

# Interactive Grammar Tools for ESL Remedial Instruction

Top universities are revolutionizing remedial grammar education through browser-based interactive exercises and gamified platforms that transform traditionally tedious grammar instruction into engaging, effective learning experiences. **MIT, Stanford, University of Michigan, Cornell, and other leading institutions rely on tools like Quill, Grammarly, NoRedInk, and Kahoot alongside custom corpus-based resources to deliver immediate feedback and personalized learning paths.** (NU Resources) (Grammarly) Research shows gamification increases engagement by 55-60% in higher education ESL contexts, (Ej-social) with students achieving 80-84% average grammar test scores compared to traditional methods. (Frontiers +2) The shift toward HTML5-based interactive exercises—including drag-and-drop, sentence combining, and game-based learning—provides the scaffolding remedial students need while maintaining motivation through points systems, leaderboards, and achievement badges. (MERLOT)

## What top universities are actually using

**MIT's English Language Studies program** exemplifies the modern approach by combining Grammarly as their primary tool with curated browser-based resources including A4ESL.org computer exercises, Agendaweb.org's 50+ word order exercises, and British Council LearnEnglish materials. (mit) The MIT Wiki centralizes these resources, making them accessible to all ESL students. (mit) (NU Resources) Stanford's ESOL program integrates **MyEnglishLab** with textbooks while developing proprietary online pronunciation software with video lectures and dictation exercises for their 5-week online coaching modules. (stanford +2)

**University of Michigan's English Language Institute**, established in 1941 as America's first university-based intensive English program, leads innovation with **MICUSP (Michigan Corpus of Upper-Level Student Papers)**—a searchable database of 800+ A-grade papers students use to analyze authentic academic grammar patterns. (University of Michigan LSA) They pair this with the **Visual Thesaurus** (paid library subscription) and free **Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)**, teaching students data-driven grammar discovery. (University of Michigan Library) (The Writing Place) Columbia University's American Language Program, one of the oldest in the U.S., structures its 8-level curriculum through Canvas with integrated digital exercises focusing on thematic learning approaches. (LaunchX)

Harvard Kennedy School developed **SkillBase**, a platform offering customized ESL learning pathways with self-directed modules for grammar, conversation, and professional communication. Cornell University's English Language Support Office recently announced integration of **generative AI tutoring services** (ChatGPT, Copilot) for Fall 2025, representing the cutting edge of university ESL instruction. (Cornell) Georgetown's English Language Center and UC Berkeley's programs emphasize blended learning, combining Purdue OWL resources with in-person workshops. (Georgetown) (Georgetown)

The consensus across elite institutions: **Grammarly for Education** serves as the foundational tool (used by 250+ universities including USC, University of Illinois Chicago, University of Texas at Dallas), (The Ohio State University) supplemented by specialized platforms for specific needs and integrated with learning management systems like Canvas, Moodle, and Blackboard. (Grammarly +2)

# Comprehensive interactive platforms transforming grammar instruction

## Quill: The nonprofit sentence-building powerhouse

**Quill.org** serves 42,000+ schools with entirely free, evidence-based grammar instruction specifically designed for developmental learners. (quill) The platform's **Quill Connect** feature exemplifies effective interactive design: students combine multiple kernel sentences into single complex sentences, receiving instant feedback on clarity and precision. (Quill) Questions adapt difficulty based on previous responses, ensuring appropriate challenge levels.

The **250+ sentence writing activities** in Quill Grammar provide 10-minute focused exercises covering 100+ concepts including parallel structure, conjunctions, subject-verb agreement, verb tense, and commonly confused words. (Quill) Each activity delivers immediate feedback with explanations, helping students understand *why* an answer is correct rather than just marking it right or wrong. The **Quill Proofreader** offers 150+ expository passages where students identify and correct errors, with the system generating personalized exercises based on individual error patterns. (quill) (Quill)

**Implementation specifics:** Teachers create assignments through Google Classroom (one-click setup) or Clever integration. The diagnostic assessment generates individualized learning plans. (Quill) Students work at their own pace, with progress tracked through detailed dashboards. (Quill) The platform supports 15+ languages including Spanish, Mandarin, French, Vietnamese, and Arabic—essential for multilingual remedial programs. (quill) Universities use Quill extensively in developmental writing programs, particularly valuing its sentence-combining pedagogy rooted in decades of composition research.

