

# Survey:

# Mobile learning for English language teachers

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# Mobile learning for English language teachers

## About this survey

The purpose of this survey was to ascertain the level of awareness and openness to mobile learning among English language teachers. I also wanted to find out to what degree and how teachers were already using mobile learning both in their teaching and professional development and to establish whether they would be willing to pay for and use mobile content. The survey also collected information about the teachers' existing access to mobile services and the kinds of device they are using to get access to mobile Internet.

The survey was carried out during June and July of 2010. The survey was answered by over 500 English language teachers.

The results of this survey were collected online using a web based survey site called SurveyMonkey.com. The online survey was distributed through:

- MY Twitter Network (3k teachers world wide)
- The British Council's ELTeCS list (15k teachers world wide)
- A number of email based ELT discussion lists (these are long established lists from around the world. They are teaching rather than technology focused)

The respondents are likely to be early technology adopters as they are mostly people who are already involved in some form of online teaching network. However the majority of the networks used to distribute the survey were not focused on the use or discussion of technology in teaching, but are mainly forum to discuss mainstream teaching.

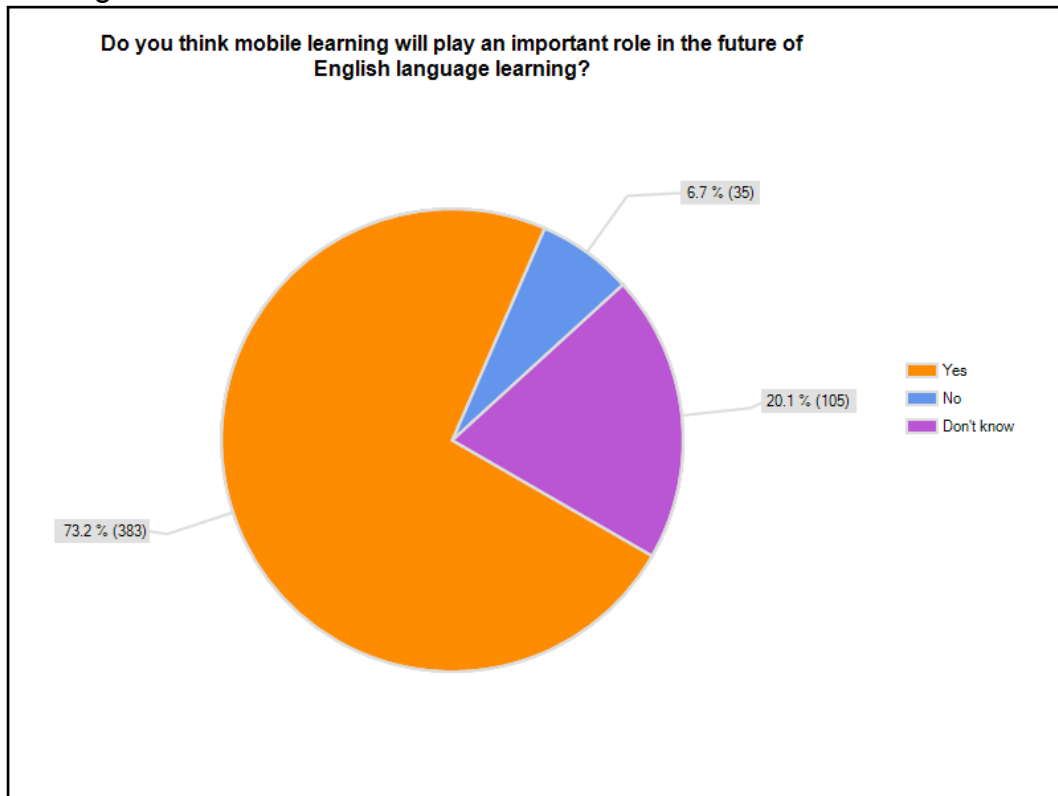
## Questions and analysis

For complete results and comments see <http://tinyurl.com/3ayyhn>

### Do you think mobile learning will play an important role in the future of English language learning?

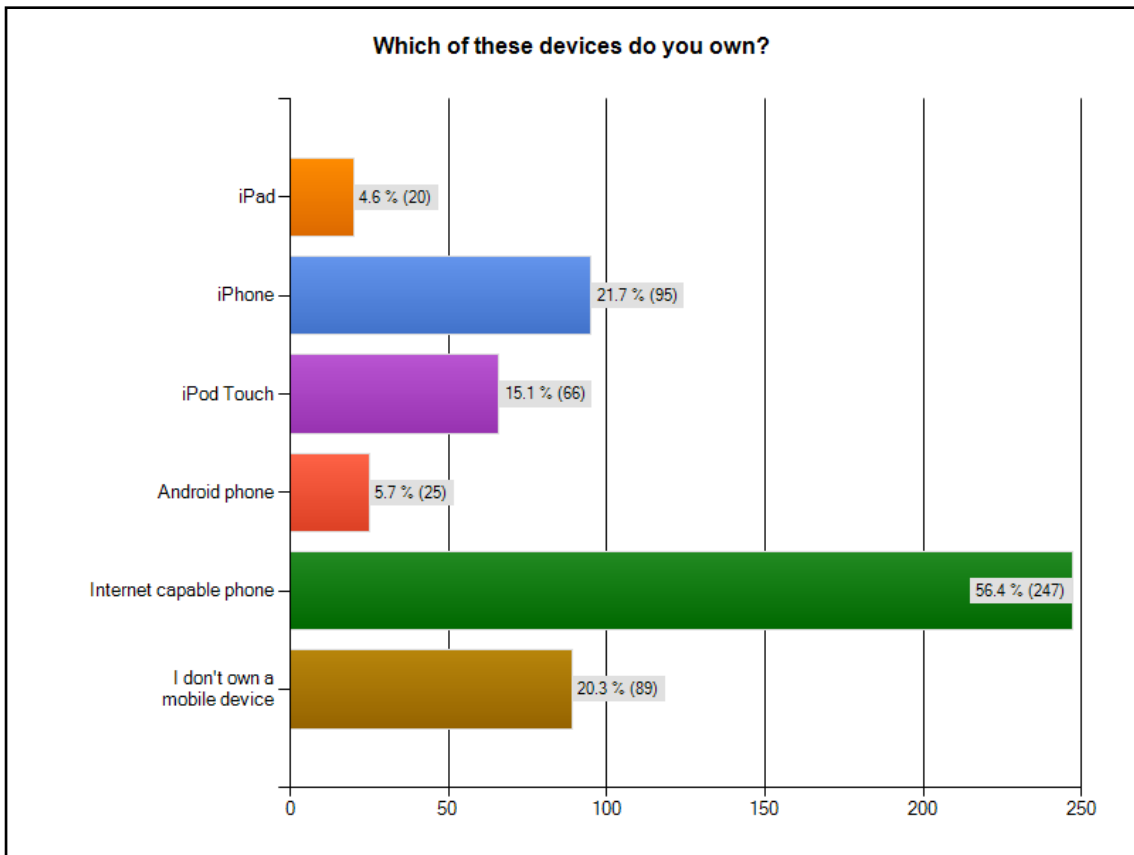
The respondents were asked about their perceived importance of mobile learning in the future of language teaching and learning.

The results show a very strong acknowledgement and awareness of the importance of mobile learning.



