

# TEACHER & STUDENT ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LEARNING ESL

## **Interesting Things for ESL Students**

<http://www.manythings.org/e/easy.html>

## **One Stop English**

<http://www.onestopenglish.com>

## **Dave's ESL Cafe on the Web**

<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

Dave's ESL Cafe is an amazing site that includes the ESL Quiz Center & the ESL Help Center (both for students), the ESL Search Page (to help you find ESL resources), and the ESL Idea Page (where both teachers and students can share ideas). Still the premier ESL web site on the Internet

## **The Internet TESL Journal**

<http://iteslj.org/>

A rich resource site with information on CALL, culture, world-wide associations and conferences, and job information.

## **grammarONLINE**

<http://www.edufind.com/english/grammar/index.cfm>

Five units: passive voice, adjective clauses, noun clauses, comparatives, and verb participles. Includes structure, recognition, and proper usage.

## **The Newbury House Online Dictionary**

<http://nhd.heinle.com/home.aspx>

This online dictionary contains over 40,000 entries and is based on the Newbury House Dictionary of American English. Providing simple and clear definitions, this online tool provides a wealth of sample sentences, idioms, and a wide array of cultural facts and figures.

## **John and Sarah's TEFL Pitstop**

<http://www.lingolex.com/jstefl.htm>

Sarah provides several ideas for games that ESL/EFL teachers can use to reinforce language learning. Directions and game-boards to print out

### **[Center for Applied Linguistics](http://www.cal.org/)**

<http://www.cal.org/>

CAL provides access to most of the products that ERIC used to provide, including digests. The general CAL website is a valuable resource on language acquisition.

### **[Antimoon.com: Learn English Effectively](http://www.antimoon.com/)**

<http://www.antimoon.com/>

This is an English learning site like none I have encountered. The focus of the site is motivation and techniques for effectively learning English. The authors of the site do not see grammar exercises as the way. There are reviews of techniques, pronunciation guides, and accounts of how the authors learned English. Requires an intermediate reading level.

### **[Developing Teachers.com](http://www.developingteachers.com/)**

<http://www.developingteachers.com/>

Listed as a web resource for the developing language teacher, this site provides newsletters about teaching, teaching methodologies, lesson plans, and weekly teaching tips. Newsletters and tips are archived, but you can also subscribe to receive these by email. Developing Teachers.com is a commercial site that also offers email courses for language teachers.

### **[Everything ESL](http://everythingESL.net)**

[everythingESL.net](http://everythingESL.net)

Good things for elementary ESL classes. Includes lesson plans, teaching tips from a variety of sources, the owner's pick of ESL resources, and discussion boards. There is also a discussion board where you can ask the site owner questions. (updated 05.29.06)

### **[English-Zone](http://english-zone.com/index.php)**

<http://english-zone.com/index.php>

A huge array of activities for English learners and teachers  
There are online activities as well as lessons that can be reproduced for classroom use. There is way too much on the site for me to list it all here. All skills are covered, and there is also a phrasal verbs and a preposition dictionary with exercises for reinforcement.

### **1-Language.com**

<http://www.1-language.com/>

An extensive selection of resources for the ESL teacher, from flashcards to grammar lessons

There's real time chat, for students who want to chat with others, and forums (although somewhat sparse in postings as of this listing). One of the best things are current news articles, which are available as readings and audio recordings. Each article is accompanied by various exercises.

### **Using English.com**

A compendium of quite a lot of different things. There are discussions, a bulletin board, a grammar reference, online tests, and more. Many more materials than when the site was first reviewed several years ago.

### **Mark's ESL World**

A site with lots and lots of links, organized into resources for teachers, students, and job seekers. There are also chat and discussion pages. Nothing unique to this site, but it pulls together many things into one place.

### **ESL Web-quest Projects**

Web-quests are cooperative Internet-based research activities that usually culminate in a written or oral research report. They involve research, critical analysis of sources, and organization of information found. This web site focuses on web-quests and resources to support them. The author tries to break down web-quests into its various components, and while the information is not always easily processed, it is comprehensive. These particular web-quests are targeted more to secondary and higher.

### **Grammar Grabbers** (book)

Grammar can be deadly serious, so a little levity might be useful. Bill Cutler provides humorous but practical grammar and style advance on his website. Since it's humor, many ESL students will need to be somewhat advanced to get all the jokes, but teachers may find the points useful.

### **The Reading Matrix: An Online Journal**

*The Reading Matrix* is an international online peer-reviewed journal that focuses on issues of reading and second language instruction. The journal is purely online, but it is indexed in ERIC. Articles are in PDF or HTML format. Access is free, and the journal also includes an archive of previous issues. Published twice a year

### **English Daily**

An ESL site with a distinctive Asian focus  
Grammar, idioms, folk tales, and lessons using advertisements

### [Textalyzer](#)

This is a website with a very specific function. You input a block of text or a website, and the textalyzer analyzes the text/website for complexity and reading level. You also get syllable counts and average words in a sentence. A potentially useful tool for any teacher who wants to use web materials with their class.

### [esl Resource Center](#)

A variety of lesson ideas for all areas, from pronunciation to grammar. The mission statement emphasizes that the site is free and developed by ESL teachers. You may find a useful lesson here for your next class. There are also areas for chatting and posting job stuff, but I didn't look at those features.

### [American English Institute](#)

This is a commercial site for online English courses, but there are quite a few free activities available after a student registers as a community member (free). There are basic grammar exercises, explanations of slang, and resources such as an audio dictionary. The site makes a lot of use of multimedia, and there are several shockwave games to practice conversational exchanges and vocabulary. Registering for a class gives access to all their materials.