## NoRedInk: Personalization meets engagement

NoRedInk transforms grammar exercises through **interest-based personalization**: students select favorite TV shows, sports teams, or celebrities, and the platform incorporates these into every exercise. (NoRedInk) (NoRedInk) A basketball fan practicing subject-verb agreement sees sentences featuring their favorite team; a music lover works with examples from preferred artists. This seemingly simple innovation dramatically increases engagement in remedial contexts where students often feel alienated from academic content.

The **adaptive learning technology** starts with diagnostic quizzes assessing abilities, then customizes curriculum targeting specific weaknesses. (NoRedInk) (NoRedInk) The Adaptive Mastery System adjusts difficulty in real-time—if a student struggles with past tense, the system provides additional scaffolded practice before advancing. Students must answer multiple questions correctly in sequence to progress, ensuring genuine mastery rather than lucky guesses.

**Interactive exercise types** include sentence restructuring, grammar correction with drag-and-drop interfaces, thesis-building modules, and text markup activities. (NoRedInk) The **Guided Drafts** feature integrates grammar instruction into essay writing, providing tutorials and tips at point-of-need. (GetApp) Multiple universities report that NoRedInk's **peer review** functionality, where students provide structured feedback on classmates' work, builds metalinguistic awareness crucial for remedial learners. (GetApp)

Full Canvas and Schoology integration enables automatic roster sync and grade passback. [\(GetApp\)](#) Teachers create assignments within their LMS, students complete work seamlessly, and grades flow automatically into gradebooks. [\(NoRedInk\)](#) The **Standards-based benchmarking** and detailed data dashboards allow precise tracking of which specific grammar concepts students master versus those requiring additional instruction.

### GrammarFlip: Video-based self-paced learning

At just **\$2 per student annually**, GrammarFlip provides remarkable value for cash-strapped remedial programs. [\(grammarflip\)](#) The platform centers on **concise video lessons** covering hundreds of grammar and writing concepts, allowing students to learn at individual pace—critical for remedial contexts with widely varying proficiency levels. [\(grammarflip\)](#) [\(GrammarFlip\)](#)

Each concept follows a consistent structure: instructional video, self-assessing practice exercises with instant feedback, and varied question formats engaging multiple learning modalities. [\(grammarflip\)](#) The **Writing Portals** provide engaging prompts with instant teacher access for feedback. Color-coded, downloadable reports help instructors quickly identify students needing assistance, with individual student insights revealing specific concept gaps. [\(grammarflip\)](#) [\(GrammarFlip\)](#)

Universities particularly value GrammarFlip for **flipped classroom** approaches: students watch videos and complete initial practice as homework, freeing class time for collaborative application activities and individualized support. The diagnostic assessment identifies starting points, and personalized learning paths ensure students work on appropriate concepts.

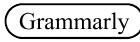
### Grammarly for Education: AI-powered real-time assistance

**250+ universities** provide Grammarly for Education through institutional licenses, making it the most widely adopted commercial tool in higher education ESL. [\(Walden University +3\)](#) The platform's **real-time suggestions** appear as students type in any environment—email, Google Docs, Word, or web browsers—providing immediate grammar, spelling, and punctuation corrections with contextual explanations. [\(Walden University +2\)](#)