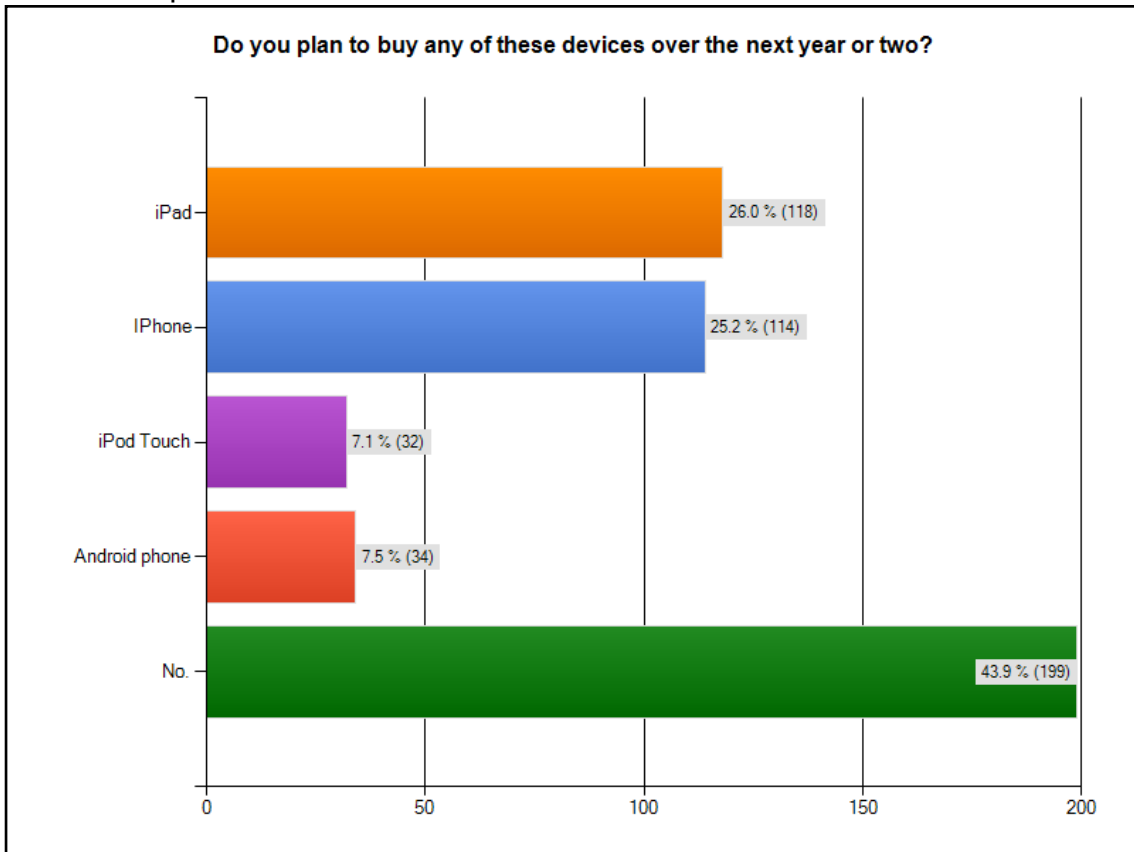
### Which mobile devices do you own?

Respondents were asked what types of mobile devices they owned. Surprisingly only 20% did not already own a mobile device which would be capable of accessing the internet either through wireless or mobile connection. Also 45% already own devices that are capable of downloading and running sophisticated interactive software applications.



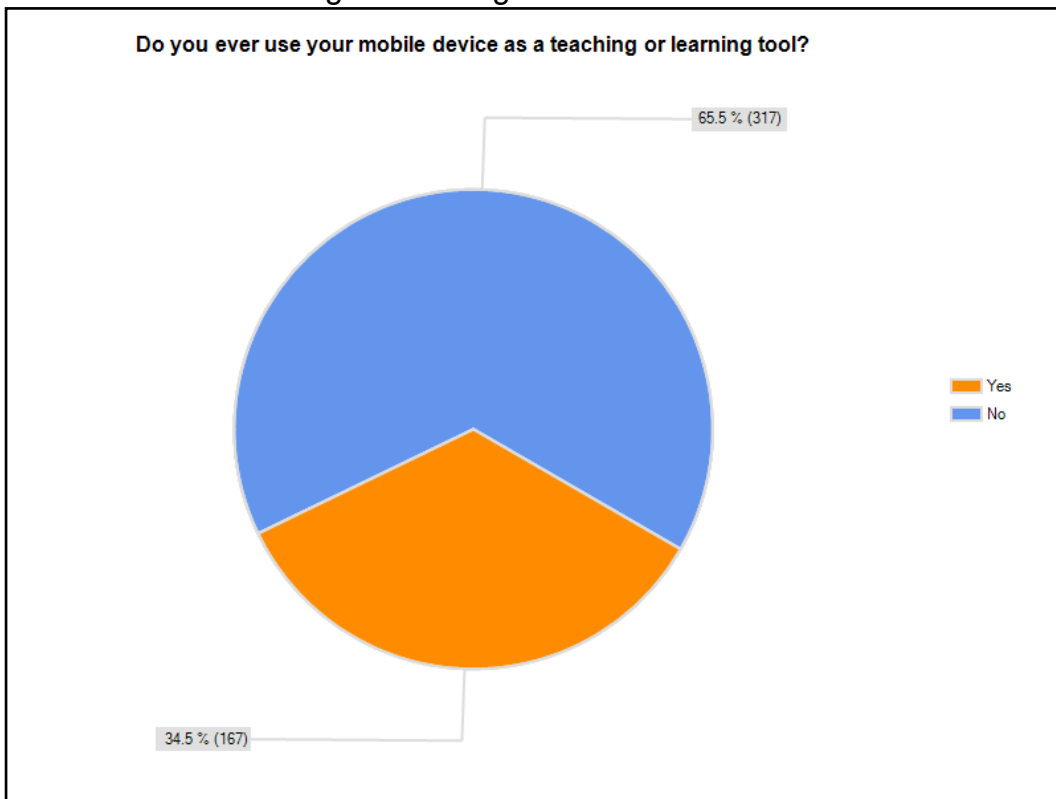
**Which mobile device(s) do you plan to buy?**

Respondents were asked if they planned to buy any kind of mobile device in the near future. More than half responded positively with the majority of these considering either iPad or iPhone options.



