

Basic eLearning ToolSet (BELTS)

Student's Guide

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Basic eLearning ToolSet (BELTS): Student's Guide

by Greg Jones

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Part I. Introduction to BELTS

Chapter 1. About BELTS

The Basic E-Learning Tool Set (BELTS) has been developed by The Le@rning Federation (TLF) [<http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au>] to demonstrate the distribution, management and use of online curriculum content and to aid investigation of requirements for e-learning environments by Australian and New Zealand school jurisdictions.

BELTS currently provides a limited set of tools, including:

- A content repository;
- Basic activity creation, using lessons;
- Basic group management, using classes;
- Content to curriculum outcomes matching (the curriculum organiser);
- Downloading of content from The Le@rning Federation's Exchange repository of online curriculum content;
- Content replication from one BELTS to another, and
- System administration.



Note

BELTS has currently not been developed as a fully featured learning management system. BELTS is, however, an open source project that can be further developed. The Le@rning Federation encourages Australian and New Zealand education jurisdictions, and others, to consider options for collaborating and contributing to the evolution of BELTS. For more information about the project and how you can participate visit the BELTS project web site [<http://belts.sourceforge.net>]

Chapter 2. About The Le@rning Federation

The Le@rning Federation [<http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au>], is an initiative delivered on behalf of the Australian Education Systems Officials Committee (AESOC) by a joint venture of education.au limited [<http://www.educationau.edu.au>] and Curriculum Corporation [<http://www.curriculum.edu.au>]

In January 2001, as part of the Backing Australia's Ability: Innovation Action Plan [<http://backingaus.innovation.gov.au>] the Prime Minister announced funding of \$34.1 million over 5 years to support the Initiative to:

- Develop a body of high-quality curriculum content, suitable to each State and Territory;
- Develop a framework which supports distributed access;
- In the long term, use the framework and content to stimulate further contribution to the pool of material.

In July 2001, all Australian States and Territories agreed to match the Commonwealth funds. Following this, New Zealand joined in the Initiative.

Part II. Role Description

Chapter 3. Student

This chapter provides a brief overview of the BELTS functions available to Students.

3.1. The Student Role

The Student has the following functions in the BELTS system:

