

MAGAZINES PLUS: 'HOW TO' GUIDE

www.maryglasgowmagazines.com



“I must thank you. I have found something that really interests my pupils and gets them looking up from their boring school books! You’ve made my day and maybe my school year!”

A teacher from Collège de M’Gombani, Mayotte

“I am particularly impressed with how the kids interact online.”

British Council judge

audio • video • news • chat • activities • resources

September 2009

Dear Teacher

Our free website, *Magazines Plus*, is now in its second year. In March 2009 the website won an award from the British Council for innovation in English teaching materials.

Your students love using the web to communicate with friends and have fun – so why not encourage them to do it in English?

Magazines Plus is split into two sections: **Teachers** and **Students**.

The Teacher Site

Teachers can search and download thousands of worksheets, audio files, flash card images and past articles from Mary Glasgow magazines.

The Student Site

Students can chat in English to students of their age and level, read and listen to news at their level of English and do online activities that relate to the magazine articles.

We know that you and your students will enjoy using *Magazines Plus*. If you have any problems or suggestions email contactus@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

All the best,

Sarah Bromley

Web Editor

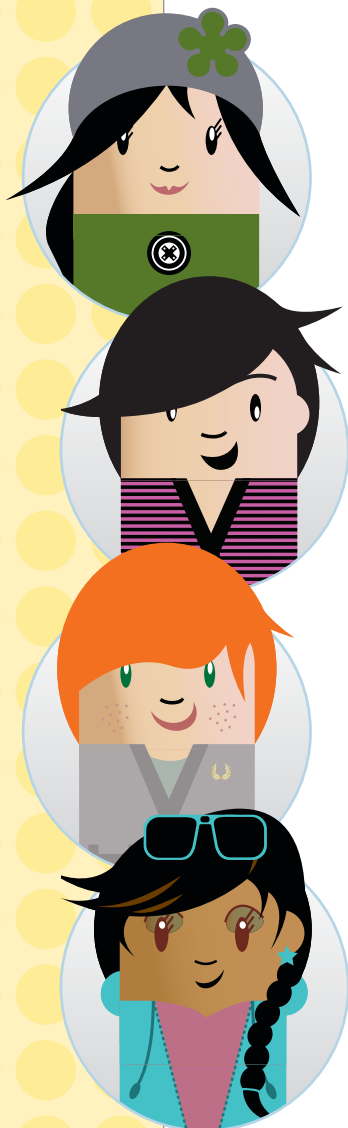


Short of time?

- If you don't have time to demonstrate the website to your students, tell them to watch the guided tour at www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students
- If you don't have time to use the website in class, there are **MANY** things students can do at home for fun. Just tell them to go to www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students and have a look.



Students' safety is important to us



We understand that teachers and parents have some concerns about letting children use the internet. For this reason, we have made *Magazines Plus* a very safe place for students.

- Our access code system means *Magazines Plus* is completely private. The **only** students who can register on the student site are the young learners who read Mary Glasgow magazines.
- It is **not** possible for students to use *Magazines Plus* to communicate with students who don't subscribe to Mary Glasgow magazines or with adults.
- All students on the website are anonymous. We do not show their contact details or details of their school.



Students are not alone on the website. Mary Glasgow's **English Coach** is online every day. The **English Coach**:

- watches what the students chat about and deletes inappropriate comments.
- checks the photos that students upload and deletes any inappropriate ones **before** they appear on the site
- checks the comments that students write on news stories and deletes any inappropriate ones **before** they appear on the site

Just like in the magazines, all the content on *Magazines Plus* is appropriate for students of a young age.

If parents are worried about their children using *Magazines Plus*, we suggest that you tell them the information above.

How to start a new teacher or student account

1. Go to www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/start

2. The website asks for your code.

Students enter their student code. Teachers enter their teacher code.

Important: Student accounts are for students only, teachers do not need one. Teachers can see all the student pages from their teacher account.

3. Follow the instructions on the screen.

Important: Remember the password that you choose on this page. You **cannot** use your account without it. Your password can be anything you like, it does not have to be the teacher/student code.

