

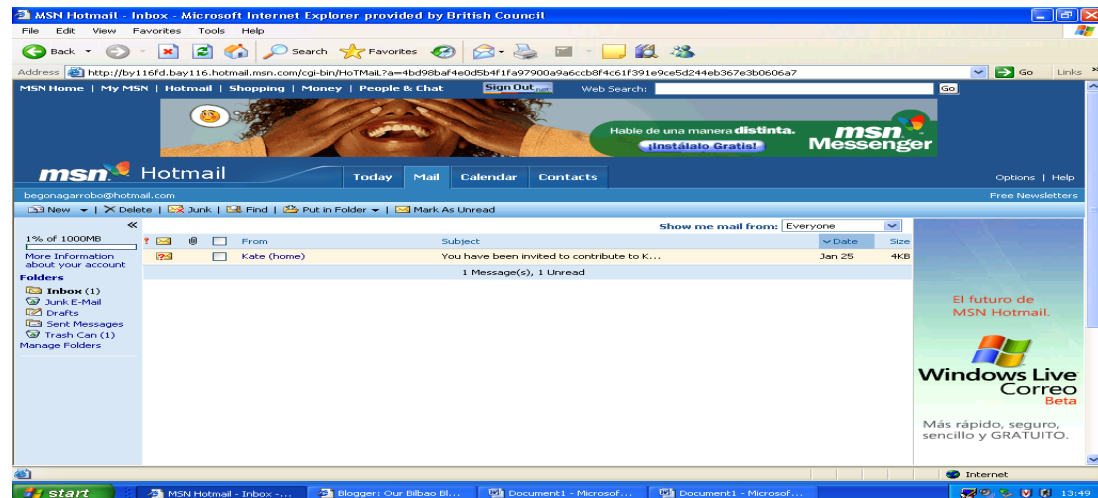
Setting up a class blog

This is easy and relatively quick to do – according to the age of the students, it takes about an hour of class. Here are the steps I follow:

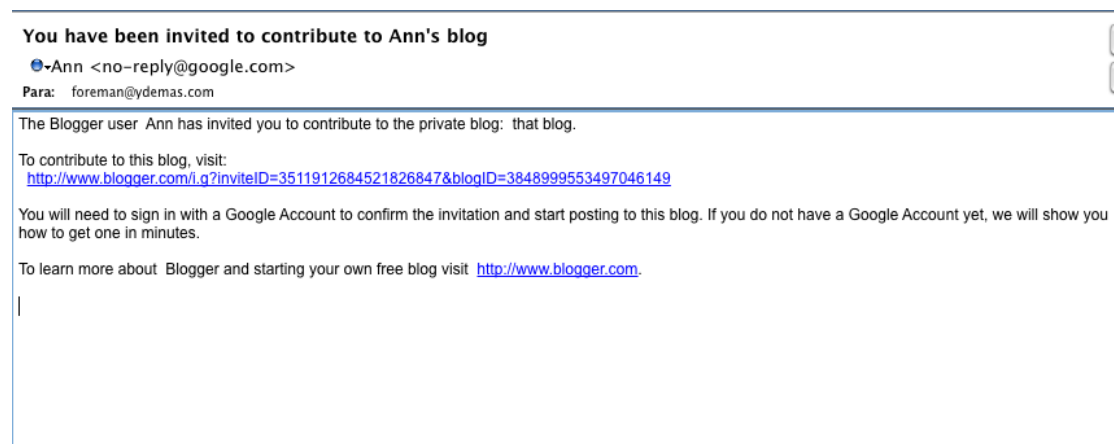
- Ask your students if they know what a blog is
- (Optional) Get them to look at some different types e.g. <http://encouraginglearnerautonomy.blogspot.com/2007/03/some-examples-of-different-kinds-of.html>
- Show them one of your current class blogs e.g. http://weseeandenjoy.blogspot.com/2007_10_01_archive.html
- Go to <https://www.blogger.com/start>
- Get one of your students to sit at the computer connected to the data projector
- Get them to follow your instructions and **demonstrate opening an account**. Insist on the importance of writing down and saving their password (otherwise they always forget it)
- Sign yourself back in so that when you create the blog you are the administrator
- **Naming the blog**. Get the class to work in pairs to come up with an idea. The class then votes for which they like best.
- Make sure the title they've chosen is available.
- **Choosing a template**. Show them the options and again take a class vote for the one they like best.
- That's the last step, by now you should have created the blog!
- **Inviting your students to become authors**.
- Click on Settings > Permissions > Add authors.
- Get them one by one to come and fill in their email addresses.
- Tell them to check their email and find the invite they should have just received. Give them the following **Instructions for students on how to become a blog author** to guide them through the next steps.
- **Making a posting**. Click on New post. Give the post a title, for example, *Welcome* and demonstrate the writing tools and, most importantly, the spell check.
- Ask them your students to make a first simple *Hello* posting once they've followed the instructions and become a blog author.