- the ability to view lessons

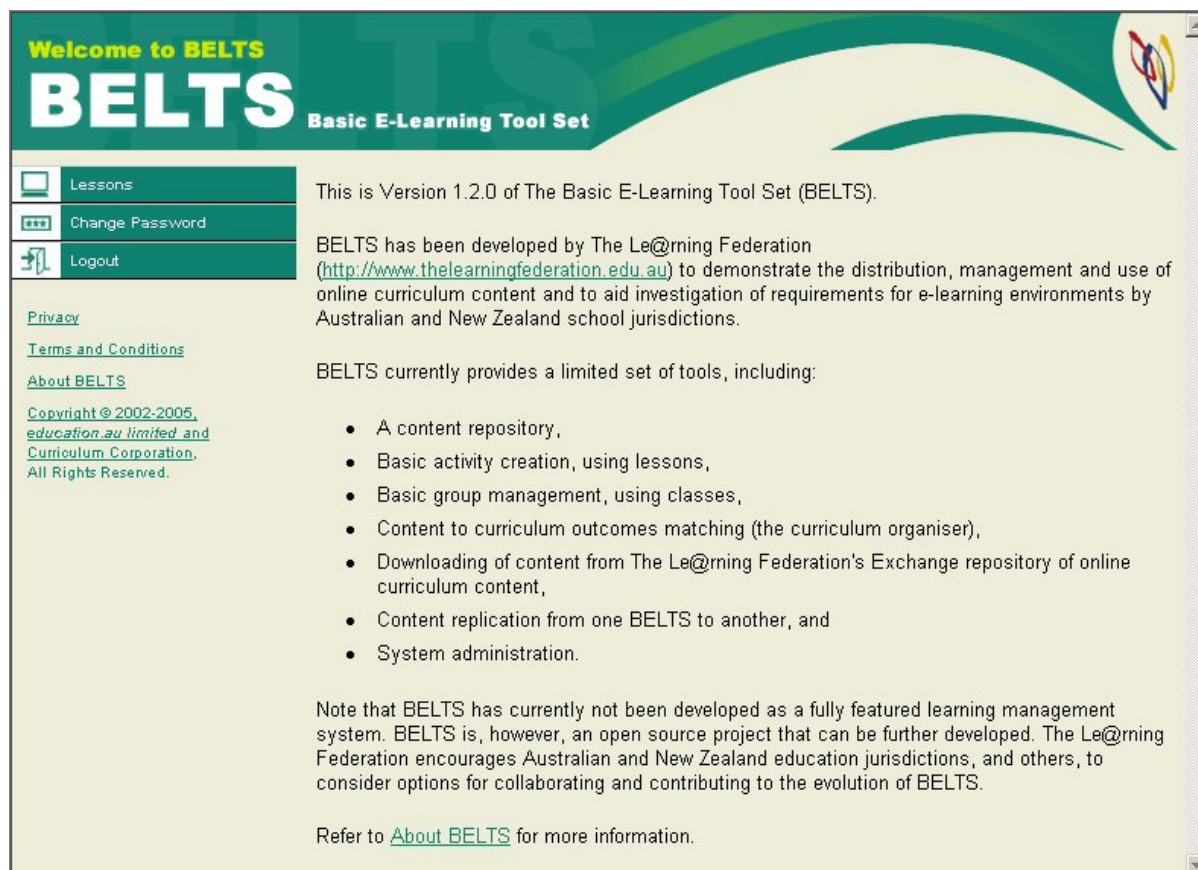


Figure 3.1. Student Main Screen

3.1.1. Common Functions

Common functions available to the Student include:

- Login to BELTS [8]
- Logout from BELTS [9]
- Change Password [9]

3.1.2. Lesson Management Functions

Lesson management functions available to the Student include:

- [List Available Lessons \[11\]](#)
- [View a Lesson \[11\]](#)

Part III. Student Functions

Chapter 4. Common Functions

This chapter provides a brief overview of the common functions available to students in BELTS.

4.1. Login to BELTS

In order to use BELTS, you must login. In order to login, you must supply a valid username and password. You should have received an email from your BELTS system when you were registered by your administrator. If you do not have a username and password, please contact your BELTS administrator.

Procedure 4.1. Login to BELTS

1. Open the BELTS site at the URL supplied by your administrator.

The Login screen is displayed



Figure 4.1. BELTS Login Screen

2. Enter your username and password. If you have been given a lesson login, enter "l=" followed by the login id.
3. Select **Login** to login to the BELTS system.
4. If your username and password have been entered correctly, you are logged-in to BELTS and the Main window, or the appropriate lesson is displayed.

You can now use BELTS. The BELTS Main window allows you to perform a number of functions. Please refer to the Student [5] section for more information on the functions available to you.

4.2. Logout from BELTS

Logging out of BELTS removes any information about your session in the browser. In order to logout of BELTS, you need to have logged in using the Login to BELTS [8] function.

Procedure 4.2. Logout from BELTS

- From the BELTS main screen, select the **Logout** option from the BELTS Main menu.

4.3. Change Password

This function allows you to change your BELTS password.

Procedure 4.3. Change Password

1. Within the BELTS window, select **Change Password** from the menu.

The Change Password screen is displayed

Belts >

Change Password

- Users
- Classes
- School Administration
- Change Password**
- Logout

Current Password:

New Password:

Confirm New Password:

A password may contain the characters a to z, A to Z, 0 to 9, !, @, #, \$, %, ^, &, * (or) and must be at least 5 characters long.

Cancel Save

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Figure 4.2. Change Password Screen

2. Enter your existing password in the **Current Password** field.
3. Enter your new password in the **New Password** field.
4. Re-enter your new password in the **Confirm New Password** field.
5. Select **Save** to save your new password.

An email notification will be sent to you to confirm that your password has been changed.

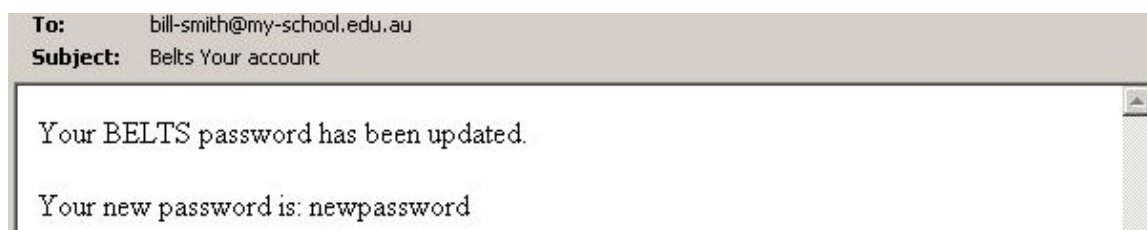


Figure 4.3. Password Changed Email

6. Select **Cancel** to leave your password unchanged.

At the end of this procedure, you will be returned to the BELTS Main Screen.

