Where teachers hang out online, and what they go there for

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The ten places teachers spend time online in 2026, from Teachers Pay Teachers to r/Teachers, and the one job each does that a school's own tools don't.

Teachers don't spend their online time in one place. They split it across about ten, and each place does one job: finding a lesson, sharing a rough day, running a quiz, reaching parents, or making a poster. This post goes through the ten, says what each is for, and points out what the pattern means for anyone who builds things for classrooms. It is a companion to our list of ten sites teachers use most.

One caution first. We could not find a trustworthy 2026 visit count for most of these sites, and the public ranking pages disagree with each other, so this post gives no ranking by traffic. Where a figure appears, it names its source and is an estimate. Treat it as the size of a crowd, not a score.

The five jobs

- Job: Find something to teach tomorrow · Where teachers do it: Teachers Pay Teachers, Twinkl, Pinterest, YouTube
- Job: Run the class · Where teachers do it: Google Classroom, ClassDojo
- Job: Make it look good · Where teachers do it: Canva for Education
- Job: Check understanding as a game · Where teachers do it: Kahoot!, Wayground (formerly Quizizz)
- Job: Talk to other teachers · Where teachers do it: r/Teachers, Facebook groups

What each one is for

Teachers Pay Teachers is the marketplace. Third-party guides put it at over 7 million educators, most of them US PreK–12, with close to a million sellers; those are unverified, so read them loosely. The news this autumn is on the seller side: on 1 October 2026 it closed its Premium seller tier to new sellers and replaced it with an Exclusive tier, and a petition from sellers followed. Teachers here are shopping for a ready-made unit, and the work they trade is a lot of free printables as well as paid ones.

Google Classroom is where assignments live for most US schools. In 2026 Google added Gemini to it: lesson plans, rubrics, quizzes and feedback drafts for teachers, and later a student side. Teachers don't "hang out" here so much as live in it, which is why every other tool tries to plug into it.

Reddit's r/Teachers is the staff room. A third-party tracker listed it at about 2.4 million members in October 2026. People go for venting, classroom-management advice, contract questions and "is it just me?" posts. It is the place teachers say what they really think of a tool.

YouTube is where teachers learn how. A 2026 Teacher Tapp report found it the most-used work platform among teachers (36%), while 39% used no social media for work and X had fallen to about 10%. Teachers watch a short video on how to run a routine or fix a problem, then go build it.

Pinterest and Facebook groups are the older hangouts: Pinterest for bulletin boards, anchor charts and printables, and grade-level Facebook groups for swapping files and asking "anyone have a good…?" We found no reliable 2026 numbers for either, so we can't say how big they are now. Their shape is clear, though: visual pinning in one, small closed groups in the other.

Canva for Education is where teachers make the thing. It is free for eligible K–12 teachers and students, and it is the usual answer to "how did you make that poster?"

ClassDojo is the line to families: class stories, messages with translation and a behaviour tracker. Reviewers like the parent communication and complain about upgrade prompts.

Kahoot! and Wayground run the review game. Kahoot! is better for a live burst on a projector; Wayground suits self-paced practice or homework. Reviewers report some features moving behind a subscription, so the free version a teacher learned on may not be the one next year's class gets.

Twinkl is the UK-born library, now sold worldwide. Sources vary, but the library is on the order of a million resources, and it also has a tool, Twinkl Create, for making your own.

What the pattern says

- A teacher's "no" is usually about time. Every place above exists to save an evening. A tool that asks for a roster, a login and a staff meeting before it saves anything loses to one that works on first click.
- Sharing is a feature. Teachers pass things along: a file in a group, a link in a thread, a Pin. A page that can be sent in one link travels; one behind a sign-in doesn't.
- Printing still matters. The two biggest marketplaces sell printables first.
- Trust is earned in the open. The most honest reviews of any tool are on Reddit and in group threads, not on the vendor's site.
- Money is a worry. Seller fees at TPT, features moving behind paywalls at the quiz sites and "upgrade" nudges in ClassDojo all show up in teacher conversation.

Where Peabody fits

Peabody Teach has free bingo and rubric makers, timers, group makers and printables, none of which needs an account. Beside them, Peabody is a place for children: stories read aloud at their level and games. Everything is free through the end of 2026. We built Teach for the first-click rule above, and we are still learning what teachers ask for, so tell us what is missing.

Sources

- Third-party trackers and guides for r/Teachers (October 2026), Teachers Pay Teachers (user and seller counts, 2026) and Twinkl (resource and customer counts), read 6 November 2026. All are estimates.
- Teacher Tapp, report on teachers' use of social media for work, 2026.
- Google Workspace Updates blog, January to August 2026, on Gemini in Classroom.
- Capterra and G2 listings for ClassDojo, Kahoot! and Wayground, 2026.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/where-teachers-hang-out-online