

Office of Teaching and Learning

Artificial Intelligence Translation for World Languages

What Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can educators use to facilitate translation in World Languages (WL)?

Technology, including AI, can support educators in WL instruction. AI tools can be particularly valuable in facilitating translation and supporting interpretive reading skills.

AI supports educators; it does not replace them. Thoughtful [pre-work](#) ensures the strategic and responsible integration of AI, aligning with educational goals. Prioritizing intellectual preparation before tool utilization is key to effectively leveraging these resources to enhance student outcomes.

How can AI translation tools support my instruction?

1. **Applications in Language Education:** AI translation has advanced significantly beyond simple literal translation, often lacking colloquialisms. Teachers can utilize AI as a thought partner to enhance instructional practices.
2. **Administrative Educator Tasks:** AI translation tools save teachers time on administrative tasks, such as translating communications for diverse language communities and translating curriculum materials to accommodate different language levels.
3. **Enhancing Engagement:** Teachers can enhance student engagement without requiring students to interact directly with the translation software. Additionally, by utilizing AI to adjust the language of materials or communications quickly, teachers can gain time to focus on providing individualized support and creating high-quality, tailored learning experiences that are inherently more engaging for students.

How should I prepare to use AI?

Preparing to use AI effectively and responsibly requires thoughtful pre-work. The resources below support several key areas that should be addressed as you prepare to integrate AI into your practice:

- [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#)
 - Ensures the strategic and responsible integration of AI, aligning with educational goals.
- [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework for Effective AI Prompting](#)
 - Offers a structured approach to designing effective AI prompts, which is essential for generating high-quality results from generative AI tools.
- Review [Digital Responsibility and AI \(Secondary Students\)](#) to prepare students to use AI.
 - Understanding digital responsibility is essential when using online tools, including AI.

What AI tools should I use?

When selecting an AI tool, teachers should be aware of the wide range of options available and consider what is already permitted within their school system. It is also important to review the tools currently available and determine whether they align with instructional needs.

An AI chatbot is a conversational tool that uses artificial intelligence to generate dialogue and respond to user inquiries. The technology utilizes machine learning to process and analyze large datasets, enabling the understanding of human language. Three of the most well-known AI chatbots are ChatGPT, Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot.



[Google Gemini](#)

Google Gemini, formerly known as Bard, is a generative AI chatbot developed by Google AI. It is a family of multimodal AI models that can process different types of data, including audio, images, code, text, and video. The Gemini chatbot serves as an interface for the underlying models and is being gradually integrated into other Google Workspace tools.



[Microsoft Copilot](#)

Microsoft Copilot is a generative AI chatbot from Microsoft. It's built on Microsoft's Prometheus model, which is based on OpenAI's GPT-4 series of LLMs. Copilot is designed to boost productivity by assisting with tasks such as drafting documents, analyzing data, and managing projects within Microsoft 365 apps, including Word, Excel, and Teams.



[ChatGPT](#)

ChatGPT is a generative AI chatbot developed by OpenAI. It can perform various tasks, such as answering questions, translating languages, solving math equations, and writing code. It's based on a large language model (LLM) that can mimic natural human conversation.

Sample AI Chatbot Prompts and World Language Instruction

Category	Potential Use Case
Content Creation and Adaptation	Developing Exercises & Quizzes: Utilize content generation capabilities to aid in developing straightforward translation exercises, quizzes, or other text-based activities. 💬 Example prompt: Create a short quiz (5 questions) testing students' understanding of irregular past-tense verbs in French. Include an answer key. 💬 Example prompt: Provide a short passage on the novice-high level in German describing a daily routine, and then generate a multiple-choice exercise where students choose the correct English translation for key vocabulary words. 💬 Example prompt: Design a translation activity for an intermediate German class focused on separable verbs. Include five sentences for translation and explain how Copilot's contextual understanding could help students with verb placement.

Deepening Language and Understanding	Generating Example Sentences: AI chat interfaces enable teachers to generate text, creating example sentences that demonstrate the use of specific vocabulary or grammatical structures in the target language, along with their translations, for student practice. 💬 Example Prompt: <i>Generate five example sentences on the intermediate-low level demonstrating the use of the subjunctive mood in Spanish, along with their English translations. Focus on common everyday situations.</i>
	If students work with longer texts, AI tools can provide them with summaries in the target language. 💬 Example prompt: <i>Summarize this 500-word article on climate change on the intermediate low level of simplified Chinese, highlighting the main arguments and conclusions.</i>
	Creating Parallel Texts: Generate short parallel texts (original and translation) for students to study and compare. 💬 Example prompt: <i>Generate five short parallel texts (original English and French translation) focusing on greetings and introductions. Students will study and compare these to understand common conversational phrases.</i>
	Explaining Nuanced Translations: Utilizing AI's contextual understanding can lead to more accurate and nuanced translations, including explanations of grammatical rules and contextual implications. 💬 Example prompt: <i>Explain the subtle differences in meaning and usage between 'saber' and 'conocer' in Spanish, providing example sentences for both. How would these differences impact their translation in different contexts?</i>
	Illustrating Different Expressions: AI can provide translations and, more importantly, explain the reasoning behind specific word choices or grammatical structures. Teachers could use it to describe different ways to express the same idea in the target language. 💬 Example prompt: <i>Translate the following sentence into English: 'Je me suis cassé la jambe en jouant au football.' Explain the grammatical structure of 'me suis cassé' and why it's used instead of a simple past tense.</i>
	Analyzing Translations: Design activities that involve students analyzing AI translations, identifying potential issues, and discussing why specific renderings might be more suitable 💬 Example prompt: <i>Compare the provided English and French translations of this Shakespearean sonnet. Identify any instances where ChatGPT's translation might differ from a more poetic or nuanced human translation. Explain why you think these differences exist.</i>