The **NEW Expert Review feature** (2025) uses AI agents to provide discipline-specific feedback: an engineering student receives different writing guidance than a business student. The **Citation Finder** identifies claims needing sources and recommends credible references, while the **Citation Generator** automatically formats in APA, MLA, or Chicago style. [\(Grammarly\)](#) For remedial students often struggling with academic integrity, the **plagiarism detection** checks against 8+ billion web pages. [\(Walden University +2\)](#)

Research validates effectiveness: O'Neill & Russell (2019), Koltovskaya (2020), and Barrot (2022) published studies showing error reduction and writing improvement. [\(Sage Journals\)](#) [\(ResearchGate\)](#) A recent Indian university study using ChatGPT with Grammarly found **significant positive impact on academic writing skills** for first-year science and engineering students, particularly improving grammatical accuracy when combined with metalinguistic explanations.

**Implementation:** Students at participating universities access Grammarly Pro free via .edu email. Browser extensions, desktop apps, and Microsoft Office/Google Workspace integration ensure availability everywhere students write. [\(Walden University +2\)](#) University of Southern California's Engineering department reports students can "focus more on demonstrating subject-matter knowledge through writing instead of worrying about

grammar and voice." University of Texas at Dallas emphasizes equity: "Grammarly is available to our entire school so each student is equally prepared for workforce." 

## Gamification: Making grammar irresistible

### Kahoot: The competitive quiz sensation

**Kahoot** dominates university classrooms as a formative assessment tool, creating electric competitive atmospheres that transform grammar review. Research from Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia, documented how Kahoot enhanced grammar engagement in Grammar III courses through six mechanisms: goal setting (students study before playing to win), focus enhancement (one question at a time eliminates distractions), enthusiasm building (colorful interface with engaging music), playful learning (reduces grammar anxiety), collaboration (team mode facilitates peer learning), and competition with rewards (top 3 players displayed).

**How it works:** Teachers create multiple-choice quizzes displayed on a main screen. Students answer using mobile devices via unique game PINs, with questions appearing one at a time with countdown timers (up to 90 seconds). **Points awarded based on speed AND accuracy**—answering correctly quickly yields maximum points, creating thrilling races. Leaderboards update after each question with dramatic music and visual effects, maintaining tension throughout.

University implementations show **average grammar test scores of 80-84%** with behavioral, cognitive, and emotional engagement evident. For teaching sentence patterns, phrases, and passive voice, instructors report students exhibiting focus, material absorption, strategic thinking, interest, happiness, and enjoyment—remarkable for traditionally dry grammar topics. The teacher explanation after each question proves crucial: while instant feedback shows correct answers, instructor elaboration ensures deep understanding.

Both **individual and team modes** serve remedial contexts well. Individual mode suits formative assessment and competition-tolerant students; team mode reduces anxiety while encouraging peer teaching. Universities use Kahoot as bell-ringers (first 5 minutes), end-of-lesson quizzes, weekly competitions with displayed leaderboards, and exam review.

### Quizizz: Self-paced, less anxiety-inducing

**Quizizz** provides an alternative for students who find Kahoot's time pressure stressful. Questions appear on individual devices with students answering at their own pace (asynchronous option available). Points still reward speed, but less dramatically than Kahoot. Immediate feedback (correct/incorrect) appears on student screens, and detailed analytics reveal individual performance patterns.

This **self-paced format** particularly benefits slower processors, reflective learners, and students with test anxiety—common in remedial populations. Complex grammar questions requiring careful thought (distinguishing present perfect from past simple, analyzing conditional structures) work better in Quizizz than time-pressured Kahoot. Teachers assign Quizizz as homework or in-class self-paced work, with the platform supporting both synchronous (everyone plays together) and asynchronous (students complete on their own schedule) modes.

### Gimkit: Strategic gameplay with virtual economies

**Gimkit** introduces strategic depth through its **economy-based learning game**. Students answer grammar questions at their own pace, earning virtual money for correct answers. Here's the innovation: they **invest earnings in upgrades and power-ups**, adding strategy beyond pure knowledge. Should they buy a multiplier to increase earnings per question, or an insurance policy against wrong answers?

