

# Tech Tools For April Fools!

By Lorrie Jackson

## WHY A TECHTORIAL?

### What will I learn today?

You will learn four tech tricks and tips to celebrate April Fool's Day.

### What hardware and/or software does the techtorial apply to?

The techtorial applies to any computer with an Internet connection.

### Which National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers does the techtorial address?

The techtorial will help teachers accomplish standards II and III in particular.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has developed a set of National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Standards or Performance Indicators are included for each techtorial to help teachers and administrators improve technology proficiency. For a complete description of the standards indicated, go to [NETS for Teachers](#), click Standards in the menu bar on the left, and then click the arrow to the right of Standards and Performance Indicators for Teachers.

## TECH TOOLS FOR APRIL FOOLS

For most of the year, we teach students to act maturely and responsibly when using computers -- and we strive to set a good example. Once a year, however, we like to have some safe, educational fun with technology.

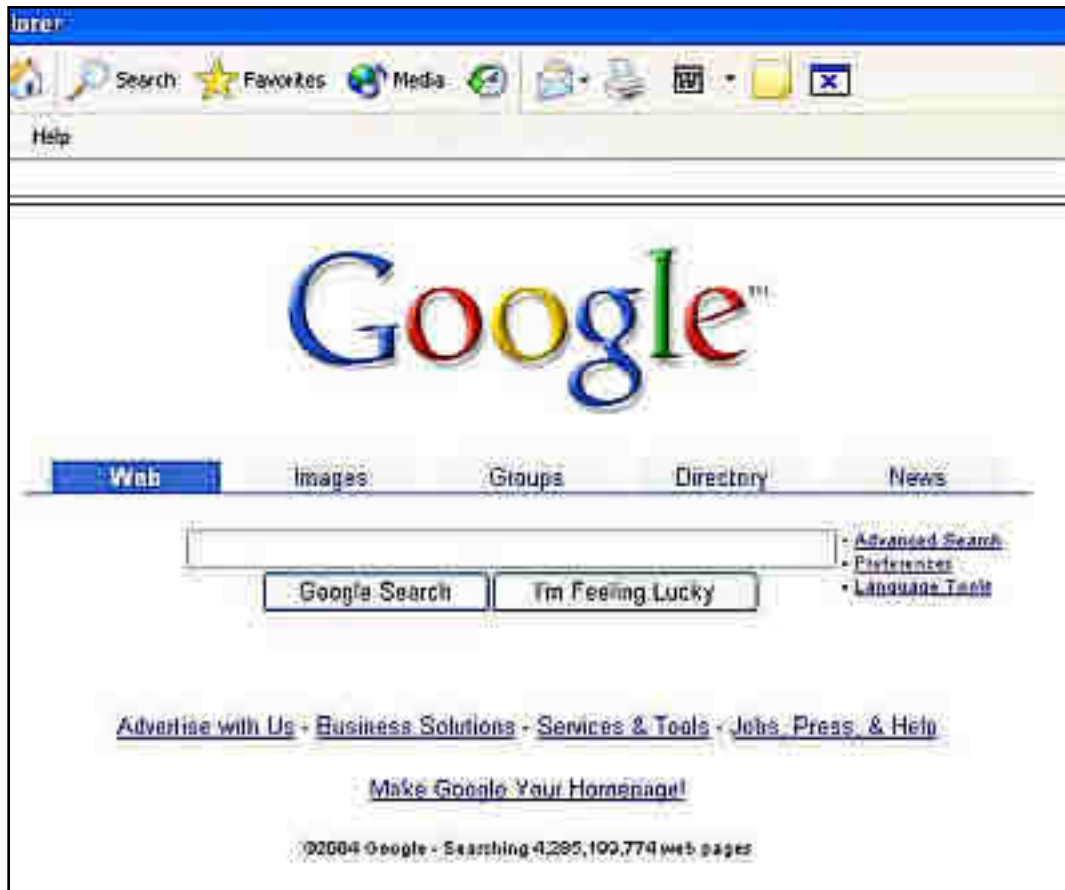
In this techtorial, you'll find four tech tricks you can play on your students on April Fools Day.

