



Using Reminders to Communicate with Students & Families

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Introduction

As an Adult ESOL teacher, I had often struggled with communicating effectively with my students.

Email was impossible, phone calls were impractical, and sending text messages was unsustainable and unsafe. However, I realized texting was the key.

Remind.com has helped resolve my issue communicating with students and also had several unforeseen benefits, which this poster will share with you.

Here's how Remind works:



DESCRIPTION

My main use of Remind was sending reminders about when our class would meet or assignments that were due. Here are some examples:



Every day our class met, a text message like the one above was sent out to my students at 9am. With Remind I was able to schedule all of these messages before the year began.

Throughout the year, I explored several other uses for Remind. I sent the class information about Holidays or important events happening locally. Here's an example from Earth Day:



When our class met next, we briefly talked about Earth Day and ways we can live more sustainably in our everyday lives.

I had several students text me to wish me "Happy Earth Day!" And I had also learned after my Easter Sunday reminder texts that sending 5 messages in one day was too many.

I eventually learned that 3 reminders, spaced out throughout the day, was a good way to send my class new information without annoying them. Sending reminders allowed me to acknowledge important events that I did not want to use class time covering in depth.

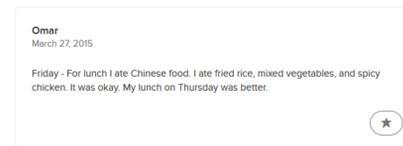
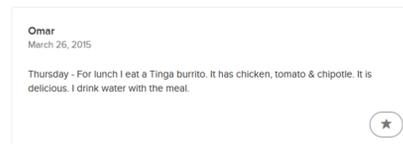
Another use of Remind was sending out links with resources for learning English.

A few of my students used Mango Languages for free with a library account. The class liked it, but had trouble navigating their libraries' websites, so I sent out direct links to the correct page:



Another use of Remind was modeling English. Often, I would send out messages modeling grammar points we covered in class. For example, sending messages highlighting contractions, or conjunctions, or compound sentences.

However, my favorite use was modeling class assignments. I asked students to keep a food journal with 1 meal each day and shared my own:



I found Remind.com to be an effective tool for my class. The main benefits were:

- It increased student attendance
- It increased the number of students who contacted me outside of class.
- It allowed me to share content and information that I did not want to use class time on.
- It allowed me to model proper English.
- It ensured that my students had regular exposure to English.

APPLICATION

How and if you use Remind.com is up to you. If you are interested, check with your administrator to make sure you can.

This poster focuses on applications of using Remind.com with students. In K-12 settings, communicating with parents and families is just as important. Setting up a Remind group is an effective way practice family and community engagement.

3 things recommendations to keep in mind when setting up a Remind group are:

1. Have everyone sign up in person.
2. Group members cannot respond to Remind messages.
3. Don't let students become dependent Remind messages.

Top 10 Ways to use Remind



Using QR codes

QR codes are barcodes that you can create for a variety of purposes.

Most smart phones have an app to scan QR codes or several free apps you can download by searching for: "QR Reader" in your download app.

You can listen to the presentation for this poster by scanning the QR code below. Use your phone or the iPad provided to give it a try.

Check out QR stuff to create a code.

Listen to the presentation:



Relevant resources Acknowledgements

- <https://www.remind.com>
- <https://www.mangolanguages.com>
- <http://www.qrstuff.com>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/salehighadultes/>
- <http://www.projectsael.org/work-presentations>

Join the 2015 PETALLS Conference Remind group:

Text @petalls15 to 81010 or scan the barcode below:

