

WEB RESOURCES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

REVISED, 2018

CONTENTS

1. Teaching the Four Skills.....	2
1a. Speaking and Listening	2
1b. Reading.....	3
1c. Writing	4
1d. Literacy	6
2. U.S. Culture.....	7
3. Songs and Games.....	8
4. Teaching Methods.....	9
5. ESL and EFL Websites.....	9
6. Grammar and Vocabulary.....	11
7. Young Learners	13
8. Learning Differences	13
9. Reference Tools (dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias).....	14
10. Professional Development	15



© 2018 by the Office of English Language Programs. Web Resources for English Language Teaching and Learning. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License, except where noted. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



americanenglish.state.gov

1. TEACHING THE FOUR SKILLS

1A. SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Annenberg Foundation's Connect with English

<http://www.learner.org/series/cwe/> A free video series which follows the adventures of Rebecca Casey across the U.S. Closed captioning is available, and the dialogue is simplified. Watch the videos then click on the Practice tab to find exercises, quizzes, lesson plans, and grammar pointers.

BrainPOP ELL

<https://ell.brainpop.com/> A website of English as a Second Language (ESL) activities on a variety of topics, skills, and levels. Each level features a “Hear It, Say It” section where learners can listen to a movie then record themselves speaking the same sentence.

ESL Video

<http://www.eslvideo.com/> Free videos on a wide range of topics at five levels, from beginner to advanced. Each video has a quiz to take online and get immediate results.

Fonetiks

<http://www.fonetiks.org/> A website to practice English pronunciation, including vowel sounds, voiced and voiceless sounds, as well as stress and tone. It has nine varieties of English, including American English, as well as nine other languages.

National Public Radio

<http://www.npr.org/> Excellent resource for national and world news as well as stories on business, politics, health, science, technology, music, arts, and culture. The site has podcasts which can be downloaded and listened to later and transcripts for reading along while listening.

Sounds of English

<https://www.soundsofenglish.org/> A website with pronunciation and phonetics resources and guides for minimal pairs in English.



Speech Accent Archive

<http://accent.gmu.edu> Features 300 speech samples from around the world reading the same English paragraph.

TED Videos

www.ted.com TED (which stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design) is owned by a non-profit organization whose goal is to spread great ideas and spark conversation through powerful and inspiring short talks.

Voice of America's Learning English

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/> VOA's Learning English was formerly Special English and is a broadcasting service funded by the U.S. Government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. It is a multimedia source of news and information so people can read, listen, and learn American English through online texts, MP3s, and podcasts. The captioned videos are written using vocabulary at the intermediate and upper-beginner levels, and the programs are read one-third slower than normal English speed.

VowelCat

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/vowelcat/> Real-time speech visualizer that allows users to see their pronunciation on a vowel formant map to assist in developing speaking skills. This is a downloadable software developed by linguistics and computer science students at Ohio University.

1B. READING**American Literature**

<https://americanliterature.com/home> Novels, stories, and poetry for all ages and levels, as well as recommendations for teachers, and idioms and study guides for students.

BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk> A British source of current events around the world.

Breaking News English

www.breakingnewsenglish.com Readings for English language learners on current events, with lessons plans, quizzes, and a variety of activities. There are dictations in five different speeds, and podcasts and quizzes on a wide range of topics. Click on the two-page lesson to get a larger view and be able to download it easily.

English Conversations

<https://www.eslfast.com/robot/> Basic English dialogues on a variety of topics with accompanying audio files for students to listen and read along.

Lit2Go

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/> MP3 and audiobook stories and poems with downloadable options to use for read-alongs.

Many Things

<http://www.manythings.org/e/listening.html> A variety of reading and listening exercises including links to Voice of America's Special English program. For lower levels, there are listen and repeat sentences for intonation, rhythm, and pronunciation, and passages to listen to and read along at the same time. In addition, the site has vocabulary games for all levels.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Information Programs' ShareAmerica

<https://share.america.gov/theme/theme-education/theme-english-learning/> Everyday conversations of a family traveling through the United States for listeners to learn something about each state.

1C. WRITING**George Mason University Writing Center**

<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/wc-quick-guides> Resources for general writing and writing for academia, business, humanities, and science. The site also provides guidance for research writing, tips on note-taking and reading critically, and links to resources for ESL writers.

HippoCampus

<http://www.hippocampus.org/HippoCampus/English> A free online repository of thousands of multimedia learning objects. It is a part of The NROC Project, a non-profit organization that collaborates with institutions to deliver courses and tools to address college readiness for students. The English section gives guidance on writing.

Marking Mate

<http://readingandwritingtools.com/mm/markingmate.html> An automated writing tutor website where learners can copy/paste their writing into the website and receive feedback and corrections on their writing.

Ohio University English Language Improvement Program

<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/linguistics/elip/writing/index.cfm> A series of videos for international students writing for academic purposes. Videos are organized by skills needed before writing begins, resources for students during the writing process, and editing/revising resources for after the main writing has occurred.

The Purdue Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> This website includes various suggested resources, mainly help with writing skills as professional writers, with adult basic education, and for grades 7–12 instructors and students.

Quill

<https://www.quill.org/> A website created to provide structured grammar and writing activities for low-income K-12 students in the United States. Each activity provides step-by-step feedback as students combine or rewrite sentences.

Reading and Writing Tools – Sentence Rephraser

<http://readingandwritingtools.com/rp/rephraser.html> Learners are presented with an original sentence and a revised version of the sentence with the words obscured. Learners must guess the words included in the revised sentence; each correct guess earns them more points.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Writing Center

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/> Handouts on all kinds of writing topics for college-level students and videos on specific techniques.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/> Handbook for writers covering all major genres and styles of writing for university undergraduates. Subheadings include analysis papers, job applications, research papers, and writing reviews.

Write in the Middle

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/middlewriting/prog1.html> The Annenberg Foundation’s series of workshops on teaching writing to middle school students.

Writing Center at Harvard University

<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/resources> Instructional handouts and materials.

Writing Commons

<https://writingcommons.org/chapters> As stated on the home page, Writing Commons is “a free, comprehensive, peer-reviewed, award-winning Open Text for students and faculty in college-level courses that require writing and research.”

1D. LITERACY***Centre for Excellence in Immigrant and Intercultural Advancement***

<https://centre.bowvalleycollege.ca/esl-literacy-readers> A collection of forty ESL readers based on themes created and curated by Bow Valley College.

Education Place’s Issues in Literacy Development

<http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/res/literacy/> “Summarizes the best available research and professional expertise to help teachers provide high-quality literacy instruction for students from kindergarten through Grade 8. The information has been organized around topics that are important to literacy development.” Although the target audience is U.S. teachers, there is useful information for teachers globally.



International Literacy Association

<http://www.literacyworldwide.org/> An international reading association webpage with open access articles, sample journal issues, recommended book lists, and a daily blog.

Literacy Net

<http://literacynet.org/cnnsf/archives.html> Stories culled from a variety of news websites and sources. Each story is offered in a full or abridged format along with an outline format of the story. Accompanying each story is a collection of vocabulary, sequencing, and multiple-choice activities.

Seminole State College Practice English Tutorials and Test Projects

<https://www.seminolestate.edu/adult-ed/els/pett/reading> A series of ESL/EFL tutorials in PowerPoint format and practice reading tests for advanced-level learners.

2. U.S. CULTURE***EDSITEment!***

<https://edsitement.neh.gov/> Provided through a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Trust for the Humanities, this site offers high-quality materials in a range of subject areas for teachers and students. There are audio and video resources and lesson plans on American history and literature, world history and culture, and a variety of other topics.

English Online

<http://www.english-online.at/a-z-topic-index.htm> An extensive array of news articles and videos on a variety of topics, both American and European, written and produced for English language learners.

Forum Magazine

<https://americanenglish.state.gov/forum> Quarterly journal from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with practical teaching ideas for English teachers around the world.



Public Broadcasting Service's American Experience

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/collections/videos/> Combines dramatic reenactments with commentary by historians and authors to present an absorbing look at the personalities, events, and resources that have had a profound impact on the shaping of America's past and present.

U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Information Programs' ShareAmerica

<https://share.america.gov/> Featuring many short articles about topics such as entrepreneurship, civil society, international relations, study in the U.S.A., and more.

Voice of America

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/> Captioned videos of American people telling their stories illustrate the diversity of the population of the United States. Site visitors can learn about the American Constitution and issues on U.S. college campuses.

Zoom in on America

<http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/> An online magazine published by the U.S. consulate general in Krakow, Poland, which has information about American culture, geography, politics, and society and includes quizzes, activities, and audio segments.

3. SONGS AND GAMES (SEE ALSO YOUNG LEARNERS)

Activities for ESL Students

<http://a4esl.org/> Many resources covering the four skills, including flash cards, crossword puzzles, and bilingual quizzes.

National Geographic Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games/> A variety of games, puzzles, and activities for elementary-age students.

Teampedia

https://www.teampedia.net/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page A wiki site devoted to icebreakers, games, and activities for team-building. Many of the games and activities can be adapted for use in the ESL/EFL classroom.



Ultimate Camp Resource

<http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/> Website featuring a variety of classic easy-to-learn camp songs, games, and activities that can be adapted for use in young learners' ESL/EFL class.

4. TEACHING METHODS

Foreign Language Teaching Methods

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/methods/> A series of short videos centered on the four skills of language teaching and on classroom issues such as assessment, technology, and classroom management.