### Do you ever use your mobile device as a teaching or learning tool?

Respondents were asked about their present use of mobile learning. Despite the large number of teachers that have quite sophisticated mobile devices, only 34% reported that they had used them for learning or teaching.



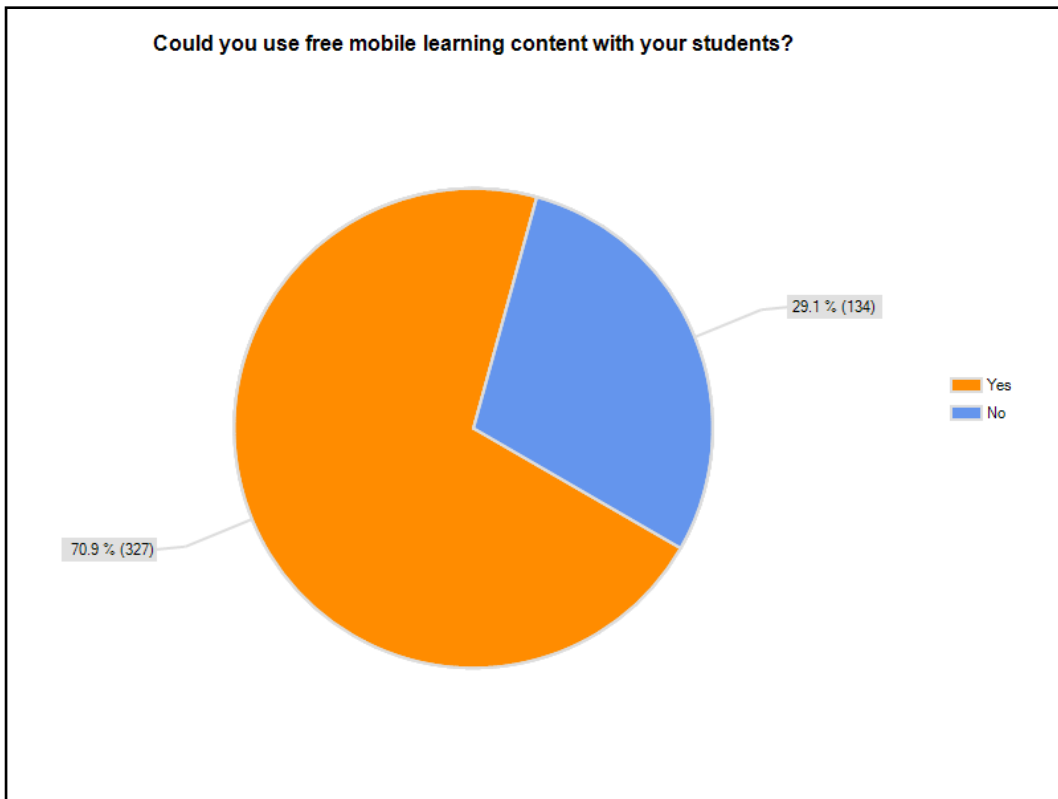
Teachers reported a wide variety of different ways they use mobile learning with their students these included:

- Listening to podcasts and video casts
- Recording speaking for pronunciation
- Using online dictionaries
- Sending words and definitions vis SMS
- Accessing relevant video or audio in class

The complete set of responses can be seen at question 4. <http://tinyurl.com/3ayyhn>

