In this presentation, I argue for more integration of technology in the teaching of English as a second language. Hybrid or blended teaching in which instruction is divided between face-to-face and online environments is one of the best ways to teaching ESL these days. However, this teaching style is yet to gain popularity in ESL programs and the reason for that is the negative reputation of online classes in the ESL field. Since online ESL classes are not popular due to the lack of social face-to-face interaction, which is integral to language learning and practice, many ESL programs are sticking to traditional in-class instruction and try to encourage some in-class technology integration. But with the tremendous impact that information technology has had on education in general ESL education cannot keep avoiding a deeper integration of technology.

The solution seems to be hybrid or blended classes in which students would learn both face-to-face and online. This way, students are more likely to receive the benefit of both realms of learning without sacrificing any aspect of the education process. A class that is divided between face-to-face meetings and online learning will help students practice social linguistic skills when they meet face-to-face with their teachers and peers and also experience the possibilities of online self-paced learning.

This presentation concludes with a sample lesson plan from a blended course in addition to recommendations about effective hybrid learning.