



## Usefulness of Khan Academy as Web Tools to Enhance English Language Skills

**Dhrunalkumar K. Patel**

Ph.D. Research Scholar, H. M. Patel Institute of English Training and Research,  
Vallabh Vidyanagar.

**Dr. Kaushal Kotadia (Mentor)**

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Nalini Arvind and TV Patel Arts College, Vallabh Vidyanagar.

### 1.0 Introduction

Education is an ongoing process, which keeps on changing from time to time. Nowadays, people use technology in the field of education. But earlier school was the main instrument to impart education and teachers were using chalk and talk method to teach students (Haddad, W., & Draxler, A., 2002). In present time teachers use technology to make students more attentive in the class. To prepare students for broad learning, teachers require new approach to education. They should be integrated with technologies which should become part of students' everyday life. For that students should be made familiar with the new technologies which can become a guideline for them. It is accepted that a good amount of education, in terms of quantity and quality, is a gateway to personal success. A good education sets students on a path to lifelong learning that enables students to get success in a changing world. Through education, one can expand his/her mind, and have new ideas and opportunities, and at the same time, build better lives for self, other and community. In modern world geographical boundaries are becoming blur so students also need to become flexible for having connection and collaboration with people anywhere and anytime.

When we talk about technologies for teaching – learning then we come across many technologies that are used in the field of education. They are like Projector, Computer, Mobile, Internet and many more. In all these list of technologies Internet is widely used by the people for various purposes (Brändström, 2011). In internet there are many websites which are used for interaction and two way communication. All these kind of websites are known as Web Tools. There are many Web Tools like Podcast, Blog, Wiki, Quill, Nicenet, Flubaroo, Google Drive etc. One of the Web Tools that is discussed in the present paper is Khan Academy.

### 2.0 Use of Khan Academy for Online Learning

Khan Academy was founded in 2006 which is the nonprofit Web Tool. Khan Academy is an online learning platform which was founded by Salman Khan, with a mission that “changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education for anyone, anywhere” (Khan Academy website). In present time it has become one of the most popular education websites. Khan Academy is enriched with more than 5,000 instructional videos (Koeniger, 2013). All these videos are on different subjects and on different topics. It is

not that Khan Academy provides only Video Instructional notes, but it also provides tasks based on the different topics, which students were supposed to do on their own, whenever they get time. Khan Academy functions on mainly three components and they are: videos, tasks and data. These three components mean that:

- Students are supposed to watch the videos based on the relevant topics.
- Then video (topic) based tasks are given to the students.
- After completing the tasks score (data) used to get measured.