4. After you have started an account, log in to the account every time you visit the website.

Use the 'log in' link on the homepage.



Before you start an account, read this important information

My students and I have *Magazines Plus* accounts from last year

- **Do not** start a new account.
- Update the old account with this year's code.
- **Log in** to the old account and the website will ask for this year's code.
- Use the '**Log in**' link on the homepage.



Where is my teacher code?

Teachers who subscribe to 10 or more magazines receive a code that gives them unlimited access to the teacher site. We send you your teacher code on a card that looks like this

If you subscribe to less than 10 magazines, you can still start an account and download 10 resources for free. Just tick the box – 'I am a teacher without a code'.

If you want more resources you can subscribe online for £15 (€16.50) and get unlimited access to the teacher site for one year.



Where are the student codes?

Student codes are printed on the cover of every magazine.

We have also provided them below. Give students the right code for their magazine.



Click readers –



Crown readers –



Team readers –



Club readers –



Current readers –

**Only give
these codes to
your students.
This way we keep
the site safe
and private.**

My students don't have email addresses

Students need to enter an email address when they register. This is so that we can email them a new password if they forget the one they chose.

If students don't have an email address, we suggest they use their parent's email address or they create one with a free service like Hotmail or Gmail.

We will **only** use the email address to contact students if they request a new password.



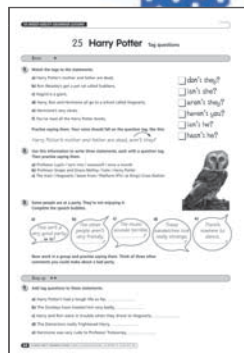
How to search and download printable teaching materials

www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/search/new



On the **teacher site**, teachers can search and download all these resources.

- Thousands of worksheets



- Hundreds of audio files (with listening activities)



- Articles from past Mary Glasgow magazines



- Images to use as vocabulary flash cards



- Journal articles about teaching English



www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/activities

With every magazine issue we put six new interactive activities online!

If you don't have time to do the activities in class, tell the students to have a look at home in their spare time.



* These online activities replace the black and white activity sheets that were in the magazines.

How to read news articles

www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students/features



On the **teacher** and **student** sites, there is a new topical article every week.

There are always five different versions of the week's news story – from elementary to advanced level.



The story is also available in audio as an MP3 download, so that students can hear the text as they read.

"I have been reading your magazines for many years and I must admit I'm really fascinated by your website and have especially used the possibility of reading articles on different levels!! Just great!"

A teacher from Volle Ganztags School, Germany

Students can roll their mouse over difficult words to see a definition

Download an MP3 audio version of the article

Students can write a comment about the article

What is swine flu?

How can we stop it?

There is a new type of flu. Its name is 'swine flu'. Hundreds of people in Mexico have got swine flu. Some people in other countries have got swine flu too.

Doctors want to stop this flu. In Mexico, people stay at home. Schools and restaurants are closed. People wear **mask** in their faces.

How can you stop the flu?

- Wash your hands
- Put your hands over your mouth when you **cough**
- Stay at home if you are ill

Download an audio version of this article

What do you do when you have a cold or flu?

christina9
New York 10.10.14 14:14 to 15.10.2009
I stay at home when I am ill. MP...

sunshinegirl
New York 10.10.14 14:14 to 15.10.2009
when I have cold or flu, I'll go to bed, drink a lot and sweat, stay long in my room. I don't see people. They have the swine flu, but I must be alone. I don't want to go to the swine flu. I don't want to go.

Maui
New York 10.10.14 14:14 to 15.10.2009
The swine flu is not good.

Ronja
New York 10.10.14 14:14 to 15.10.2009
The swine flu is a big problem in Mexico!

Poll

Are you worried about Swine Flu?

☐ Yes

☐ No

[View](#)

New words

A mask (n)
Something that covers a person's face.

A Cough (n)
A noise from your throat, when you are ill.