Questions **repeat on random loops**, providing built-in spaced repetition—students encounter the same grammar concepts multiple times in randomized order, strengthening retention. The **KitCollab feature** lets students create questions together, fostering collaborative learning and deepening understanding through creation. Among Us-inspired game modes add variety.

Universities use Gimkit for extended practice sessions (20-30 minutes) where repeated exposure to grammar concepts builds automaticity. The strategic elements keep advanced learners engaged even with basic grammar review, while struggling students receive multiple exposures to strengthen understanding. **Pricing** (\$1,000/year for whole school or \$650/year for up to 20 teachers) makes it more expensive than free alternatives but still accessible for serious programs.

### **Classcraft: Role-playing meets classroom management**

**Classcraft** transforms entire courses into role-playing adventures. [Wiley Online Library](#) Students create avatars (Warriors, Healers, Mages) with different classroom powers. They earn **Experience Points (XP)** and **Gold Pieces (GP)** for positive behaviors like correct grammar usage, completing assignments, or helping classmates. They lose **Health Points (HP)** for negative behaviors. [EdTechReview](#) Team-based gameplay means teams succeed or fail together, encouraging peer support.

**Boss Battles** serve as formative assessments: defeating a boss requires demonstrating previous lessons' grammar concepts. Random Events integrated with grammar content maintain unpredictability. Teachers award points during lessons for correct grammar usage in speaking or writing, creating continuous reinforcement.

[EdTechReview](#)

University research from Iran (2025) on TEFL writing instruction found **gamification + collaboration** (Classcraft's combination) produced best results for individual L2 writing performance. A Thailand study showed enhanced vocabulary acquisition in flipped classrooms using Classcraft. [ERIC](#) Universities report discipline issues virtually eliminated, students more engaged, positive attitudes toward learning, and development of self-directed learning characteristics. [EdTechReview](#)

Malaysian professional development for English teachers used Classcraft to help teachers nationwide achieve CEFR C1 level, demonstrating effectiveness for adult professional learners in fully online contexts through experiential learning techniques and gamified modules. [MDPI](#)

### **Browser-based grammar games**

#### **ESL Games Plus: Sports meets syntax**

**ESL Games Plus** ([www.eslgamesplus.com](http://www.eslgamesplus.com)) offers immediate plug-and-play grammar games requiring no accounts or downloads. The **Pirate Board Games** navigate students through grammar challenges while sailing dangerous waters—each correct answer advances their ship, incorrect answers risk the plank.

**Basketball/Football Games** require answering grammar questions to score points, merging sports excitement with language practice.

**Sentence Monkey** provides interactive adventures practicing present simple vs. progressive, comparatives/superlatives, and prepositions of time and place through animal characters. The mobile-compatible design works on any device without apps. Universities use these for low-stakes review, warm-up activities, or enjoyable homework alternatives.

The **Baker Fun Game**, **Racing Game**, and **Kangaroo Fun Game** variations maintain novelty—students practice the same grammar concepts through different game formats, preventing boredom. Printable worksheets accompany each game for blended approaches. ([ESL Games Plus](#))

### **ESL Games World: PowerPoint template treasure trove**

**ESL Games World** ([www.eslgamesworld.com](http://www.eslgamesworld.com)) provides **PowerPoint game templates** teachers customize for specific grammar points. The Snakes and Ladders board game format advances students on correct answers, sends them sliding down on incorrect ones. **Hangman** builds tension around grammar terminology or sentence completion. **Wheel of Fortune** recreates the TV show for grammar categories. ([Eslgamesworld](#))

The **Fling the Teacher** game humorously catapults a cartoon teacher when students answer incorrectly, creating memorable moments that reinforce learning through emotion. **Walk the Plank** pirate games add narrative contexts. All games come as both interactive online versions and printable board games for technology-free alternatives.