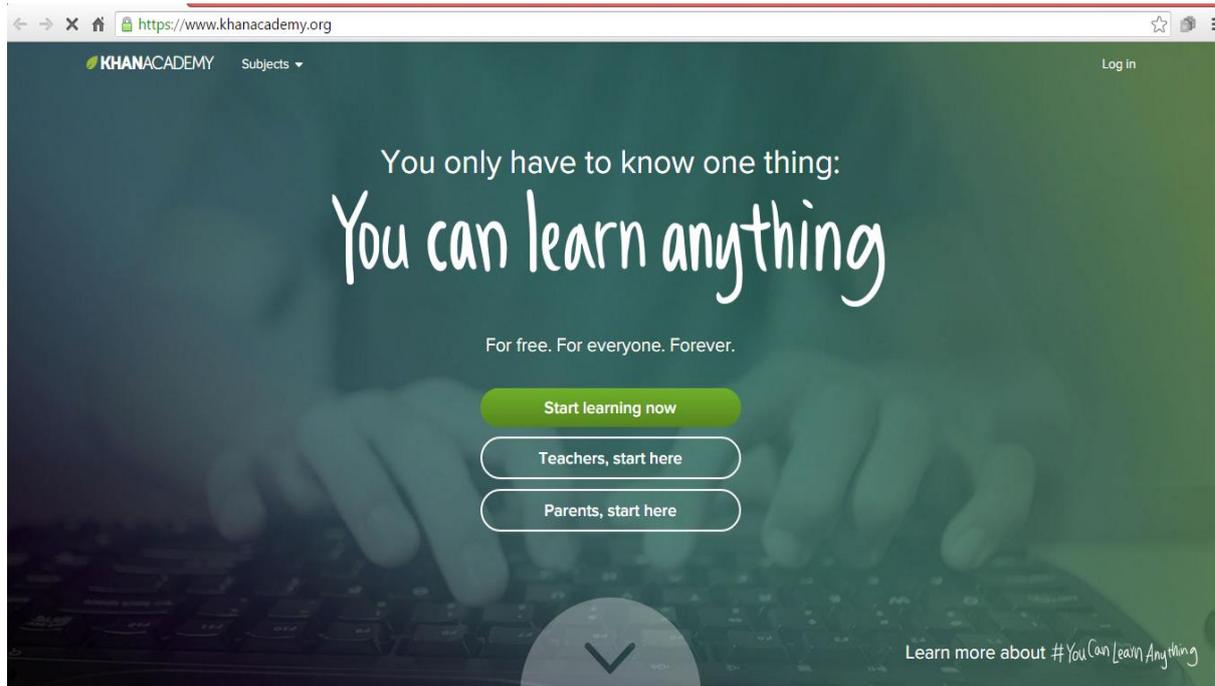
Through this process one can measure progress of the student. Videos help to comprehend content properly, tasks and activity make students to practice the topic and score of tasks and activity shows how much students have understood from it. It provides practice to the students, which makes whole process of teaching – learning active. It is like online classroom situation for students where they can learn during their free time. It is two way process of teaching – learning.

To have access to Khan Academy, one just need go to the website that is [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org). Then he/she should create an account and get login. In the main webpage, it is mentioned that learners can learn anything, and that is for free, for everyone and forever (Khan Academy website). Khan Academy is working closely with different institutes to explore ways of converting how instruction can be organized, delivered, and experienced by students and teachers. Further it gives online platform for the learners to learn things on their own. Khan Academy provides self-learning activity for students through which they can do different tasks and that improves students' cognitive skills.

### **3.0 Khan Academy for Teaching – learning English**

Khan Academy is an online based nonprofit educational organization which works to depart education to the students. The website [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) is having an online database of many YouTube videos that are on different topics and subjects. Khan Academy can be used as a Web Tool to improve English. But there are very few researches were conducted to show the use of Khan Academy for teaching English to the students. Through Khan Academy teacher can make fusion of resources provided by Khan Academy and existing resources and practices of teachers (Light, D. & Pierson, E. 2014). Before implementing this Web Tool, teacher needs to have access to Khan Academy. For that teacher has to create an account. After having access to Khan Academy teacher can use provided features to teach English Language to the students.