### [Vocaboly](#)

This is a website for a shareware program called Vocaboly.

Using this program, you can review vocabulary through a variety of exercises, tests, and games. Of specific interest to EFL students is its TOEFL vocabulary. You can download the program for free and then pay for it if you find it useful. Teachers and learners can customize the program with their own vocabulary. The program is only available for Windows.

### [Learning Vocabulary Can Be Fun](#)

There are five online games for students to practice vocabulary: word search, crossword, hangman, matching, and multiple choice quiz. The vocabulary is grouped in categories. Since the items are fixed, you would need to check that your lesson includes the vocabulary used. The interfaces are very good, with cute graphics and sounds.

### [Breaking News English](#)

Ready to use lesson plans that address speaking, reading, and listening skills. Each lesson plan has a reading (intermediate and a low-advanced version of each reading is available), which serves as the basis for discussion, word development, and a variety of listening exercises. A Word/PDF version of each lesson is available (formatted for duplication) as well as an MP3 of the reading to use for the listening exercises.

### **MES English**

<http://www.mes-english.com/>

Unlike many other resources, this site focuses on ready-to-print games that focus on younger English learners. The games include variations on Pokemon, Monopoly, and Battleship. There are also materials to work on Phonics. The materials are in PDF format and need to be printed out for classroom use. Instructions for use are provided, but some of the materials, such as the Big Town cards, can be easily adapted by a teacher for his/her own classroom needs. Mark Cox also has a series of Flash grammar games at his companion site,

### **ESL City**

Another site that focuses on younger learners. There is a large compendium of worksheets on topics such as months, holidays, and vocabulary (a la picture dictionary workbook sheets). I found two very interesting things. First, you can email the author to create customized worksheets from your ideas. Second, under "Writing - Beginning," you can create customized printing practice using your own text. For flash card sets, you need to register.

### **SIT Resources**

<http://www.sit.edu/>

The School for International Training (SIT) offers a graduate certificate for working with English Language Learners. SIT also provides a good resource list for those working with ELL, including links for such topics as assessment, content area instruction, and culture.

## **Center for Research on Education, Diversity and Excellence**

<http://crede.berkeley.edu/>

The Center offers *publications, newsletters online readings* and references to books, multi-media, professional development series through interactive workshops, seminars, and online courses, speaker series and more

## **ESL Independent Study Lab**

While many sites organize links by topic, this site goes two steps further. First, it focuses on links that allow students to work (somewhat) independently. Second, it organizes the links by level. Includes links for all skill levels and TOEFL, plus the site creator's favorite picks for content area instruction.

## **English Language Online Tools**

While ostensibly targeted to English language learners, I find the site of greater potential use for teachers. The tools analyze a text in a variety of ways. One highlights "complicated" vocabulary, with links from each "complicated" word to Wikipedia. Another highlights difficult vocabulary and pops up a list of synonyms for the vocabulary when you move your mouse over the word. A third analyzes the readability of the text. Also includes a dictionary.

## **Room 108**

[www.room108.com](http://www.room108.com)

The site creator provides a wide range of materials for primary age students, from worksheets to sing-alongs. There are also games to work on parts of speech and phonics. I can't judge the usefulness of the site, but there are not as many sites focused on the lower grades, so I'm including it. The music can be a bit distracting, so you'll want to lower the volume on your computer

## **Easy English Times**

This newspaper is dedicated to ESL learners. While the newspaper itself requires a subscription fee (including online access to the issue itself), the web site to support the newspaper provides some useful resources. The site also has tips for how to use any newspaper with a class.

## **Learn English Feel Good**

<http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com>

The contents of the site are quite worthwhile. There are exercises, worksheets, video clips with listening comprehension questions, idioms, and a discussion of differences between UK and US English

### **Hello World**

<http://www.hello-world.com/English/>

This site is appropriate for beginning level English learners of any age. Activities are interactive and address more than one learning modality. For example, an activity on describing people allows the user to click on radio buttons that change the appearance of a cartoon figure. Each click is accompanied by a spoken sentence that describes the change in the cartoon figure.

### **Inspiration Lane**

This site uses a BLOG to pull in definitions, vocabulary activities, short readings, and pictures to support language learning. Clearly these things are already available on the web, but the site pulls them together for you in one place. The website is organized like an online magazine with recurring features, and previous activities are archived. Note that the Quote of Day, This Day in History, and Article of the Day are not archived because they are dynamically updated.

### **Sherton English**

This site is focused on helping Spanish-speakers learn English and is sponsored by the Argentinian English Course, Sherton English. The site provides resources for grammar, irregular verbs, and vocabulary. The site is bilingual, and a link at the bottom allows you to choose English for the main language of the site. Sherton English is also responsible for the Funny Lessons site listed above.

### **Readable Blog**

This blog provides links to free resources of interest to ESL/EFL teachers.

### **Learn English**

In many ways this is a simple vocabulary site. There are 40 categories of words and over 1,000 vocabulary items. It is interactive. The menu structure is easy to use, and each vocabulary word is reinforced with audio to provide pronunciation of the word. Words are thematically grouped with sets of vocabulary words for flashcard-like practice.

### **ESL Genius**

This website is largely a collection of ideas to stimulate classroom communication. There are role-plays, discussion topics, ideas for debates, and other activities. As the website states, the ideas are not your typical "safe" ESL topics, and while they may not be for everyone, they provide something beyond what you find in every ESL textbook. There are also some materials for students - essentially short dialogs with a variety of responses. However, given that there are no explanations, these are not really materials for students to use on their own.

### **WIDA [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us)**

WIDA advances academic language development and academic achievement for linguistically diverse students through high quality standards, assessments, research, and professional development for educators.