Universities value the **customization capability**—instructors input their specific grammar items, vocabulary, or sentence patterns. The templates handle game mechanics, scoring, and visual effects while teachers control content. This balances engaging game design with curriculum alignment.

### **Grammar Ninja: Precision targeting for parts of speech**

**Grammar Ninja** (browser-based and mobile app) provides addictive gameplay: sentences appear with instructions like "Find the adjective" and students **throw ninja stars** at correct words. Correct clicks spear words with satisfying ninja stars; wrong clicks trigger buzzer sounds. Hundreds of levels progress from basic parts of speech to complex sentence analysis. ([App Store](#))

The **immediate haptic feedback** on mobile (vibration on correct answers) and visual feedback (animated ninja stars) creates rapid reinforcement. ([App Store](#)) Universities use Grammar Ninja for **identifying grammar weaknesses**—if students consistently miss adverbs, targeted instruction follows. The instant feedback and progressive difficulty make it suitable for independent practice or homework.

### **MES Games: Structured progression with 14 activities per unit**

**MES Games** ([www.mes-games.com](http://www.mes-games.com)) structures each grammar topic through **14 sequential activities** with increasing difficulty. The Basketball Game (easiest) requires reading and choosing correct answers. The Pirate Game (medium) builds answers from pieces, requiring more production. The Baseball Game (hardest) demands students produce complete questions and answers without scaffolding.

**Progress tracking with badges** motivates completion. Full-screen, ad-free gameplay maintains focus. Mobile device optimization ensures accessibility. Universities use MES Games' structured progression for **scaffolded learning**—students work through all 14 activities for one grammar concept, building from recognition to production.

## Serious games with deep pedagogical design

### WordBricks: Visual grammar construction through puzzles

**WordBricks** (University of Aizu, Japan; iOS and Android) represents serious game design grounded in computational linguistics. Students construct sentences by arranging **colored, jigsaw-like blocks** representing words with grammatical properties. Blocks only connect if grammatically compatible—try to attach a verb needing a direct object to an intransitive verb, and the pieces won't fit.

The visual representation of **dependency parse trees** makes abstract grammar concrete. Students engage in **experimental discovery**: What happens if I put this adjective here? Why won't these two words connect? The puzzle-game experience reduces grammar anxiety while building genuine understanding of syntactic relationships.

**Japanese university research** (2016) with sophomore computer science students showed students using WordBricks **scored better on grammar tests** than control groups. Students reported enjoying the puzzle-like experience. Irish language implementation demonstrated cross-linguistic applicability. The **lab-style learning** allows open experimentation at students' own pace, with instantaneous feedback on syntactic compatibility eliminating the confusion of delayed correction.

Grammar concepts covered include word agreement, verb government, cases and prepositions, sentence structure and syntax, and dependency relationships. ([SpringerOpen](#)) Universities use WordBricks as a **visualization tool** for concepts difficult to explain verbally—students *see* why certain grammatical combinations work while others don't.

### Gaming Grammar: Form-meaning mapping missions

**Gaming Grammar** (University of York & University of Reading; browser, Apple App Store, Google Play) bases instruction on **form-meaning mapping**—a research-validated method making grammar essential for understanding meaning rather than memorizing rules. Currently available for French, Spanish, and German, the approach translates directly to English instruction.

Each **mini-game is a spy mission** where students "crack the code" by learning grammar patterns. Paired features (two related grammar concepts per mission) encourage comparison and contrast. The mission-based structure with unlocking progression creates goal-oriented learning. Listening and reading practice integrate naturally into missions where comprehension depends on grammatical understanding.

The platform embeds **research studying grammar learning effectiveness**, analyzing player responses and response times to improve understanding of acquisition processes. This partnership between language learning researchers and gaming professionals produced games requiring Google Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge browsers, or iPad/Android devices from 2017 or later. Chromebooks receive full support—important for many

university computing labs. **Free access for educational institutions** through the Languagenut partnership makes it widely accessible.