Chapter 5. Lesson Management Functions

This chapter provides a brief overview of the lesson management functions available to students in BELTS.

5.1. List Available Lessons

The Lesson list provide you with a list of the lessons available to you.

Procedure 5.1. List Lessons

- Within the BELTS window, select **Lessons** from the menu.

The Lesson List is displayed

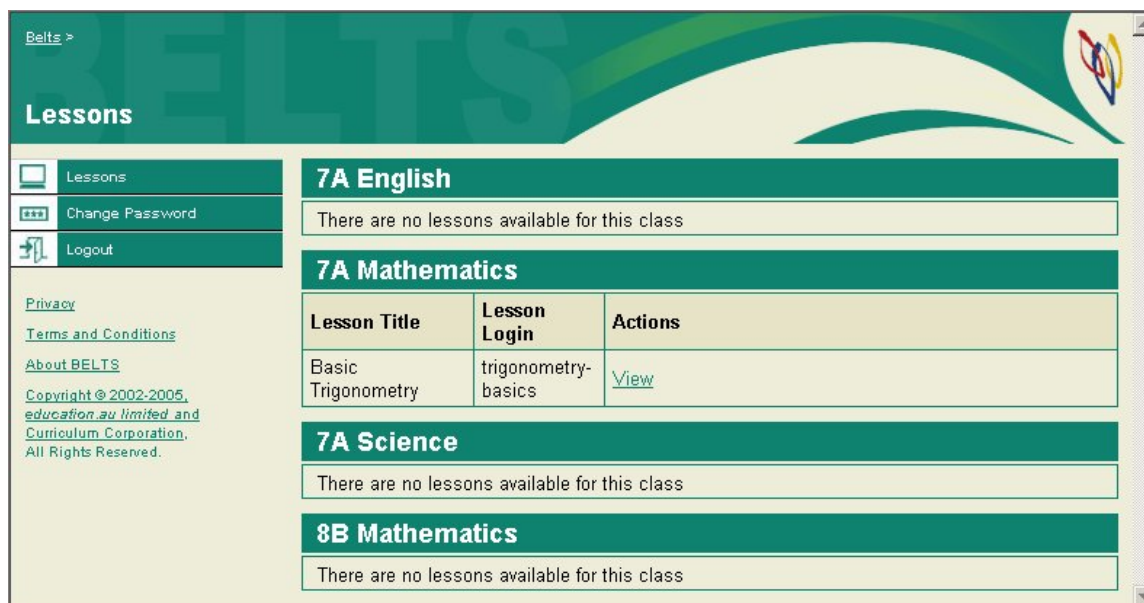


Figure 5.1. Lesson List Screen

From this point, the following actions may be performed:

- Select the **View** link for a lesson to perform the **View a Lesson [11]** function.

5.2. View a Lesson

This function allows you to view a lesson in its entirety or the individual items in a lesson.

Procedure 5.2. View a Lesson from the Lesson List

1. From the **List Available Lessons [11]** function, select the **View** link for a lesson.

The View Lesson Screen is displayed.