Instructions for students on how to become a blog author

- Open your email account in a web browser (Explorer, Firefox etc)



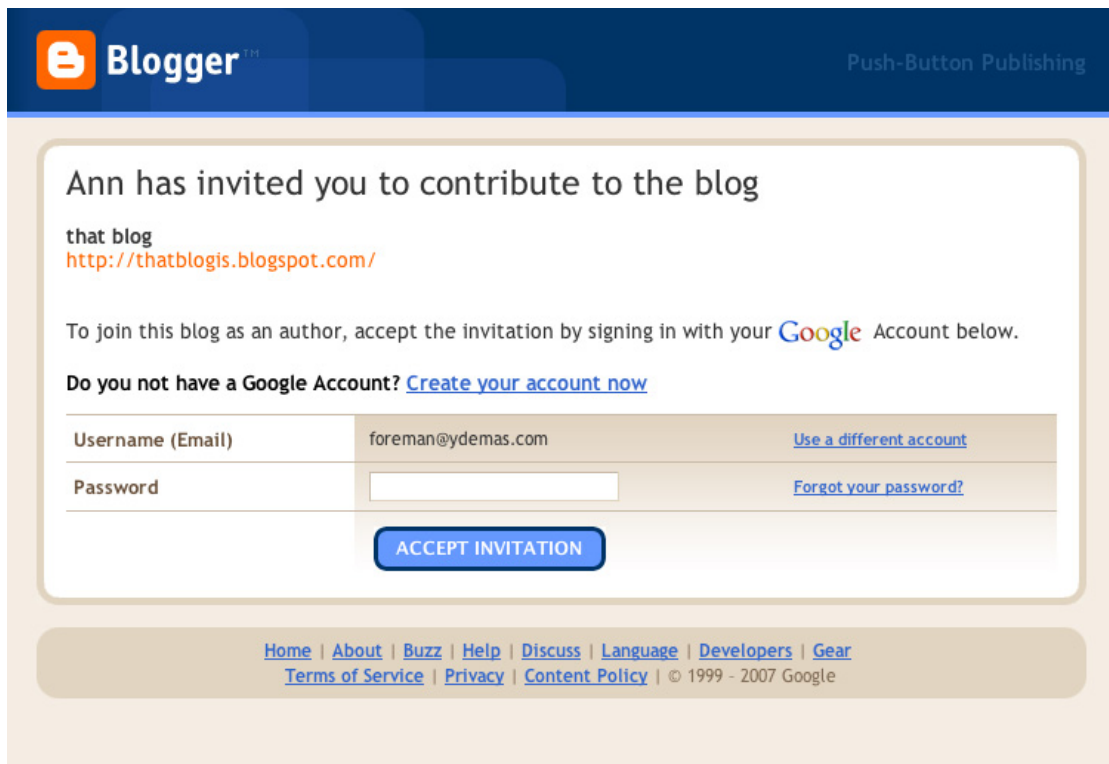
- You will see an email with the title ***You have been invited to contribute to’s blog***
- Open the email



- Click on the link it contains. This will take you to ***Blogger***

2. a password (write it down and keep it somewhere safe)
3. the same password again
4. your display name
5. type in the word you see in red
6. click that you agree with the terms of service
7. click the **Continue** button