## Interactive exercise types: Specific implementations

### Drag-and-drop sophistication

**GrammarBank's Drag & Drop Grammar** ([www.grammarbank.com/drag-drop-english.html](http://www.grammarbank.com/drag-drop-english.html)) covers verb tenses, articles, and prepositions through intuitive dragging interfaces. Students see options in one area and drop them into gaps or target zones. (GrammarBank) (NU Resources) **Immediate color-change feedback** (red for incorrect, green for correct) with explanations appears instantly. Printable versions accommodate different learning preferences.

**Grammar Monster's Tenses Exercise** ([www.grammar-monster.com/tests/drag\\_and\\_drop\\_test\\_tenses.htm](http://www.grammar-monster.com/tests/drag_and_drop_test_tenses.htm)) challenges students to identify 12 verb tenses by dragging sentence examples into tense categories. The **timed challenge** creates urgency, with "Genius Status" awarded for completing in 11 seconds. (Grammar Monster) Red boxes display verb examples, green boxes show correct placements. This combination of speed and accuracy builds automaticity in tense recognition—crucial for fluent reading comprehension.

**AgendaWeb** ([agendaweb.org](http://agendaweb.org)) provides 50+ word order exercises for various ESOL levels, including **audio-paired drag-and-drop** for phonics and pronunciation. (mit) Students hear words and drag corresponding spellings or grammatical forms, integrating auditory and visual processing. (NU Resources) The multi-sensory approach benefits remedial learners with different learning modalities.

### Fill-in-the-blank with sophisticated feedback

**ESL Lounge** ([www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises.php](http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises.php)) levels exercises from Beginner to Advanced. The "Present Simple or Present Continuous Gap Fill Exercise" presents contextualized sentences where tense choice matters for meaning. (esl-lounge) Instant results explain not just which answer is correct but *why that tense is appropriate in this context*.

Time expressions/prepositions gap fills test grammatical accuracy and idiomatic usage simultaneously. Reflexive pronouns gap fill quizzes ensure students grasp often-confused grammatical forms. **Score percentages** display with options to retry or see all correct answers for self-study.

**ESL Tower** ([www.esltower.com/students.html](http://www.esltower.com/students.html)) provides self-grading quizzes on modal verbs, gerunds & infinitives, and past tenses with **multiple-choice options in gaps**—less intimidating than pure production for struggling students. Short answer variations gradually increase difficulty. (Esl-galaxy) The scaffolding from multiple choice to short answer to full production supports remedial learners' developmental progression.

### Sentence scramble teaching word order

**AgendaWeb Scrambled Sentences** ([agendaweb.org/grammar/word-order-scrambled.html](http://agendaweb.org/grammar/word-order-scrambled.html)) covers correct English word order, adverb positions, and time/place expressions through interactive unscrambling. Students see words in random order and must rearrange them into grammatically correct sentences. The task requires understanding syntax rules rather than just recognition, engaging deeper cognitive processes.

**LearnHip Scrambled Sentence Maker** ([learnhip.com/scramble/create.php](http://learnhip.com/scramble/create.php)) empowers instructors to create up to 10 custom scrambled sentences per exercise, presenting them on one web page. Teachers design exercises targeting specific grammar structures their students struggle with—past participle word order, adjective sequences, or complex sentence subordination.

**Twee AI Tool** ([twee.com/tools/scramble-words](http://twee.com/tools/scramble-words)) uses artificial intelligence to generate scrambled sentences at adjustable difficulty levels. Instructors input grammar concepts and proficiency levels; the AI generates appropriate scrambles. Universities use this for **pair/group work** with speed competition formats—which team unscrambles all sentences first?