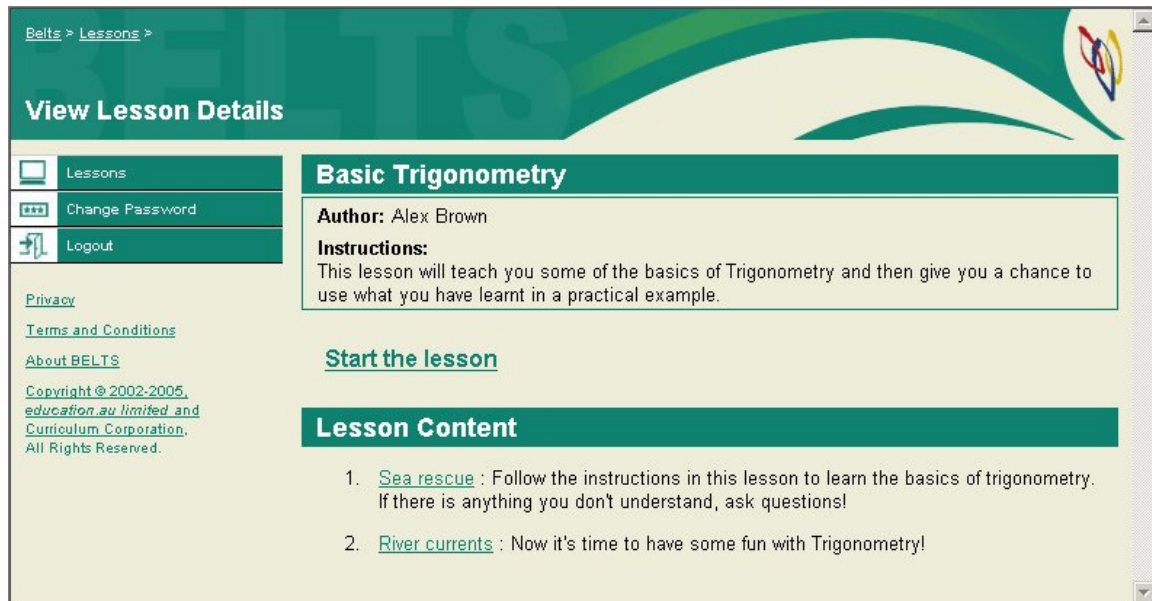


Figure 5.2. View Lesson Screen

This screen contains a list of the items in the lesson, as well as information about the lesson author and any instructions the author may have written to help you get started with the lesson.

2. Select the **Start the Lesson** link to start the lesson.

The lesson is displayed in a new window

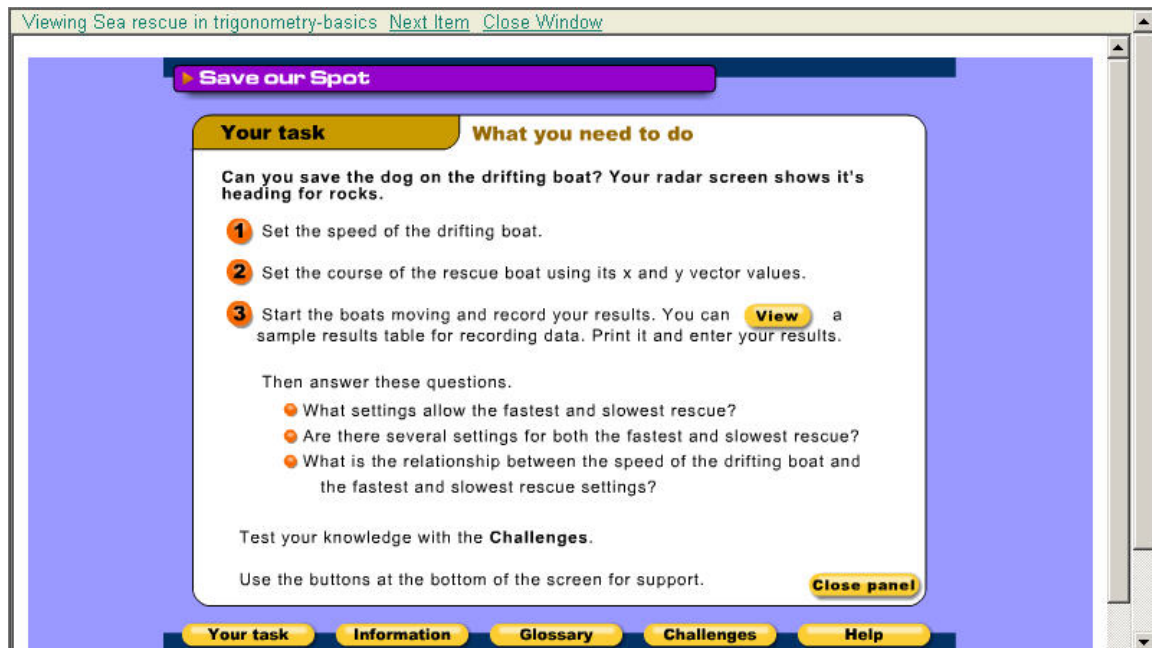


Figure 5.3. Lesson Screen

To view the lesson, follow the instructions provided by the lesson being viewed. Select the **Next Item** link

to move to the next lesson item, the **Prev Item** link to return to the previous lesson item, or the **Close Window** to close the lesson window and return to the previous window.