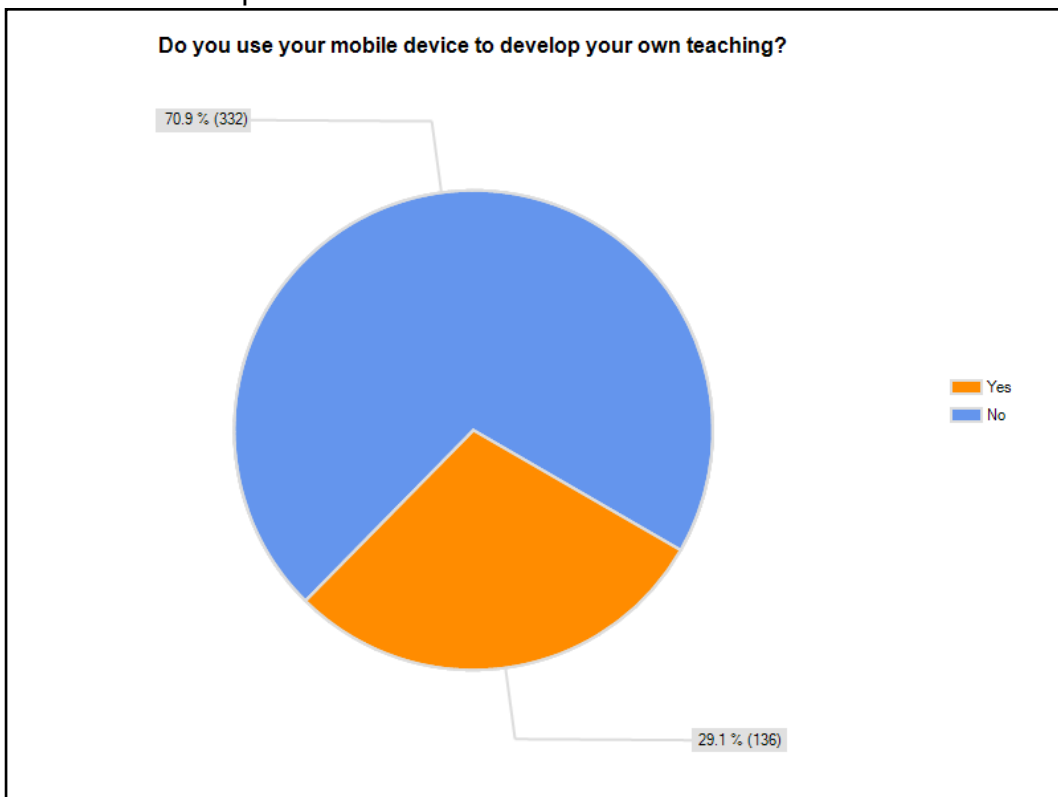
### Could you use free mobile learning content with your students?

Respondents were asked if they could use free learning content with students. More than 70% responded positively to this question. Many had reservations about mobile connection costs and the variety of devices their students used, as well as the fact that mobile use among their students wasn't totally ubiquitous.



**Do you use your mobile device to develop your own teaching?**

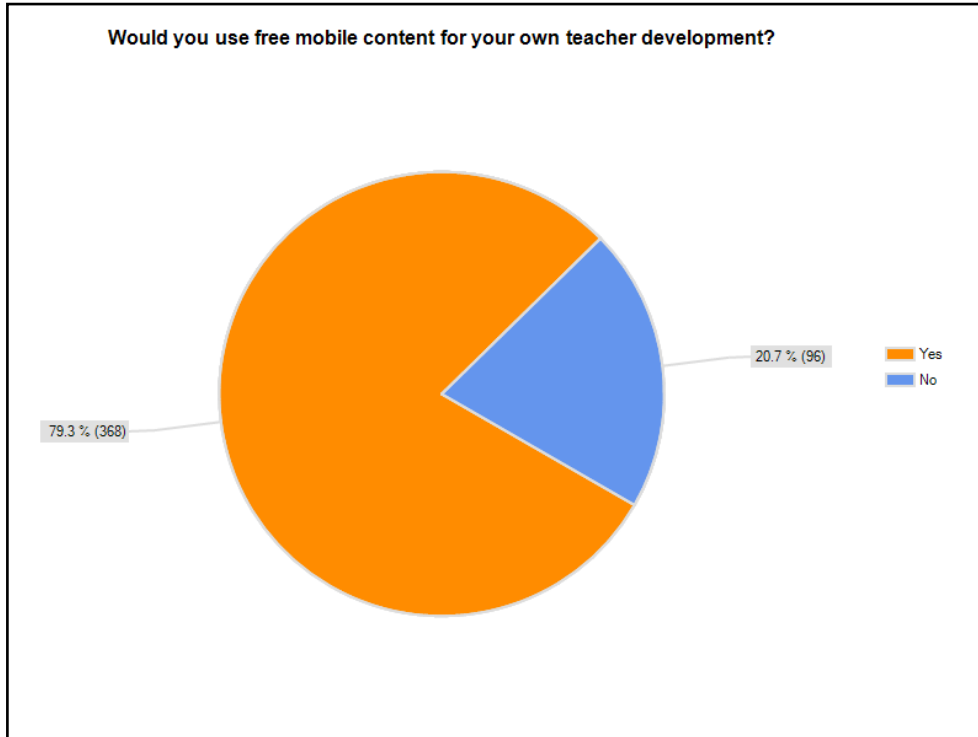
Teachers were asked if they used their mobile device to develop their own teaching. Again despite the number of teachers that possess mobile devices, less than 30% use them to support their own development.



