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H5P and Weebly: The Best Thing Since Peanut Butter and Jelly

by James Hunter and Sara Hanson-Lynn

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Like many educators, when our teaching went virtual in March, we scrambled to find ways to increase engagement, motivation, and especially autonomous learning in the Zoomosphere – and importantly, *free* ways to do all of this! What we found was [H5P](#), an open-source, web-based authoring platform that makes it easy to create, share, and reuse interactive content. There are currently over thirty activity types, including Course Presentation, Drag and Drop, Drag the Words, Fill in the Blanks (cloze), Find Multiple Hotspots, Flashcards, Image Hotspots, and Interactive Video. All of these can be used to create self-paced, self-grading, engaging activities that can be used in flipped or traditional teaching to encourage practice and authentic, deep learning. Best of all, since the platform is designed with the web in mind (H5P = “HTML5 Package”), activities work seamlessly on any web browser and course management system (like Blackboard, Canvas, and Moodle).

While a certain degree of comfort with technology is required of teachers and students, H5P activities are intuitive to build and use, and represent a significant advance in the integration of instructional technology in language education. Teachers can build activities to serve as in-class activities, study sets, or additional practice. Content may be used in any platform that supports embedded content (iframes). If using a course management system like Moodle, results will also be tracked in the



"How Far I'll Go" - Moana

Drag the words into the correct boxes as you listen to the song.

I've been staring at the edge of the _____
Long as I can remember, never really knowing why
I wish I could be the perfect _____
But I come back to the water, no matter how hard I try

Every turn I take, every _____ I track
Every path I make, every _____ leads back
To the place I know, where I cannot go, where I long to be

See the line where the sky meets the _____ ? It calls me
And no one knows, how far it goes
If the _____ on the sea stays behind me
One day I'll know, if I go there's just no telling how far I'll go

I know everybody on this _____, seems so happy on this island
I know everybody on this island has a _____ on this island
So maybe I can roll with mine

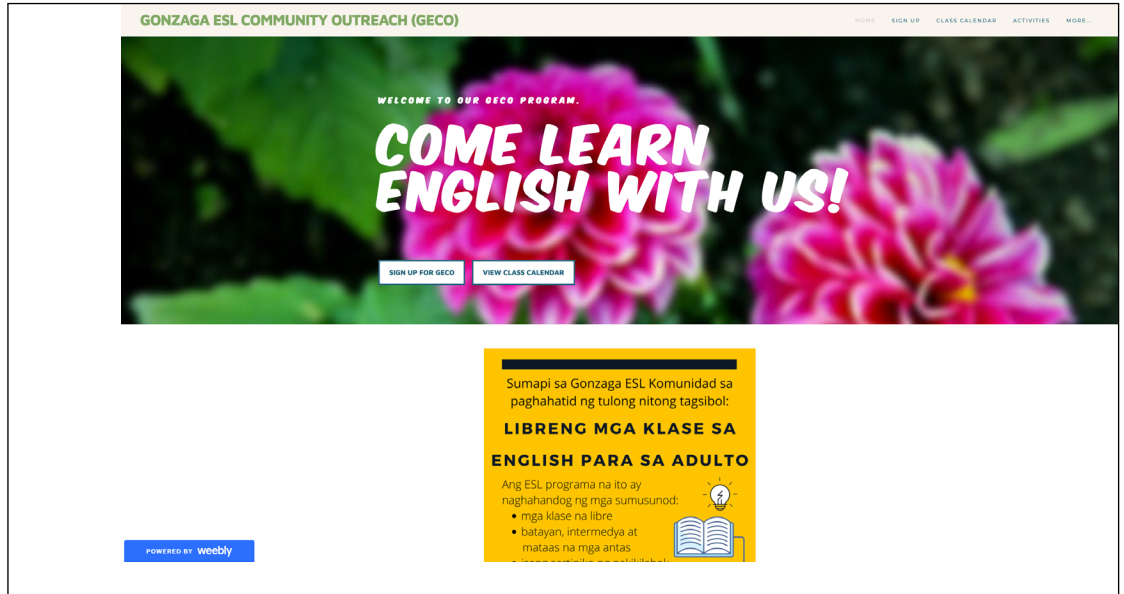
I can lead with pride, I can make us _____
I'll be satisfied if I play along
But the _____ inside sings a different song
What is wrong with me?

A drag-and-drop listening activity created by Sara Hanson-Lynn using H5P

gradebook, offering teachers insight into student usage and scores. In addition, H5P has authoring plugins for WordPress, Moodle, Drupal and several other publishing platforms—and we suggest that teachers and curriculum developers take this route, rather than pay [the outrageous hosting fees charged by H5P.com](#). In other words, you must have some platform (e.g. Moodle or Wordpress) to develop your H5P activities on but once you have made them, you can deploy them anywhere you like, for example on Weebly—our second life-saving pandemic discovery.

[Weebly](#) is a free online platform that allows anyone to create an attractive website that makes course lessons and materials easily accessible, offers extension activities, and collects formative and summative assessment data. Weebly offers highly customizable templates that make it simple for a technology novice to create a visually appealing, interactive site to increase interaction with students while providing easy access to class materials. In Weebly's drag-and-drop style of site building,

there are twenty types of content that can be added to a site, including image slideshows, contact forms, file uploads, and surveys. A paid account only offers a few more content types, making the free version a great, full option. In addition, Weebly allows embedded content, making it easy to integrate resources like YouTube, Google Forms, and of course, H5P activities.



Sara Hanson-Lynn's GECO website hosted by Weebly

[Sara's Weebly website for the free community ESL course](#) offered at Gonzaga University is an example of what you can do with Weebly, and it features many H5P activities. We invite you to check it out and see for yourself what can be done with these technologies to

augment in-person or online language teaching and learning: to promote noticing, develop pronunciation and grammar, and to provide formative and summative assessment. In addition to supporting students, the website is open access; this allows the greater language teaching and learning community to access and share these resources for free.



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