### Error correction building editing skills

**ESL Lounge Error Correction Quizzes** teach students to identify mistakes in authentic-seeming sentences. "To Be' Past - Error Correction Quiz" focuses on was/were errors, "Irregular Past Simple Verbs Error Correction 2" catches overgeneralization of regular past tense rules, "Passive Sentence Editing" develops understanding of passive voice formation. [\(ESL Lounge\)](#)

The **click-on-error or dropdown selection** interfaces reduce cognitive load compared to full rewriting. Students identify error locations and type corrections or choose from options. **Immediate feedback with explanations** clarifies why the original was incorrect and why the correction is appropriate—crucial for remedial students who may not understand error sources.

### Technology platforms enabling creation

#### H5P: The open-source powerhouse

**H5P** (<https://h5p.org>) revolutionizes interactive content creation through 40+ different content types requiring no coding expertise. [\(H5P\)](#) Universities worldwide, including UBC and UNAM Mexico, use H5P extensively because it's **free, open-source, and mobile-friendly**.

**Interactive Books** create multi-page lessons with embedded exercises, navigation, and multimedia. UNAM Mexico's **Present Continuous practice** for A1 students used Interactive Books with measurably improved student English. [\(H5P\)](#) **eCampusOntario H5P Studio** ([h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca](http://h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca)) hosts thousands of examples including a "Present Continuous Tense interactive book" (Activity ID: 23564) faculty can adapt. [\(Ecampusontario\)](#)

**Drag and Drop** content type enables sophisticated word placement activities. [\(Mrh5p\)](#) **Fill in the Blanks** provides advanced gap-fill with hints and alternative answers. **Drag the Words** creates sentence completion exercises. **Memory Games** match grammar concepts. **Flashcards** review vocabulary and grammar. **Question Sets** combine multiple exercise types into comprehensive assessments.

**Writing for Success - 1st Canadian H5P Edition** integrates over 150 H5P activities concentrated in grammar chapters 2-3, available in Pressbooks, PDF, EPUB, and Common Cartridge formats for LMS integration. [\(TCC Library\)](#) The activities include image sliders explaining concepts visually, interactive videos with embedded questions, dialogue cards for conversational practice, and drag-and-drop activities for hands-on learning. [\(Ubc\)](#)

**LMS integration** (Moodle, Canvas, Brightspace) enables seamless incorporation into existing courses.

(Algonquin College +3) WordPress plugin availability lets non-LMS users implement H5P. The **responsive design** ensures activities work on desktops, tablets, and smartphones—essential as students increasingly complete homework on mobile devices.

### **Hot Potatoes: The established solution**

**Hot Potatoes** ([web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked/](http://web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked/)) from University of Victoria offers six web authoring tools creating browser-based interactive exercises. **JQuiz** generates multiple-choice quizzes with feedback. **JCloze** creates gap-fill (cloze) exercises. **JMix** builds jumbled sentence/word exercises. **JCross** makes crossword puzzles. **JMatch** produces matching/ordering exercises. **JMasher** combines exercises into learning units.

**University of Basque Country research** tested "Hot Potatoes activities to improve grammatical accuracy across different proficiency courses" with B2, C1, C2 level students, finding particular benefit for C1 level. Verb tense accuracy improvement resulted from targeted Hot Potatoes practice.

The platform **creates HTML pages** with embedded JavaScript for interactivity, enabling easy Moodle integration. Version 7 uses **HTML5** (replacing Flash), ensuring continued browser support. Teachers customize appearance to match institutional branding. The ability to **string exercises into learning series** supports scaffolded instruction—students complete Exercise 1 before accessing Exercise 2, building systematically.

### **Implementation strategies from research**

Universities implementing interactive grammar tools successfully follow several patterns. **Blended learning models** combine platform use with instructor support—technology provides practice and immediate feedback, while teachers offer explanations, answer questions, and guide application. (Elt World Wiki) Fully online approaches underperform hybrid models in research studies. (OpenEdition)

**Diagnostic assessments** identifying specific grammar gaps enable personalized learning paths. Quill, NoRedInk, and IXL all begin with diagnostics generating individualized practice sequences. This addresses remedial students' widely varying proficiency levels within single courses.