The most common uses of mobile devices for teacher development seems to be to keep in touch with other teachers through services like Twitter, to read articles on the move and to locate information and resources.

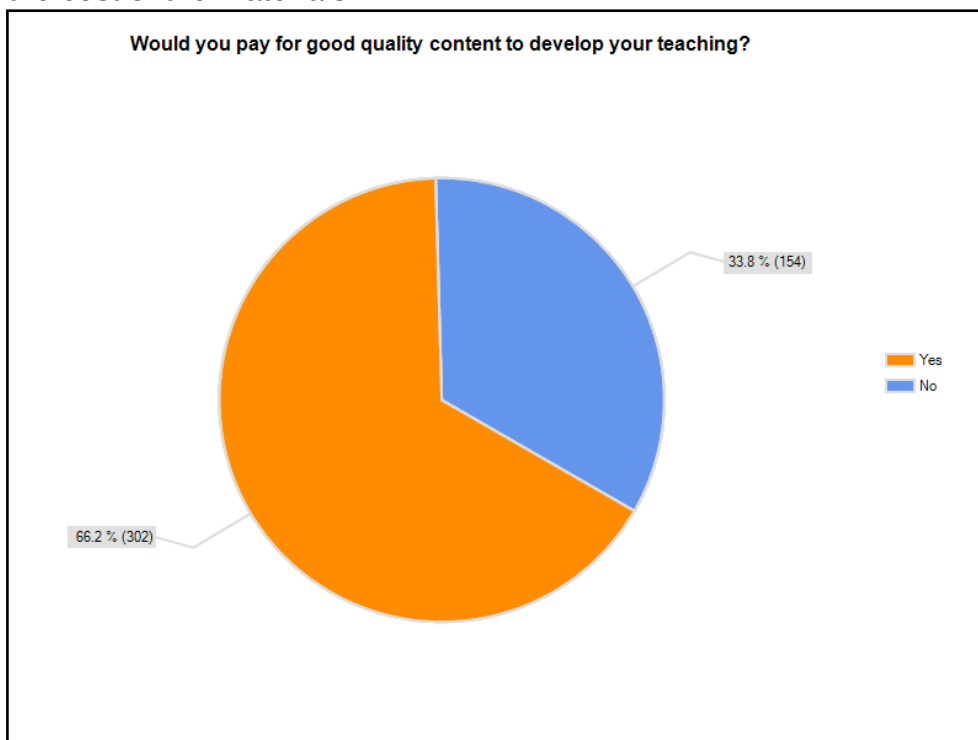
### Would you use free mobile content to develop your own teaching?

Respondents were asked if they would use free mobile content for their own teacher development. Almost 80% responded positively to this question.