Interactive Learning	Create simple role-playing scenarios where students must translate phrases in context to enhance their language skills.  Example prompt: <i>You are a tourist in France trying to order food at a restaurant. I will provide you with phrases in English, and you need to translate them into French, explaining any cultural considerations for polite communication.</i>
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NotebookLM

[NotebookLM](#) (LM stands for “Language Model”) supports various languages.

- Upload and add sources from all supported languages, translate them, and even create audio and video overviews from the uploaded sources.

 **Example prompt:** *Upload this historical document in Latin. Translate the highlighted section on Roman governance and then provide a brief audio overview (in English) summarizing its main points.*
- Highlight sections within documents for translation or explanation.
- Analyze text data, identify key elements such as vocabulary, and provide translations.
- Process and compare text data to help users analyze translated versions of the exact text.

 **Example prompt:** *Compare the provided English translation of 'Don Quixote' with the original Spanish text. Highlight any discrepancies in meaning or nuance in Chapter 3 and explain potential reasons for the differences.*

For educators still seeking an AI tool to support instruction, this checklist provides guidance for selecting technology tools.

- ✓ **Consider the students and identify the instructional needs.**

 *Does this tool enhance the learning experience?*
- ✓ **Review current access to tools from the school system or school to determine if any tools meet the needs.**

 *Do I already have access to something that will suit my needs?*
- ✓ **Ensure the tool is compatible with the current EdTech ecosystem.**

 *Does this work on my network and with my device?*
- ✓ **Test the tool first to ensure user-friendliness and seamless integration.**

 *Will it be easy for students to learn how to use it?*
- ✓ **Ensure data privacy and security in EdTech tools to create a safe learning environment.**

 *Is it safe? Students should not be required to create accounts or enter any personally identifiable information.*

Appendix

This table lists AI tools that can support translation in World Language instruction. Consult your school system's technology guidelines to ensure compliance and access to specific AI tools.

Teacher Translation Tools	Description and usage notes
Magic School Text Translator	This resource empowers educators to translate texts into multiple languages, facilitating effective communication and accessibility for diverse language communities. It functions instantly in numerous languages.
Brisk Teaching Text Translator	Brisk is a free Chrome extension, developed by and for educators. It can generate teacher feedback, lesson plans, and assessments from the curriculum. Brisk can also instantly customize reading passages, adjusting levels and languages to tailor the difficulty level of reading materials for diverse classrooms.
DeepL	A free and advanced AI machine with unmatched translation capabilities. Copy and paste text or entire documents into this verified and exceptionally accurate translation tool, which supports over 32 languages.
Diffit for Teachers (Beta)	Diffit is an education-focused tool designed to support differentiation, offering free translation. The beta version available is free for teachers and is compliant with FERPA and COPPA regulations. Sign in/up, enter a question, topic, link, or text in the prompt box, and choose a grade level. Diffit will automatically populate the lesson, vocabulary, questions, etc. Choose the new language from the drop-down menu. Choose an export style (worksheet, graphic organizer, PDF, etc.)
Canva	Canva is easy to use, and the basic edition is free if the school system does not offer an educational version. However, the translation is less reliable. Open the document and select the text if necessary. Scroll down the menu bar on the left side of the screen to find “Translate,” then select the desired language. The adjusted layout of the translated text might require design adjustments.
Chat GPT	Free and easy but requires specific prompting, particularly when working in translation. Example Prompt: <i>“I want you to act as a professional translator and interpreter. I especially want you to be mindful of context and to pay close attention to multiple-meaning words and culture-specific references. Please translate it into *insert language*”.</i>
My Memory	The largest translation server globally, serving the European Union and the United Nations, is free to use and stores the PDFs created. It includes a public contribution feature to improve accuracy, but has a character limit of up to 10,000 words per day.

Teacher Translation Tools	Description and usage notes
Word vice	A writing proofreader and free grammar checker, it is driven by data and specifically designed for students and academic writers. Wordvice Editing Service backs it. It easily translates into 40 languages while suggesting style and grammar revisions. A limited free version is available. Note: It tends to misinterpret idioms and colloquialisms.
Mate Translate	A browser extension is available on any platform with internet access. It is highly accurate in over 100 languages, can save common phrases, and offers synonyms. It can instantly translate entire web pages, but it is not always seamless with every site.
Linguee	This AI translation tool combines translation services of 234 languages with comprehensive bilingual dictionaries, presenting users with accurate translations and examples of translated phrases.
Papago	This tool excels at translating Asian languages, such as Korean, Japanese, and Chinese. It is also free and features a simple, user-friendly interface.
Hey Gen	Video translation that instantly changes the speaking language with voice match. Unlike other video translations, it does not dub; it seamlessly matches the new language's tone, inflections, and facial expressions. For the camera-shy, try selecting an Avatar and uploading a script. Start a new project. Upload the video and choose the desired language.