Figure 3.1: Front Page of Khan Academy



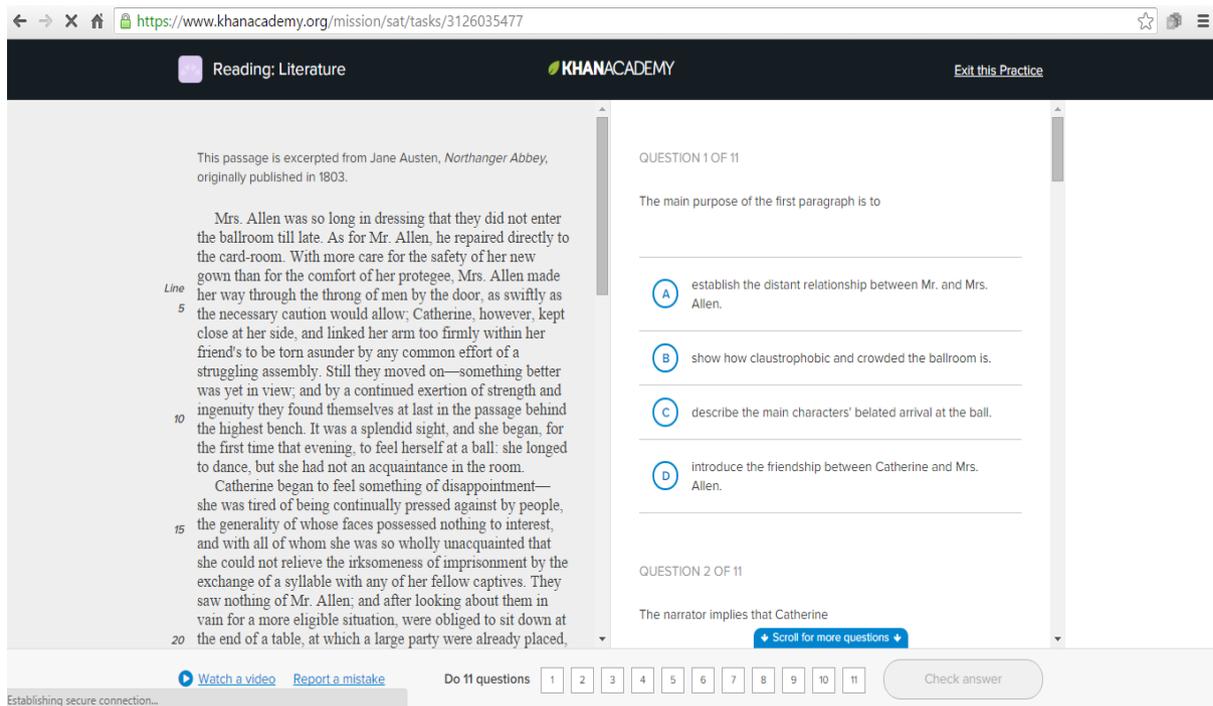
Khan Academy has access via three kinds of account.

- 1) For learners to start learning
- 2) For teachers; and
- 3) For parents

### 3.1 Khan Academy for Learners

It indicates that learners, teachers and parents can use it for teaching – learning purpose. Learners can directly start learning by signing up through first option. After having access to Khan Academy, student has to select subject which he/she wishes to learn. On the basis of selected topic, Khan Academy use to provide videos and activities. After completing each activity, difficulty level increases which also increase comprehension ability of the students. Students can use Khan Academy to practice English Language Skills. There are various tasks and activities given for the students to practice different skills (Thompson, 2011). When student complete a task than student is given new task to perform. The new task/activity focuses on the activities which make students to learn new things which they have not learned in earlier task. So slowly and gradually students learn new things from each task.