Read this article at a different level

You are reading this at **CLICK! Level (Elementary)**

Read this at **CLICK! Level (Pre-intermediate)**

Read this at **TEAM Level (Intermediate)**

Read this at **CLICK! Level (Upper intermediate)**

Read this at **CURRENT Level (Advanced)**

Students can vote in a poll related to the article

Difficult words and their definitions are also listed here

Read the same article at a different level

Activity idea

1. Students read the latest news story as a class (if you don't have access to computers in class, you could print a copy for every student).
2. As a class or in small groups, discuss the questions that are at the bottom of the story.
3. Students write their answers to the questions in an online comment (either using school computers or at home for homework).

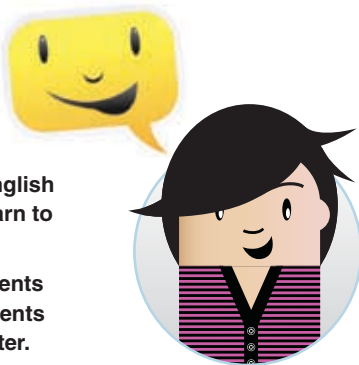
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How to Chatter

Online chat is only available to **students** (but teachers can view the page from their teacher account).

This is a great way for your students to have fun using English for a real purpose. They can practise conversation and learn to respond quickly in English.

Who do students chat to? Students chat to other students of their age and level from all around the world. Only students who subscribe to Mary Glasgow magazines can use Chatter.



Students can see all messages sent to them since they last logged in



Students can see which other students are online now

Students can see a list of useful English phrases, appropriate to their level

The English Coach is a native English-speaking teacher who monitors chat and talks with the students.

In 2008/09, students wrote over 110,000 Chatter messages in English. Think about all the English practice that gave them!

Many students often chat after school – not because their teacher tells them to, but because they love it so much!

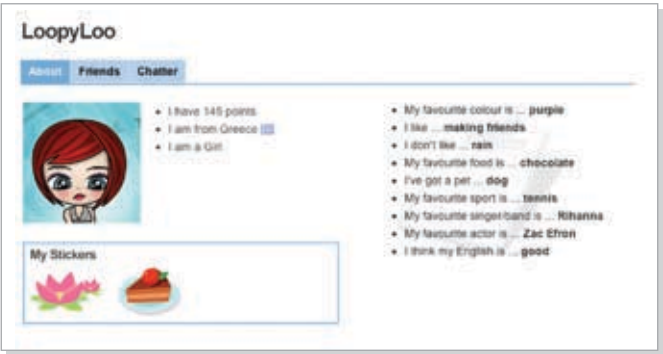
No time to do this in class? Just tell your students to go to www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students and look for the Chatter page.



How to make a profile

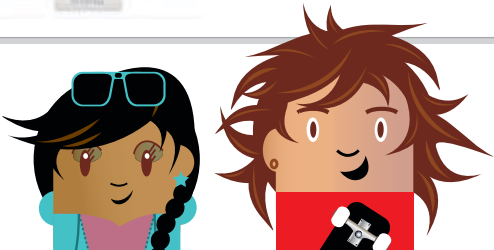
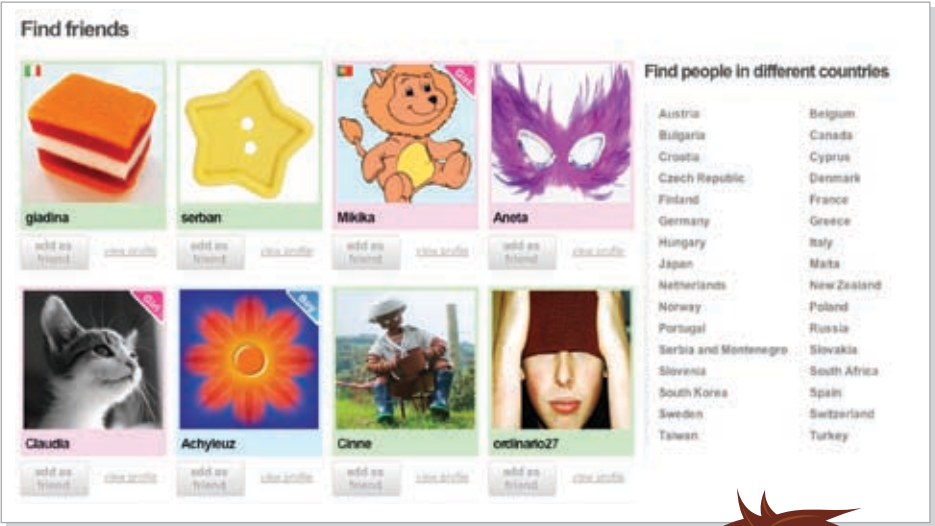
On the **student** site, students can make a profile about themselves in English. They enter their country and answer questions about what they like.

