

Generation Z (or **Gen Z** for short), colloquially also known as **zoomers**, is the demographic cohort succeeding Millennials and preceding Generation Alpha. Researchers and popular media use the mid-to-late 1990s as starting birth years and the early 2010s as ending birth years. Most members of Generation Z are children of Generation X. The Merriam-Webster and Oxford dictionaries both have official entries for Generation Z. The Oxford Dictionary describes Generation Z as "the generation reaching adulthood in the second decade of the 21st century". „The Oxford Learner's Dictionaries describes Gen Z as "the group of people who were born between the late 1990s and the early 2010s." The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines Generation Z as "the generation of people born in the late 1990s and early 2000s."

Because the term is widely recognized, the author decided to scrutinize the preferred learning methods of this demographic cohort. In further development of the term, it is crucial to note that the most important invention for gen. Z is the Internet 2.0. According to Wikipedia, Web 2.0 (also known as participative (or participatory) web and social web) refers to websites that emphasize user-generated content, ease of use, participatory culture and interoperability (i.e., compatibility with other products, systems, and devices) for end users. A Web 2.0 website allows users to interact and collaborate with each other through social media dialogue as creators of user-generated content in a virtual community. This contrasts with the first generation of Web 1.0-era websites where people were limited to viewing content in a passive manner. Examples of Web 2.0 features include social networking sites or social media sites (e.g., Facebook), blogs, wikis, folksonomies ("tagging" keywords on websites and links), video sharing sites (e.g., YouTube), image sharing sites (e.g., Flickr), hosted services, Web applications ("apps"), collaborative consumption platforms, and mashup applications.

Even though the Google Trends show that the term „generation Z” is the most popular query, it may go by a couple of other names:

- IGeneration – particularly in western countries;

- (neo)digital natives – born during the Internet era, “neo” because the millennials are the “true” natives;

- centennials – in reference to the first century of the second millennium;

- zoomers – in reference to “boomers”.

Taking the above into consideration, one can distinguish these unique traits of the “generation Z”:

- The Internet has always been there – in other words, they do not know the world without the Internet, which influences almost every aspect of their lives;
- Financially focused – contrary to Millennials, zoomers approach to work is primarily financial in nature;
- Competitive - Generation Z is competitive and enjoys challenges which test them against their peers;
- Multitasking – doing more than one thing at a time is their natural way of accomplishing tasks, given the pace of their everyday lives;
- Educated consumers – constant access to various services allows them to make reasonably sound decisions;
- Speedy – instant availability of virtually any piece of information may impede their persistence and shorten attention span.

The author presents the disambiguation of the “intermediate level” in a chart and then proceeds to present core characteristics of “gen Zs” in correlation with the English language:

- low percentage of true beginners – because of the primary and secondary education and ubiquitous usage of common terms like “clickbait”, “snap” etc.
- prefer multimedia material to books and static sources – because it’s their natural habitat;
- collaborative projects instead of individual, monotask assignments (Vygotsky’s theory of proximal development);
- short attention spans;
- multitasking.

So far, it can be concluded, that the main obstacle in implementing new teaching methods are not students, their habits, date of birth, generation or preferences. If the teaching methods used in a particular place have not been updated for a considerable period of time, changes should be introduced gradually, with small steps, constant surveillance and adaptation along with periodic evaluation. However, an overnight change will probably cause reluctance on the teachers’ part and uneasiness and confusion among students.

It is imperative to gain acknowledgment from the teachers. Moreover, the teaching methods should be universal in any given institution. Teachers are advised not to shed all the traditional methods in favor of the new ones based on technology. The most practical approach is to modify and adapt rather than replace.

The outbreak of covid-19 pandemic proved to be a sort of catalyst in introducing elearning. Teaching centers responded to the challenge usually with the introduction of elearning software. Its usage should be continued as it enables teachers to make their lessons more attractive in terms of multimedia availability. The anxiety on the part of teachers is rather unfounded because the students are not usually tech savvies but “tech – comfies”.

Additionally, new vocabulary should be taught with context using monolingual dictionaries. This method is best introduced from the very beginning. Teachers should resort to translation only when it is absolutely necessary or to enable communication at all.

Online services like YouTube can also be a valuable tool in teaching English on intermediate level and in consolidating knowledge, as long as its usage is in accordance with the good principles of teaching. Teachers may be reluctant to incorporate this method however, because it involves considerable preparation time and some knowledge in current trends. Zoomers are always ON, therefore they are familiar with current events so they will appreciate up-to-date news. Web services like BBC News or BBC Podcasts can be of great value in this regard.

Simple graphic and visual methods, under guided supervision of the teacher, can be useful in developing self-search and analysis of information in a group assignment. A simple game of “Find the person who...” is a good example of such a method.