Figure 3.2: English Language Skills Development for Learners

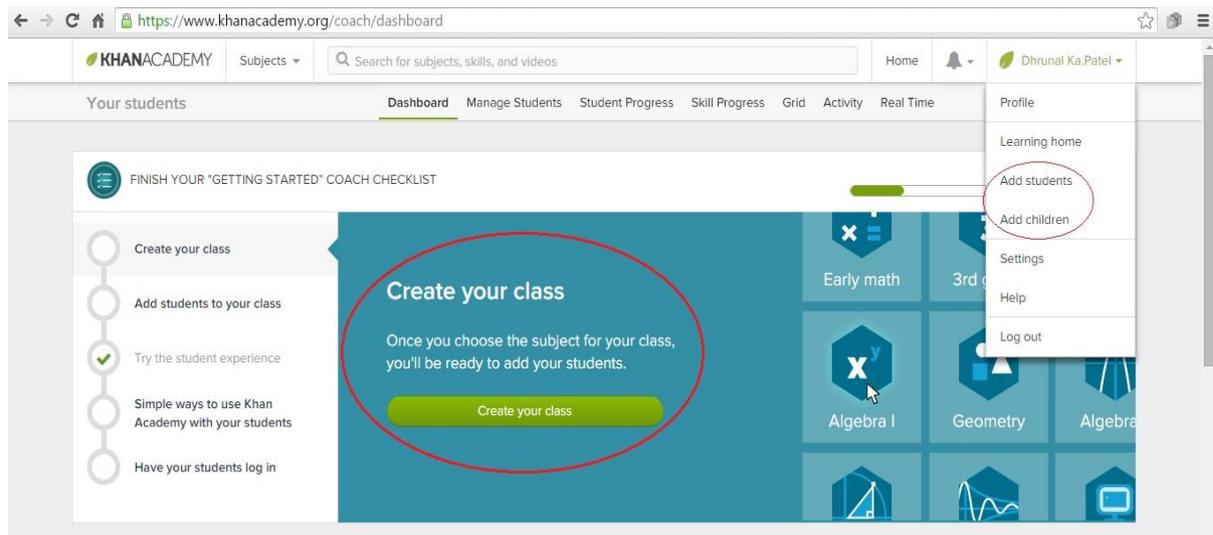


Above mentioned figure shows that student is practicing Reading Skills. In this, quiz is given to have practice of Reading Skills. There are 11 questions which student is supposed attend. At the end of the quiz score is given to the students. That shows the present comprehension level of students. Then new tasks use to be given to students to make them practice and learn new things about Reading Skills. This practice is provided to the students so that students learn Reading Skills on their own pace. Same way all skills and sub skills are taught to the students. Further it has one feature to 'Resume Learning'. It means that for one or other reason if learner leaves tasks without completing then next time after logging in students can start task from where left incomplete.

### 3.2 Khan Academy for Teachers

Another way to have access to Khan Academy is for teacher so that a teacher can make students part of this online teaching – learning process. After logging in teacher is provided facility to create online class and can enroll students in class and assign tasks to the students. A class should not be monotonous; teacher should make class active and interactive. Teacher's duties are not limited to the classroom, but even outside the classroom, teacher should constantly plan and prepare for upcoming class (Minondo, Meyer, and Xin, 2001). Suhomlinski once said that if you want teachers' efforts to bring fun to themselves and to avoid everyday classes from becoming a tedious obligation, you should lead every teacher to the happy road of coordination teaching. Due to its freedom, oral classes are popular among students, which is very significant in improving students' ability to use English in practice (Liu, 2013). Teacher should encourage and enroll students in teaching – learning process. In doing so teacher has to keep in mind that students should not feel bore. For this, Khan Academy is very useful Web Tool. Through Khan Academy, teacher can make learners to learn English online and can have practice of English Language Skills.

