







Using teaching aids

You don't have to reinvent the wheel every time you sit down with a learner. In fact, trying to explain everything off the top of your head can sometimes make things more confusing. Using teaching aids like videos, tip sheets, and interactive games adds variety to your sessions and gives the learner something tangible to refer back to later. These tools act as a "third person" in the room, providing a second way for the learner to see or hear the information, which makes the lessons much more likely to stick.

Although there are many different teaching aids you can use and we are unable to offer a definitive list, here is a list of recommendations we would like you to start with:

-  **Be Connected resources:** The [Be Connected website](#) is your best friend. Use the 'Topic Library' for structured learning and 'Quick Guides' for simple, printable instructions that use Easy Read principles.
-  **Interactive practice games:** Some learners find the "real" internet scary. Use the Be Connected [practice area](#) and [games area](#) to help them master mouse clicks or touchscreen gestures in a safe, simulated environment where they can't "break" anything.
-  **Physical props:** Tech is abstract, so bring it into the real world. Use a printed picture of a keyboard to point out keys without their hand blocking the view, or use a "jargon buster" card to explain tricky words like 'The Cloud' or 'Operating System'.
-  **Video tutorials:** If you are struggling to explain a concept, let a professional video do the heavy lifting. Watch a short clip together, pause it frequently, and then try the action on the device. It changes the pace and keeps the learner engaged.
-  **Demonstration devices:** If you have a spare tablet or phone, use it to show the learner what you are doing on your screen so they can mirror the actions on theirs without you having to lean over them.
-  **Leave-behinds:** Never let a learner leave empty-handed. Whether it is a printed tip sheet, a handwritten checklist of the steps you covered, or a link to a specific Be Connected course, having a "takeaway" reduces the fear that they will forget everything the moment you leave.