### TECH TRICK #1: GOOGLE BABBLE!

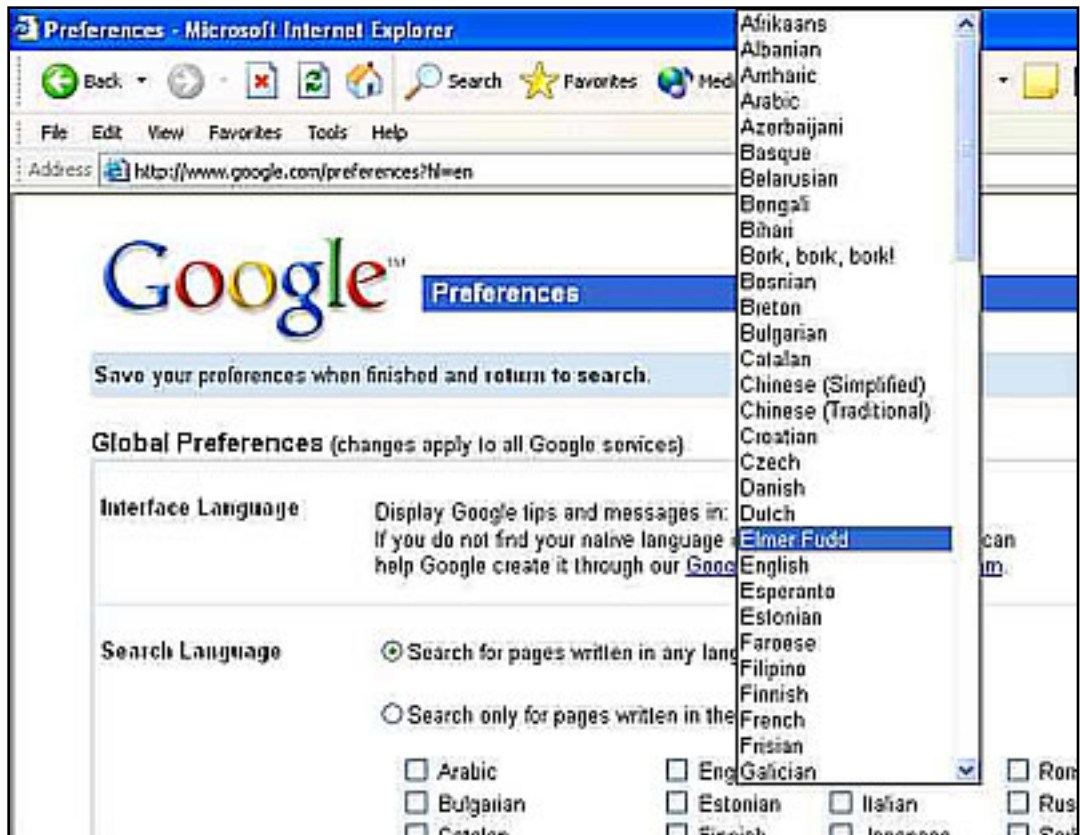
This tech trick uses Google's language preferences to translate its search engine page from English to Gaelic or Russian or Klingon or...

Imagine trying to search the Web using the Google search engine, only to find that Google has gone a little, well ... crazy! To pull this prank

- Open Internet Explorer.
- Go to [Google](#).
- Click **Preferences** to the right of the search blank.



- The first option on the Preferences page allows you to choose the Interface Language used on Google's home page. Click the drop-down menu and select Elmer Fudd.



- Click Save Preferences, and then click OK.

## FUDD SEARCH

You're now back on the Google home page. Do you notice anything different?



The directions on Google's home page now are in Elmer Fudd language! That language preference is saved on the computer; anytime anyone uses that computer to search Google, the home page will appear in Elmer Fudd-ese.

### **Prank Fix**

To return Google's language to English, click Preferences and select English from the drop-down menu.

### **Educational Use**

If a student in your class speaks a language other than English, you can use Preferences to set the Google page to his or her language, *and* to choose to receive only search results written in that language.

## **TECH TRICK #2: FOOLED BY THE WEB!**

Fool your students while teaching them a valuable lesson in information literacy. Invite students in grades 6 -12 to

- visit the [DHMO](#) (Dihydrogen Monoxide) home page.
- click the Dihydrogen Monoxide FAQ on the left of the main page to read about the dangers of DHMO.
- take notes on the dangers of Dihydrogen Monoxide.
- participate in a discussion on how to publicize this little known threat.

Following the discussion, ask students to provide the more common name for Dihydrogen Monoxide. If no one volunteers, explain to students that the more common name for DMHO is H<sub>2</sub>O --or plain old water!

### **Prank Fix**

None needed.

### **Educational Use**

This lesson can serve as the introduction to a unit on evaluating Web sites. For more information on media literacy, see the following Education World resources:

- [Improving Media Literacy](#) techtorial

- [Fact, Fiction, or Opinion? Evaluating Online Information](#)
- [Teaching About Web Literacy](#)
- [Understanding the Hype: Media Literacy: An Education World e-Interview With Catherine Gourley](#)
- [Media Literacy Clearinghouse site review](#)

### **TECH TRICK #3: TEACHER CREATURE**

Now that you've tricked your students, why not give them a chance to poke a little fun at you too -- by making you look like the monster you sometimes feel like.

First, ask a colleague to use a digital camera to take a picture of you, and save the picture to your Desktop.



Then, have each student

- right-click the picture and select Open with>Paint.



- click the paintbrush and choose a color.
- draw on the picture to turn it into a picture of a monster!



Print the monster pictures and display them in the classroom for April Fool's Day!

### Prank Fix

None required.

## Educational Use

Use the Paint tool to add to digital photos directions on pictures of locations, dialogue on photographed actions, and so on.

### **TECH TRICKS #4: MORE APRIL FOOL'S DAY FUN**

Invite students to celebrate April Fool's Day with some more classroom activities found on the Web.

- [Yahooligans](#) offers April Fool's Day eCards that students can send to one another.
- Read about the Great American Prank Contest at Disney Family Fun's [April Fool's](#) page.
- Print some [MadLibs](#) and invite students to create silly stories.
- Read aloud -- or encourage students to read -- [April Fooled](#) and invite students to share with their classmates pranks they have played on their families.