Start by clicking ‘Add favourites’ on My Page.



How to find friends

Students can find English-speaking friends who read the same magazine. The Friend Finder suggests friends based on students with matching interests. Students can send ‘friend requests’ to their classmates and students in other countries.

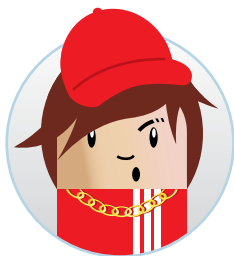


Our World

www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students/world

Videos

Some magazine articles have authentic English videos related to them. You can find those videos on the *Our World* page. Students can comment on the videos after they have watched.



Student news

Students can write an article for *Our World*. They write about an interesting hobby or something that's happening in their school, town or country. If we like it, we publish it.

Students send the article and a photo to the correct address for their magazine:

Miley Cyrus in Rome!

by Chiara from Rome

Hi, I'm Chiara, I'm from Rome and I am a Miley Cyrus fan.

I wanna tell you about a very important happening: The "Hannah Montana: The Movie" premier in Rome the 20th of April.

There was the protagonist of the movie: Miley Cyrus. Then the autographs and the pictures, she said in an interview: "I love everything in my life, but I just miss my friends. I'd like to have more time for stay with them and with my family".

I was there, Miley did a speech and she has know the winner of the Disney Channel's competition for know Miley. I've seen the movie, it's very fun and it's great, I had a lot of fun and I hope that Miley return to Rome again.

Afrodite
Mon May 11 16:49:12 +0100 2009
I think Miley Cyrus is good!!!

Ksenia
Tue May 12 14:29:26 +0100 2009
I've seen this movie too and it was great! :)

At the premier

✉ clicknews@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

✉ crownnews@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

✉ teamnews@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

✉ clubnews@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

✉ currentnews@maryglasgowmags.co.uk

Polls and discussions

From time to time, there will be a poll or a discussion that relates to a magazine article. After reading the article in the magazine students can come to *Our World* to give their opinions and share their own experiences.

Question: Which English expressions do you love – and which do you hate?

Add a comment

How to earn points

www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/points

This is only available on the **student** site. Students earn points every time they use *Magazines Plus*. The more they use the website, the more points they earn!

Students earn points for:

- Registering
- Commenting on the news
- Chatting
- Sending in their own work for publication online
- Uploading an avatar picture

A student's number of points is shown on *My Page*. For every 100 points that a student earns, they get a new sticker on *My Page*. They can get up to five stickers.



'Student of the month'. The students' home page shows the student at that level with the most points that month.

Activity idea

Why not have a competition in your class to see which student can get the most points?

1. Tell your students how to earn points (see the list above).
2. Tell students they have 4 weeks to earn as many points as they can.
3. On your chosen date, ask students to give you a printed version of their *My Page* (this page shows the number of the points they have).
4. Give a prize to the student with the most points.

Remember, the more points they earned, the more English practice they had!



**Students can
win a laptop
on *Magazines Plus*!**

The student with the most points by 31st May 2010 wins a laptop! Students go to www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/students to see who currently has the most points.

Full terms and conditions at www.maryglasgowmagazines.com/points