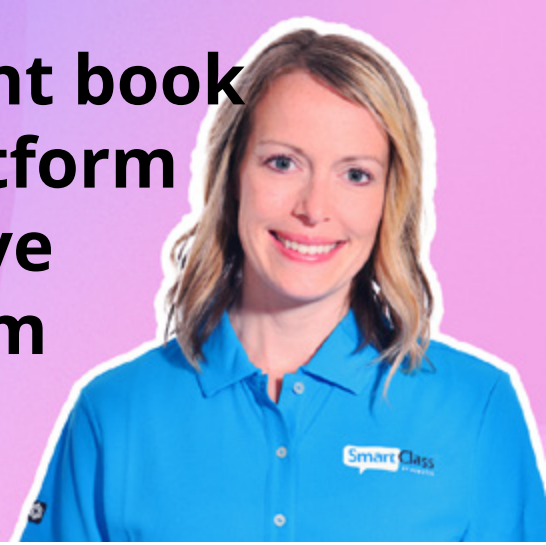


Combining a student book with a digital platform and interactive ESL curriculum

By: Lindsey Klein, Blog Author



As a teacher, I both hated and loved student workbooks. I liked that there were activities already set up for me that I could easily give my students to do (in class or at home). However, I also felt like I was using the workbook to fill time and it didn't help my students speak, be comfortable, and practice pronunciation in the target language.

With SmartClass, you get a student book AND an interactive platform that grades activities for you and allows your students to practice speaking, listening and pronunciation anywhere at any time!

1. Why do you need a student book?

The original plan for our "Let's Talk! English" (LTE) content was based on our experience and struggles as language teachers. We didn't want schools to have to pay for textbooks, workbooks, printing, paper, supplemental materials and and and. We wanted a solution for everyone that was affordable and meaningful so that teachers could focus on what's important: the students.

That's why we created the entire curriculum within the SmartClass software, so teachers could assign an activity to their students within seconds. No more printing or collecting. Everything is within the software (and half of the activities are auto-graded, who doesn't like that, right?)

But, not everyone is ready to go completely paperless quite yet. Even me! I could not simply have an e-book for teaching. That's why we have a teacher handbook. It's just different from having something real, in your hands, in front of you. Something to quickly look something up in, flip a page, and get an overview.

What about the students though?

We don't want to go back to the old-fashioned workbook for students. We have way too many meaningful activities that focus on listening and speaking. We can't transfer those into a workbook. And simply deleting all those activities, deleting the answers in the written exercises, didn't make much sense either, because then, how are we different from everyone else?

And why would you need our software then?

The whole point of it is to make the teachers' job easier by having 50% auto-graded activities and by engaging students to speak, record themselves, and practice pronunciation.

Of course, we think we found a good compromise between software and student book, but you be the judge!

Layout - Overview

1. Step-by-Step Guide
2. Index
3. Vocabulary Lists
4. Vocabulary Translation Sheets
5. Grammar Charts & QR Codes
6. Conversation Worksheets
7. Reading Texts
8. Self-Evaluations & Projects
9. Game Sheets



Teachers:

- don't have to find files of worksheets
- don't need to print out anything anymore
- don't need students to have a separate binder for worksheets and notes
- have something to point students to to review concepts and study for tests
- can assign homework (vocab lists, grammar review, prepare readings and conversations, self-assessment, etc) WITHOUT internet/technology
- can leverage using our LTE Content as it has printed resources for teachers AND students

We are curious to hear from you, though! Why do/don't you use student books in your language classroom? Where do you see the benefits or disadvantages of student books? Which books do you find helpful or useless? Leave us a comment and get the conversation started!

[Talk to a product expert today!](#)



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About the Blog Author

Lindsey was a high school German teacher for 12 years. Having recently implemented SmartClass into her own curriculum, she is a great resource with many innovative ideas on how to apply this technology into a language program. She is the author of the Let's Talk! English series and is involved in many facets of content, production and training. Her passion for language acquisition and best practices make her a vital Robotel team member.