Glossary

Active	A state that indicates a user, school, dependent system, class or lesson is available in the system.
Activate	The act of making a user, school, dependent system, class or lesson active.
Archive	The act of making a user, school, dependent system or class archived or inactive.
Archived	A state that indicates a user, school, dependent system or class is no longer required.
BELTS	Basic E-Learning Tool Set. A simple set of tools developed to demonstrate the distribution, management and use of learning objects and to aid investigation of requirements for e-learning environments by Australian and New Zealand jurisdictions.
Class	An organising mechanism used for grouping lessons and/or students and teachers.
Content	A physical or digital asset (work or material) intended for communication. Content can be static, dynamic or scripted instructions. Content covers learning objects, resources, files and metadata.
Content Manager	The user role that enables searching and downloading content from a parent repository and managing the availability of the content to teachers.
Curriculum Organiser	A tool for assisting teachers to locate online content relevant to learning outcomes. The tool is a list of neutral vocabulary terms, used to describe learning objects, which is mapped to the learning outcomes used within a specific jurisdiction.
Deactivate	The act of making a lesson inactive, so that it is no longer available to students.
Discovery	The act of utilising tools and services to search for and retrieve digital assets from (various) sources (e.g. object repositories, databases, metadata search engines).
Element	A fundamental unit of description used by Metadata. Sometimes referred to as a “field” or “attribute”.
File	An actual and identified digital file.
Filter	To select and display items from a list or search according to specified criteria.

Function	A discreet part of the software that enables a user goal to be carried out, such as “Create a User”.
Inactive	A state that indicates a lesson is no longer available for students to access.
Item	A generic description that encompasses files, learning objects, resources and URLs that can be added to a lesson.
Jurisdiction	School education system (State/Territory) or sector (Independent/Catholic) including all Australian States and Territories and New Zealand.
Dependent System	A downstream system in the content distribution chain that will require access to the BELTS repository. This may be another BELTS system.
Exchange	The name of The Le@rning Federation's content system. It provides the central content management facility within which curriculum content can be submitted, stored, managed and distributed. It is the content repository from where all TLF content will be distributed to jurisdictions.
Learning management system (LMS)	An application that is used for managing the organisation of digital content for presentation to students, provide supporting community tools and may include management of student results.
Learning object	A multimedia learning experience related to a particular educational purpose. Learning objects contain files, organisations, metadata, and other learning objects. The files and sub-ordinate learning objects are used to create the multimedia learning experience. An organisation specifies a navigation path through the learning object. A learning object may have many organisations, and hence many possible navigation paths. Metadata is structured information about the learning object supporting management, description of educational purpose, technical interoperability, digital rights management and accessibility.
Learning outcome	A specific learning objective identified within a jurisdiction’s curriculum framework.
Lesson	A sequence of content and instructions that can be used as part of a learning activity.
LORAX	Learning Object Repository Access and eXchange. The SOAP specification that may be used for searching and downloading learning objects and resources from the Exchange.
Metadata	Metadata is structured information about learning objects and files supporting management, description of educational purpose, technical interoperability, digital rights management and accessibility.
Privilege	A permission that allows a user to perform a specific function in the system.
Repository	A distributed and heterogeneous database of content/metadata that supports

	open information retrieval protocols.
Resource	An actual and identified physical or digital file (referenced in Items as part of learning objects or as individual items) that may be used in a learning activity
Role	A set of functions that can be performed by a user within the system.
School Administrator	The user role that enables managing school details and creating and managing users and classes within the school.
SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol. This is a platform independent protocol for accessing services, objects and servers.
Student	The user role that enables viewing lessons prepared by teachers.
System	The implemented BELTS software, hardware, and infrastructure.
Teacher	The user role that enables discovering and preparing content (using lessons) for presentation to students.
The Le@rning Federation	An initiative of State and Federal governments of Australia and the New Zealand government to develop online curriculum content for Australian and New Zealand schools. This initiative is managed by a joint venture between education.au limited and Curriculum Corporation.
User	Any authorised party using the system.

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