**Figure 3.3: English Language Skills Development for Teachers**

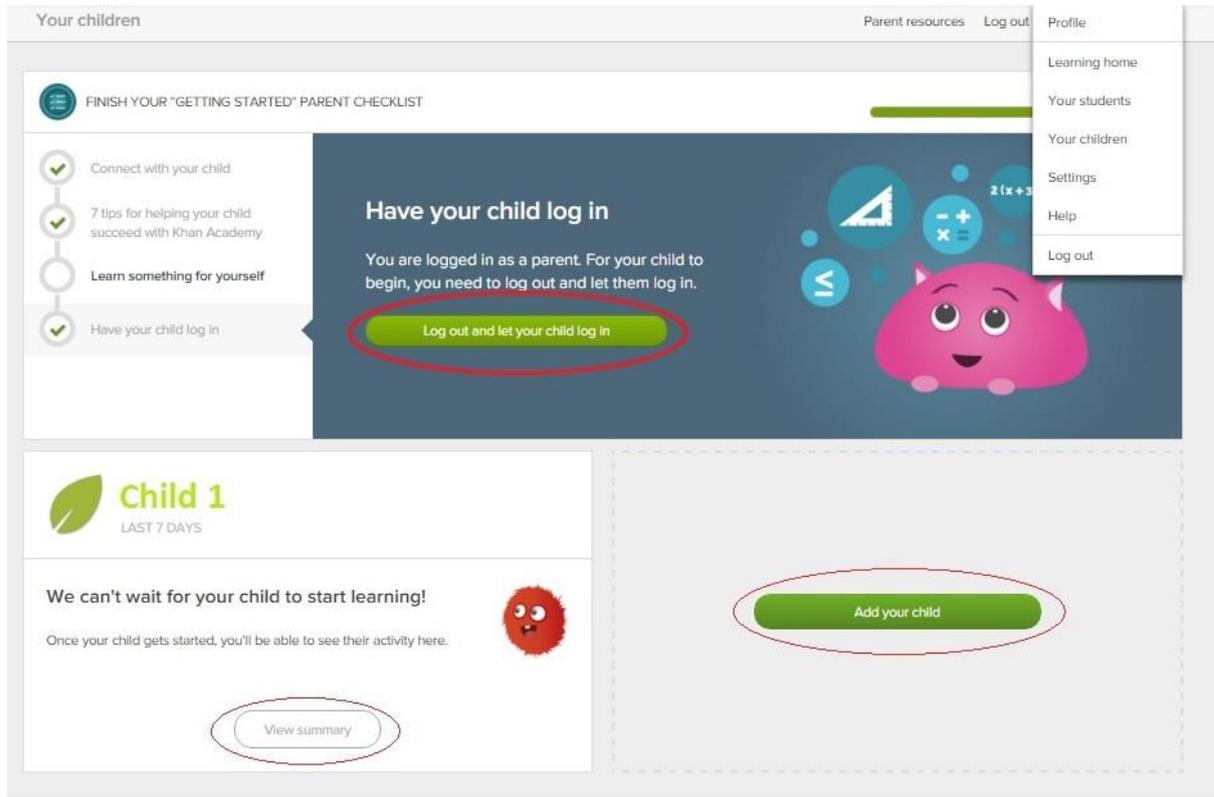


Above mentioned figure shows that how teacher can make online classroom using Khan Academy. After logging in teacher is given facility to create online classroom. After creating classroom teacher can add students in that classroom. When teacher become part of the online learning classroom, teacher can allot English Language tasks and activities to the students. So that students can use those activities and practice English Language Skills on their own pace. While doing this teacher can observe students' participation and can have record of students' improvement. Once given tasks are completed then teacher can give feedback to the students as their progress report and their improvement. Then teacher can give new tasks to the students with more difficulty level. This is how teacher can make students to learn English Language Skills in virtual (online) classroom.

### 3.3 Khan Academy for Parents

Making a child to depart education is not the duty of only teacher. But parents also have to initiate for their child to make them learn. Child spends most of his/her time at home and in institute. In institute, teacher helps students and at home parents have to make their child to learn. It is also parents' responsibility atmosphere to provide education at home. Parents' involvement is a central force in children's development, learning, and success at school as well as in life. Many researches in the area of family involvement have supported the simple fact that children, whose parents are involved in their lives, have greater chance to develop into healthy, knowledgeable, responsible, and caring adults (Patrikakou, 2008). It indicates that parents play an important role in the development of the child. Keeping in mind this fact Khan Academy provides an access for parents so that they can make children to learn English Language.

**Figure 3.3: English Language Skills Development for Parents**



Above mentioned figure shows that even parents can create an account on Khan Academy. Once parents create an account, they have to add their children by creating an account for them. To create children's account, parents have to fill up details of their children like name, age, standard, etc. They can add more children and can make them to learn online. After creating an account for children, parents can assign the tasks and activities related to English Language Learning. After assigning tasks to the children, parents can view the summary and progress of their children. This will help parents to know how frequently children use Khan Academy to learn English Language.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

Students have various levels of comprehension and pre-existing knowledge of English, though they study in the same class. All students are having their own level of understanding but teachers have to make all the students to understand the content. Teacher has a limitation that he/she cannot teach students individually as per students understanding level. Here Khan Academy is very useful to make this teaching – learning process easy for all. Khan Academy is not only useful for teachers, but learners and parents can also use it. Learners can learn independently, on their own pace. Same way parents can make their children use Khan Academy and make them learn English Language Skills. As it provides practical approach, learners do not feel bore and enjoy teaching – learning process.

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