



SUPPORTING EAL LEARNERS



Resources for Teachers of EAL Students

For Instructors:

- Swan, M. & Smith, B. (Eds.) 2001. **Learner English: A teacher's guide to interference and other problems.** Cambridge Press.
→ This is a practical reference book that compares the relevant features of students' mother-tongues with English, helping teachers to predict and understand the problems their students have.
- **English grammar & usage** – language topics that non-language teachers may wish to learn more about in order to better understand the difficulties faced by EAL students in their classes: <http://esl.fis.edu/teachers/support/grammar.htm>
- Useful information about the **differences between English and various other languages**: <http://esl.fis.edu/grammar/langdiff/index.htm>

For Instructors & their students:

- Many useful resources can be found on the English Language Support website: <http://www.ryerson.ca/studentsservices/els/resources/index.html>
- A repository of useful **resources & exercises for EAL students**: http://www.caslt.org/resources/english-sl/classroom-resource-links-other_en.php
- **The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)**: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>
→ Hundreds of resources to explore, e.g. *The Paramedic Method*: useful for teaching students **how to cut down on wordiness in their writing**.
OWL provides a number of useful exercises, e.g. grammar, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, style, and paraphrasing: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises>
- **Michigan State University**: https://www.msu.edu/~defores1/gre/roots/gre_rts_afx1.htm
→ Students may come across words that are new or words that are familiar but used in ways that they have not encountered. This site is helpful as it alerts students to the **meanings of word roots, prefixes and suffixes**.
- **Acadia University**: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism>
→ This tutorial is a fun way for students to learn some of the basics about **plagiarism, citation, summary, and paraphrase** (offers only APA and MLA)
- **VisuWords**: <http://www.visuwords.com>

- Visuwords is an open source **online graphical dictionary and thesaurus** (based on WordNet). Valuable for EAL students who are concerned about **word choice or who seek synonyms, antonyms, or alternate forms of words**.
- **Guide to Grammar and Writing:** <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index.htm>
 - This site is especially valuable for the **online quizzes** where students can **practice correcting grammatical errors and improve their vocabulary**.
- **Grammar Girl podcast:** <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com>
 - These concise, non-intimidating podcasts by a professional writer/editor on a **range of grammar & usage issues** can be listened to while commuting, between classes, etc.

Apps for iPhones & Smart Phones:

- **Mobile ELS:** A free ESL application developed by Athabasca University. This course tests your knowledge of English grammar and, more importantly, it gives you practice in using your knowledge to make correct and appropriate sentences. Grammar has meaning - if you change some of the grammar in a sentence, you also change its meaning: <http://eslau.ca>
- **English Accent Coach:** A website and mobile app to help non-native English speakers fine-tune their English pronunciation. This interactive online game that trains the brain to recognize new sounds: <http://www.englishaccentcoach.com>
- **Sounds**, an app developed by McMillan Education, is a mobile English pronunciation aid, for students and teachers. **Sounds** helps you study, practice, and play with pronunciation wherever you are. Works with apple iPhone, iPad, and Android OS devices: <http://www.soundspronapp.com/features>
- **Learning English with The New York Times:** Learning English with The New York Times is an opportunity for second-language English speakers to improve reading and listening skills, and learn new vocabulary. This app is designed specifically for intermediate to advanced English language learners.
- **My Word Coach:** Enjoyable and fun activities include word recognition, spelling challenges and vocabulary definition, including 16,800 words from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. My Word Coach also adapts its difficulty level to match your skills, and monitors and rewards your progress to help you express yourself better!
- **English Grammar in Use Activities:** A massive bundle of fun grammar activities with imagery and sound, written specially for intermediate learners of English. Turn spare time into study time, and strengthen your grasp of English grammar.

- **10 Minute English:** This app is for intermediate-level learners of English. It will help you with your grammar, vocabulary, and listening comprehension. It covers the most important grammar points that English learners have difficulties with.
- **Grammar Girl:** Great tips to help you write more intelligently and effectively.
- **English at Work:** Helps second language English students practice and improve their use of workplace English and Business English.

Other Apps:

Useful for advanced EAL students who want to improve listening, reading, and vocabulary.

- **Television News**, such as CBC, BBC World News, CNN. You can also personalize the app to suit your interests and download content for offline browsing.
- **Newspapers and Magazines**, such as The Toronto Star, Globe & Mail, The Economist, Maclean's.