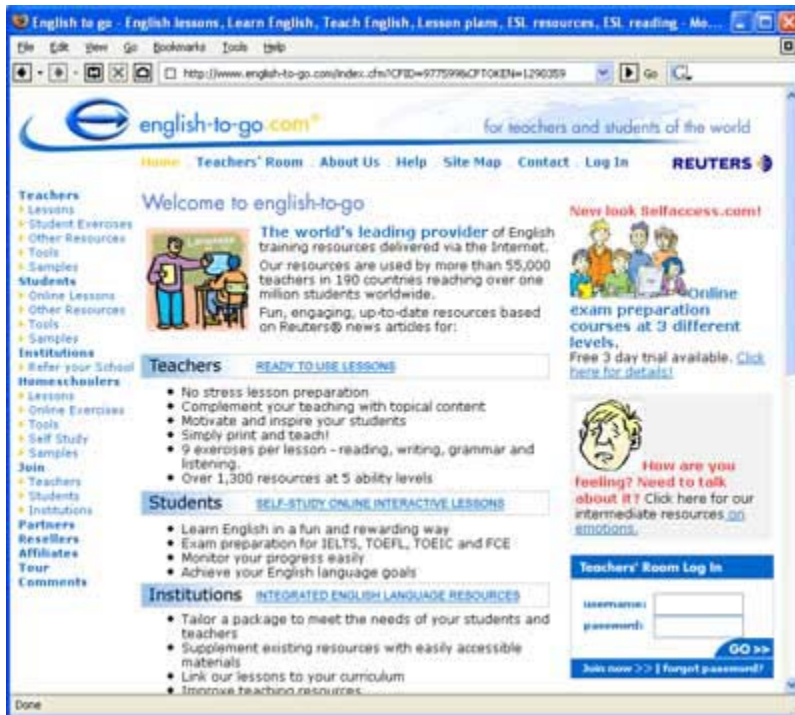
- Look at the picture on the right and answer the questions.
 - What is the name of this animal?
 - Where does it live?
 - What does it eat?
- Today's article is about a German family who has a pet eel. Think about these questions.
 - Where does the family keep the eel?
 - What do you think the family feeds the eel?
 - Do you think an eel would be a good pet?

B: Vocabulary
 Look at these words below. Use your dictionary to find their meanings. Then put them under the correct heading. The first one is done for you as an example.

German, to train, eel, bathtub, bucket, to wash, to catch, fishing trip, supper, fall in love with, to kill, to cook, to share, to move, part of the family

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Phrase
German			

The sample resources available, if a true indication of all of the resources available at the site, are certainly very professional and thorough, including upto 9 exercises for each text and based around 5 language levels. Don't worry; answers are included at the end of each worksheet, just in case.



There are also workbook activities in the selfaccess.com section, which is aimed more towards students, but certainly has a lot of good ideas and can be very useful for teachers who want the students to have some additional resources to do at home.

So the big question is "Is 500 baht a month too much?" Only you can answer this, but if searching the internet all day trying to find resources and then planning lessons around what you've found isn't your idea of fun, then this could be a very wise investment, especially if you are teaching a wide range of students.

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