- You will see the following:



The screenshot shows the Blogger interface for accepting an invitation. At the top, the Blogger logo and 'Push-Button Publishing' are visible. The main content area is titled 'Ann has invited you to contribute to the blog' and identifies the blog as 'that blog' with the URL 'http://thatblogis.blogspot.com/'. It instructs the user to sign in with their Google Account. Below this, there is a form with two fields: 'Username (Email)' containing 'foreman@ydemas.com' and a link 'Use a different account', and 'Password' with an empty input field and a link 'Forgot your password?'. A blue 'ACCEPT INVITATION' button is positioned below the form. At the bottom, a footer contains navigation links: Home, About, Buzz, Help, Discuss, Language, Developers, Gear, Terms of Service, Privacy, Content Policy, and a copyright notice for 1999-2007 Google.

- If necessary, enter your email address for **Username**
- Enter your password and click on **ACCEPT INVITATION**
- You will see the following:

Blogger™ foreman@ydemas.com | [Dashboard](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign out](#)

Dashboard

Manage Your Blogs [Create a Blog](#) | [Help](#)

that blog [View Blog](#)

[+ New Post](#) Manage: [Posts](#), [Settings](#)

Ann

No photo available.

- [Edit Profile](#) (or [View](#))
- [My Account](#)
- Language:

Mobile Devices

[Learn how to start mobile blogging](#)

Help Resources

- [Help Centre](#)
- [Help Group](#)
- [Blogger Status](#)
- [Known Issues](#)

Blogs Of Note

Feel like browsing? Here are

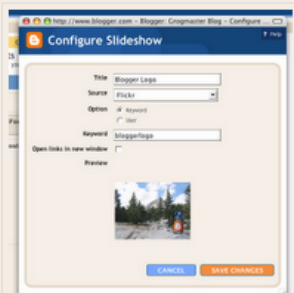
The latest from Blogger Buzz

Show off your photos with the new Slideshow [permalink](#)

19 November 2007 – [permalink](#)

Take a look at our latest tool for your blog: the **Slideshow page element**. This feature lets you add a slick little slideshow of your photos from [Picasa Web Albums](#), [Flickr](#), [Photobucket](#), or any site that supports [Media RSS](#).

The photos will show up in your



- Click on **New Post** and you will see:

that blog

[Posting](#) [Settings](#) [View Blog](#)

[Create](#) [Edit Posts](#)

Title:

[Edit HTML](#) [Compose](#)

Font [Bold](#) [Italic](#) [Text Color](#) [Background Color](#) [List](#) [Link](#) [Undo](#) [Redo](#) [Preview](#)

[Post Options](#) Labels for this post:

Now Blogger saves your drafts automatically! [?](#)

[PUBLISH POST](#) [SAVE NOW](#)

[Return to list of posts](#)

bold, I = Italic, P = Publish, S = Save, D = Draft [more](#)

Getting your students to generate their own class material

This will probably be your next session with the class. To get your blog off to a good start, try the following:

- Ask them to choose in pairs a song in English that they like. Then get the class to vote for the choice they think is best.
- Go to <http://www.youtube.com> and do a search for the song
- Click in the **embed** box to the right of the video and copy the code
- Return to you blog posting and click on the **Edit Html** tab and paste the code you've copied
- Ask your students to come up a title for the posting (for example, the title of the song) and a reason why they chose that particular song
- Click on the **Compose** tab and write down what they've said
- Now do a **Google** search for the lyrics and make a link to them in the post by clicking on the link tool on the posting's top menu.
- Set this as a task for all of your students to complete
- Now you have material for your next session. In this session you can do the following:
- Do a language focus for the whole class on the typical mistakes they've made in their postings.
- Get them to make a comment on each others' posts saying what they thought of the choice of video and song e.g. <http://weseeandenjoy.blogspot.com/2007/10/sex-pistols-god-saves-queen.html>
- Feature the lyrics of one of the songs for further language work
- Use the time they're doing this to talk to them individually about the language in their postings, (I never post comments about language errors. Any comments I make are always about content.)