Graphic Organizers

<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/> Ready-to-use templates of a wide variety of graphic organizers for use in the classroom.

Hands On! A Collection of ESL Literacy Activities

<http://en.copian.ca/library/learning/handson/handson.pdf> A collection of activities developed for instructors working with adult ESL learners who have had little or no opportunity to develop reading and writing skills.

ReadWriteThink

http://www.readwritethink.org/search/?resource_type=58 While dedicated to first-language English reading and writing skills, this website provides an extensive library of methods and materials applicable to the EFL/ESL classroom.

5. ESL AND EFL WEBSITES

American English

<http://americanenglish.state.gov> This website from the Office of English Language Programs at the U.S. Department of State has many resources for teachers and learners of English, including classroom board games, downloadable songs and activities, and the latest issues of *English Teaching Forum*, a peer-reviewed journal for English language teachers worldwide.



American English at State on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishatState/> The American English at State Facebook page provides English language learning materials for learners worldwide. Updated with new graphics or videos daily, this page invites a community of language learners to communicate and practice their English language skills and to share content with others. Content may also be useful in the English language classroom.

American English for Educators on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishforEducators/> The American English for Educators Facebook page provides daily posts with linked content and discussion questions for English language teachers around the world. This page also hosts a series of professional development live sessions for EFL teachers called *American English Live: Teacher Development*. Participants can join these sessions to learn practical ways to integrate best practices into their teaching and also have the opportunity to earn digital badges at the end of each session.

American English Institute eLearning Projects

<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/aeiprojects/> Business English, Civic and Peace Education, and more. This site has other materials and resources including the teacher-training course *Shaping the Way We Teach English*.

BBC Skillswise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english/games> Provides exercises, videos, and games to build speaking and listening, grammar, reading, and writing for practical literacy skills for adults.

Cambridge ESOL Teacher Support

<https://www.teachers.cambridgeesol.org/ts/> Provides a wide range of free teaching resources and information to support ESOL teachers throughout the world. Register for a free account to download lesson plans, worksheets, games, and classroom activities and to join their teacher community.

Discovery Education Puzzlemaker

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/> Resources to design word searches, crossword puzzles, and more to enhance vocabulary acquisition.



iSLCollective

<https://en.islcollective.com/resources/printables> A repository of Creative Commons worksheets, presentations, and videos covering all aspects of ESL teaching and learning.

Larry Ferlazzo

<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org> A high school teacher provides resources to assist adults and children learning English.

LearnEnglish

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/> A British Council site for learning and teaching English with resources for teachers, adult learners, young learners, and teens, including activities for reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary, study skills, games, and information about the U.K.

We Teach We Learn

<http://eflclassroom.com/books/premium/teachlearn.pdf> A textbook of student-created content for English language learning in the classroom.

6. GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

Azar Grammar

www.azargrammar.com Provides a fully downloadable, free copy of *Fun with Grammar*, which has lots of enjoyable activities for learning grammar. The site also has many ready-to-go worksheets for grammar and vocabulary that can be printed out and used in classes. While the PowerPoint supplements and expansion activities are designed to enhance the Azar textbooks, they can be used independently.

ESL Blues

<http://eslbluesapps.com/> A collection of grammar activities using multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank formats with the option for timed or untimed quizzes. The site also features a variety of animated explanations for common grammar mistakes.



ESL Desk

<http://www.esldesk.com/> This site contains a selection of ESL resources for learners of English, including vocabulary and grammar quizzes and spelling tests as well as common errors.

Freerice

<http://www.freerice.com/index.php> Freerice is a non-profit website run by the United Nations World Food Program to provide free education and help end world hunger by providing ten grains of free rice for every correct answer. This multiple-choice quiz site is a fun way to learn grammar and vocabulary as well as other subjects such as humanities, math, and science. The program adjusts to the level of the player, and recycling of vocabulary gives the player a chance to improve.

Grammar Exercises from the Purdue University Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/2/> Writing-centric resource offering clear explanations for teachers and students.

Guide to Grammar and Writing

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/> Website hosted by the Capital Community College Foundation to assist students and teachers in grammar structures, writing concerns, and teaching materials.

LanguageGuide.org

<http://www.languageguide.org/english/> This website features a variety of ESL/EFL activities including interactive listening and vocabulary activities, fill-in-the-blank irregular verb practice, and basic speaking and repetition activities.

Self-Study English Vocabulary Quizzes

<http://a4esl.org/q/h/vocabulary.html> This webpage provides a variety of fun self-study English vocabulary quizzes on word relationships, etc., with different levels, from easy, easy to medium, and medium to difficult.



7. YOUNG LEARNERS

Global SchoolNet

<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.cfm?section=AboutUs> Supports 21st-century learning and improves academic performance through engaging teachers and K-12 students “in meaningful project learning exchanges worldwide to develop science, math, literacy and communication skills, foster teamwork, civic responsibility and collaboration, encourage workforce preparedness and create multicultural understanding.”