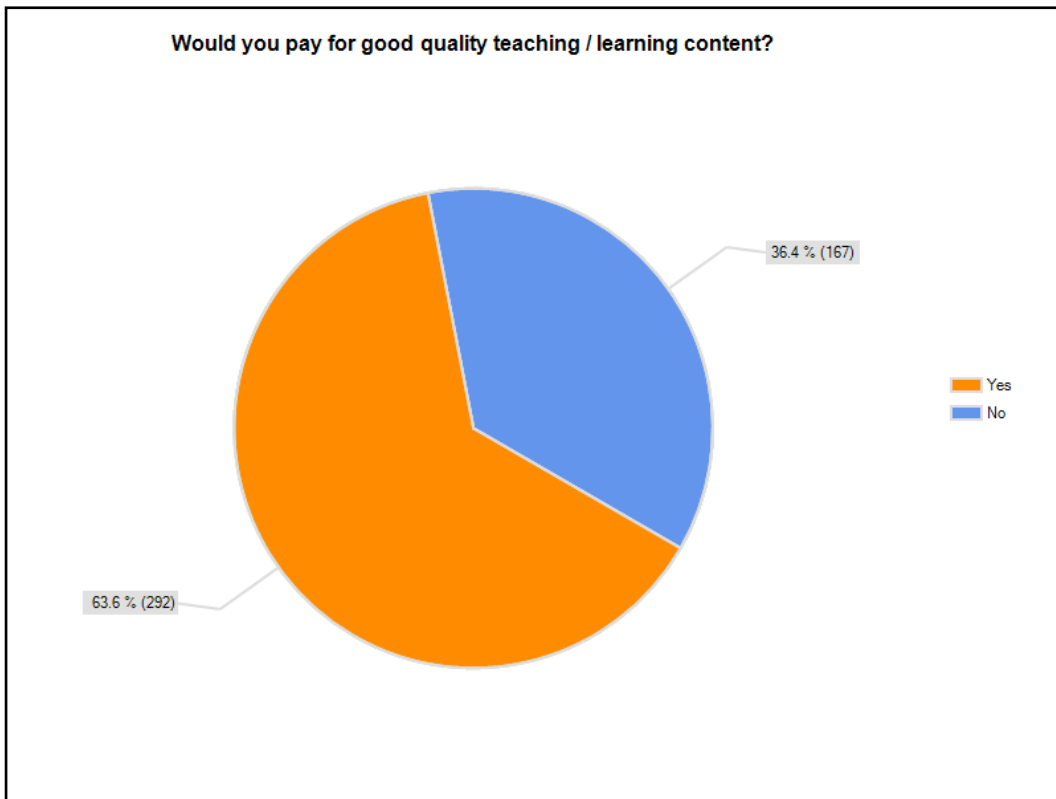
### Would you pay for good quality content to develop your teaching?

When asked if they would be prepared to pay for good quality teacher development content the response level dropped a little but was still very positive at around 66% of respondents. The main worries seem to centre around costs, and means of payment as many teachers around the world don't have access to hard currency accounts even if they can afford the cost of the materials.



### Would you pay for good quality teaching / learning content?

Respondents were asked if they would be prepared to pay for materials to use with learners. Again the response was positive with 63% of respondents saying they would be willing to pay for good quality materials.

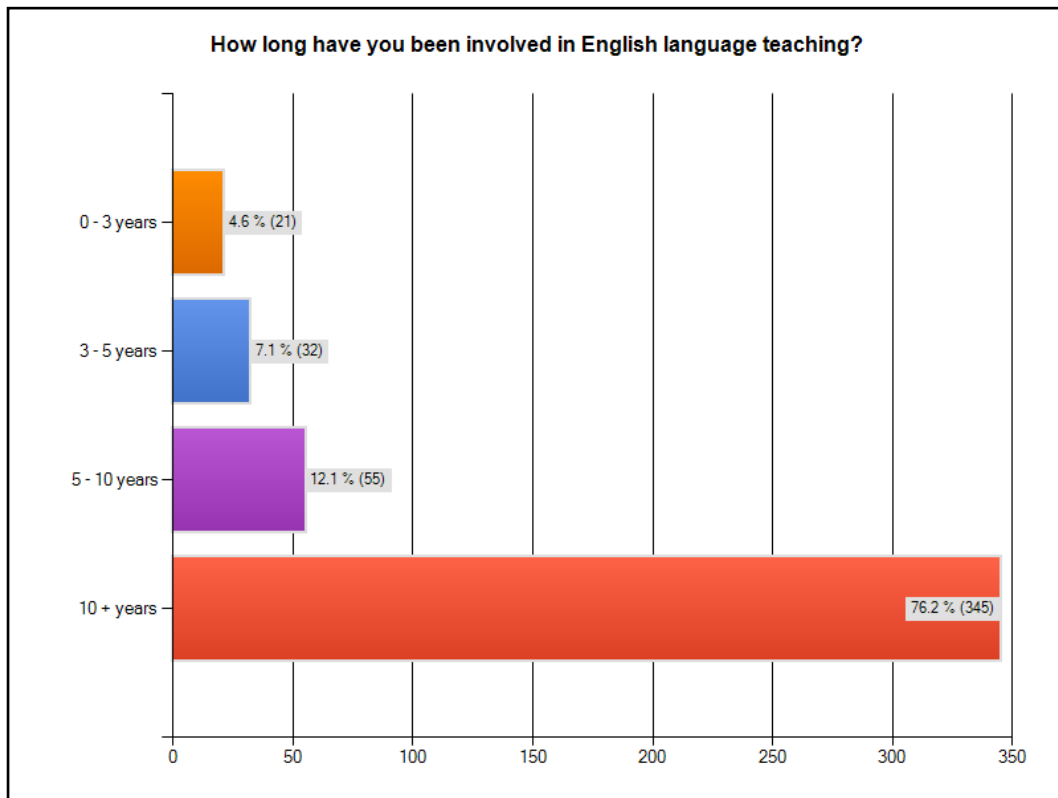


The main worries seem to be connected with costs of delivery and concerns about who should pay for the content, the teachers, the students or the school or institution they work for.