**LMS integration** proves critical for adoption. When students access grammar exercises through familiar Canvas or Moodle interfaces with single sign-on, completion rates rise dramatically. Grade passback automation reduces teacher workload while maintaining accountability. (Macmillan Learning)

**Flipped classroom** implementations using GrammarFlip, video tutorials, or H5P interactive books for home viewing free class time for collaborative application, discussion, and individualized support. Students arrive having engaged with concepts, enabling productive in-class practice.

**Gamification elements** (points, badges, leaderboards, levels) maintain motivation in remedial contexts where students often experienced repeated grammar instruction failure. The novelty and enjoyment reduce affective filters blocking learning. However, universities emphasize balancing extrinsic rewards with intrinsic motivation through meaningful learning goals.

**Corpus-based approaches** pioneered by University of Michigan teach students to analyze authentic language use through searchable databases. MICUSP (800+ A-grade student papers) and MICASE (spoken academic English) develop independence—students discover grammar patterns themselves rather than memorizing rules.

(University of Michigan LSA +2)

## Resource compilation for immediate implementation

**Top-tier comprehensive platforms** requiring institutional decisions: Grammarly for Education (institutional licensing, 250+ universities), Quill (free, 42,000+ schools), NoRedInk (free basic, premium for full features), IXL Language Arts (school subscriptions). (Grammarly)

**Gamification platforms** for engagement: Kahoot (free basic, \$10-49/month paid tiers), Quizizz (free basic, premium available), Gimkit (\$1,000/year school, \$650/year for 20 teachers), Duolingo for Schools (free), Classcraft (various pricing tiers).

**Authoring tools** for custom content: H5P (free, open-source, <https://h5p.org>), Hot Potatoes (free, web.uvic.ca/hrd/halfbaked/), LearnHip tools (free, learnhip.com), Twee AI (twee.com/tools).

**Free browser-based resources** for immediate use: British Council LearnEnglish ([learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar](http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar)), (British Council) ESL Lounge ([www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises.php](http://www.esl-lounge.com/student/grammar-exercises.php)), (esl-lounge) ESL Games Plus ([www.eslgamesplus.com](http://www.eslgamesplus.com)), GrammarBank ([www.grammarbank.com](http://www.grammarbank.com)), ESL Games World ([www.eslgamesworld.com](http://www.eslgamesworld.com)), Grammar Ninja ([www.playgrammarninja.com](http://www.playgrammarninja.com)), MES Games ([www.mes-games.com](http://www.mes-games.com)). (mit +2)

**University-developed OER:** Purdue OWL ([owl.purdue.edu](http://owl.purdue.edu)), (Cal Poly Humboldt) Michigan Corpus tools (MICUSP, MICASE), Guide to Grammar and Writing ([guidetogrammar.org](http://guidetogrammar.org)), eCampusOntario H5P Studio ([h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca](http://h5pstudio.ecampusontario.ca)). (Berkeley International Office) (The Writing Place)

**Research validates effectiveness:** Multiple studies document gamification's impact on engagement, learning outcomes, and long-term retention. Blended learning combining technology with face-to-face instruction consistently outperforms purely online or purely traditional approaches. (Academia.edu +3) Immediate feedback with explanations produces better results than delayed correction. (Common Sense Education +2) Personalization through adaptive systems addresses individual student needs effectively. (Coursera)

The transformation of remedial grammar instruction from rote memorization to interactive discovery represents a pedagogical revolution enabled by browser-based technologies. Universities leading this change demonstrate that grammar—traditionally the most disliked aspect of language learning—becomes engaging, effective, and even enjoyable when delivered through well-designed interactive experiences.