Grammar Practice Park

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/preview/harcourt_language/grammar_park.html Created by Harcourt School Publishers, this website provides online games for young children.

International Children's Digital Library

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> Full texts of children's books in twenty languages.

Look, Say, Cover, Write, and Check

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en20memo-game-look-say-cover-write-check> This website provides a way of learning words called “look, say, cover, write and check” to help children with spelling words they find difficult.

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Kids

<http://pbskids.org/> Website for kid-friendly videos and games.

Storyline Online for Children

<http://www.storylineonline.net/> Students can listen to the stories at the same time as they read the text.

8. LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Colorín Colorado

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/webcast/english-language-learners-learning-disabilities> Links to a webcast and a variety of resources on incorporating techniques for addressing learning differences in the ESL classroom.



Gallaudet University English Center

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/tutorial-and-instructional-programs/english-center> A variety of ESL/EFL resources for writing, reading, grammar and vocabulary, and references. The resources are all tailored to support learners of English who are deaf or hard of hearing.

LD OnLine

<http://www.ldonline.org> This website, “the educators’ guide to learning disabilities and ADHD,” provides helpful support for children to reach their full potential.

Mobility International USA

<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/LD/ESL> A resources website with a comprehensive overview of explanations and considerations of learning differences in the ESL classroom.

TESOL's Difference or Disability?

[http://www.tesol.org/read-and-publish/journals/other-serial-publications/compleat-links/compleat-links-volume-2-issue-3-\(september-2005\)/difference-or-disability-](http://www.tesol.org/read-and-publish/journals/other-serial-publications/compleat-links/compleat-links-volume-2-issue-3-(september-2005)/difference-or-disability-) A comprehensive overview for language teachers on understanding and addressing the need to identify between students with learning differences or learning disabilities.

9. REFERENCE TOOLS (DICTIONARIES, THESAURUSES, ENCYCLOPEDIAS)

Cambridge Online Dictionary

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/> Free online English dictionary, thesaurus, word of the day, and other language resources from Cambridge University Press.

Dictionary.com

<http://dictionary.com/> This online dictionary includes a thesaurus and translation option and has mobile apps.

Encyclo

<http://www.encyclo.co.uk/search.php> Encyclo is a search engine for terms and definitions and brings together lists of hundreds of word definitions from a wide variety of sources on one site.



Encyclopedia.com

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/> This website has “encyclopedias, dictionaries, and thesauruses with facts, definitions, biographies, synonyms, pronunciation keys, word origins, and abbreviations.”

From Language to Language

<http://www.langtolang.com/> This is a multilingual dictionary translating from English to 45 other languages.

Graph Words

<http://graphwords.com/> Graph Words is a visual thesaurus that maps a word to the center of a matrix of related words. Parts of speech are color-coded, and the word map is organized via clusters of related words.

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/> America’s most trusted dictionary and includes a thesaurus, encyclopedia, word games, crossword puzzles, and translator.

OneLook Dictionary Search

<http://www.onelook.com> Online dictionary which can be used to search for definitions and translations of words.

Simple English Wikipedia

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Useful source for finding articles using basic English.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**American English E-Teacher Scholar Community Site**

<https://www.aeteacher.org/> A collection of webinars and Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) materials for teachers of English around the world. Information is provided on upcoming webinar series and how to enroll in future MOOC courses.

Annenberg Foundation

<http://www.learner.org> Free educational and documentary videos in all subject areas. See <http://www.learner.org/workshops/hswriting/> for a series of eight videos on teaching writing.



ERIC Digests

<http://www.ericdigests.org/> This site includes 1,000 to 1,500-word reports on topics of prime current interest in education, covering a large variety of topics including teaching, learning, libraries, charter schools, special education, higher education, homeschooling, and more. These reports are designed for teachers, administrators, policymakers, and other educational practitioners.

Google Books Search

<http://books.google.com/> Search and preview millions of books from libraries and publishers worldwide.

Reading Matrix

<http://www.readingmatrix.com> A website featuring “a refereed online journal focusing on second and foreign language reading and literacy.”

Teaching Channel

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/> Website where teachers can “watch, share, and learn” from other teachers. Although designed for teachers in the U.S. and gives insight into the American school culture, it also provides many useful videos and articles with tips for teachers anywhere.

Ted Power English Language Learning and Teaching

<http://www.tedpower.co.uk/> Includes articles on language teaching methodologies, free practice materials for learners such as pronunciation practice and handouts, and language games for class use.

The Internet TESL Journal

<http://iteslj.org/> Contains selected articles, research papers, lesson plans, classroom handouts, teaching ideas, and links for ESL/EFL students.