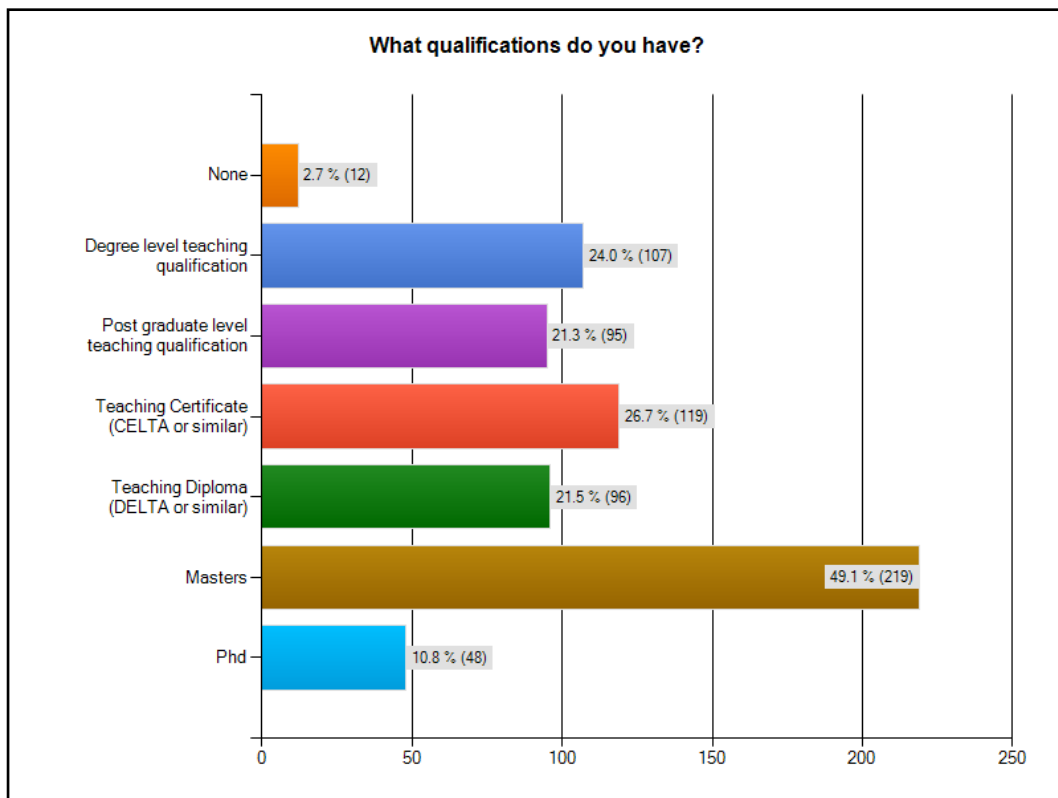


## Respondent profile

The teachers who responded to this questionnaire have mostly been teaching for 10 years or more with only 10% having less than 5 years experience. This shows that the use of new technologies and positive attitudes to them is by no means restricted to younger 'digital native' teachers, but is widely accepted within the more mature established teaching community.



The majority of respondents are also clearly already very well qualified with the majority having postgraduate level or higher qualifications.



## Summary conclusions

The survey shows that

- a large percentage of teachers already have access to mobile internet services.
- many teachers are already attempting to exploit mobile resources and capabilities for teaching and learning purposes.
- many teachers are planning to acquire more powerful mobile devices in the near future
- most teachers have confidence in the role mobile learning will play in the future of language teaching and learning.
- at present there is a scarcity of appropriate learning and teaching content for language teaching and professional development.
- teachers are willing to pay for good quality mobile content and resources.
- teachers are worried about connection fees and potential costs to themselves and students of downloading materials via mobile access.

I believe this survey shows that there is a clear and commercially viable opportunity for any ELT publisher wishing to invest in the development of mobile teaching and learning content.