Transcript of “Math and Technology Screencast”

Video links embedded, as well as Works Cited page at end

([Math is like ice cream](https://letsplaymath.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/math-is-like-ice-cream1.jpg?w=593)) “Math is like ice cream, with more flavors than you can imagine—and if all **anyone** ever does is textbook math, that’s like feeding them broccoli-flavored ice cream.” –Denise Gaskins, author of the blog, “Let’s Play Math” (<http://letsplaymath.net/>).

Broccoli-flavored ice cream, oh no! ([Math textbook](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ksr/projects/1434900/photo-main.jpg?1414257700)) Many math students feel the same sense of dread about math as they do vegetables, because “textbook” math is usually the only exposure to the subject they have. Textbooks can be unrealistic. Who actually calculates velocity while sneaking a game to a friend?

(Work G+ page) My name is Jen Way; I am an adult education math teacher at Northeast Kingdom Learning Services in St. Johnsbury, VT. I use websites of games and videos in my math lessons, because it helps make math more interesting and it allows for a greater degree of practice and understanding, without making math a chore.

Incorporating technology into an adult education lesson is about using the tech that is available to you. ([Computer and projector](http://bretstateham.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/W520-Connected-to-Projector.png)) If you have a computer connected to the internet and a projector, as I often use, math can suddenly become much more enjoyable.

I believe that teaching math can and should incorporate interesting games, videos, and digital practice. There are valuable math resources available to anyone interested in any topic. I found these next resources online, to make sense of an order of operations lesson that I taught.

One article, ([Math for Grownups](http://www.mathforgrownups.com/back-to-school-shopping-applyin-the-order-of-operations/)) described how back-to-school shopping reflects PEMDAS. The example used is of buying one pair of jeans for $15 and five shirts that cost $12 each. The logical way to solve this problem demonstrates PEMDAS.

One game was the “[Royal Rescue](http://mrnussbaum.com/orderops-play/),” where the students solve PEMDAS problems in order to save the person trapped in the castle. For this game, you have to choose each step of the PEMDAS problem, in correct order, so here it would be 4/4 and you type in 1, Enter, and then you go 9 + 4. In this way, you get to climb the steps to save your friend.

Another game used the “Who Wants to be a [Millionaire](http://www.math-play.com/Order-of-Operations-Millionaire/division-millionaire.html)?” setup. Here, the game used PEMDAS questions to move up the ladder. This game is useful for students, because the questions start slowly with something like 5 \* 2 + 3 and progressively increase in difficulty, until you have a question like 92 - 14 \* 3. Games are great as “homework,” because students can play the game as many times as they want or need to, in order to become more fluent in solving these problems correctly and quickly. By using games as homework, there is no competition or social pressure of classmates that may “get it” faster.

Digital math resources can be entertaining and interesting, like the games above as well as educational, Three of my favorite websites that have a wealth of information are [www.KhanAcademy.org](http://www.KhanAcademy.org), [www.CoolMath.com](http://www.CoolMath.com), and [www.MathIsFun.com](http://www.MathIsFun.com). This is the first one. At Khan Academy, you have sections of different topics. For math, you can pick a topic, like Pre-Algebra, go into it, and it lets you figure out where you’re at, and what you can do to get where you need to go. Another website that I like is CoolMath.com, where you have Pre-Algebra, Algebra, or Pre-Calculus lessons, all designed to help you learn more about that topic. You also have a ton of games to help you learn and have fun at the same time. Another of my favorite websites is MathIsFun.com. Here, we’re in the Algebra section. It shows you the basics. You can pick your topic, say order of operations. It gives you examples of how to do it, what to do first, second, and third, how to remember it, and at the bottom of your page, you even have questions to help practice the skills you need.

While there are many more excellent websites about math than I have shown in this particular screencast, remember that whatever you use, make sure it does not replace good instruction. A movie or video without active discussion or application can be just as boring as an hour-long lecture. Be creative! Use [Skittles](http://sites.cdnis.edu.hk/students/084373/files/2012/12/Skittles-.jpg) to teach percentages, mean, median, mode, even graphing! ([Pirate Exponent Game](http://mathgames4children.com/fun-board-games/6th-grade/pirate/exponents-pirate-waters-grade-6-game.html)) Use games like the Exponent Pirates to help students increase their metal math calculations. 2 \* 2 does not equal 7. Math can be interesting and exciting. There are many spectacular resources available online.

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