

Student Resources

Some students are so motivated to learn English that they want more practice than they get in a classroom. Some students may not have access to a classroom situation. This document meets those needs by providing resources that students can use independently to increase their skills and knowledge in English.

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Free Programs from Your Library

There are some great language-learning platforms that unfortunately come with a high price tag. Here's the great news: depending on where you live, you might be able to use them **free**. How is this possible? Your library membership could be the gateway to learning a language.

1. Many libraries provide free access to [Mango Languages](#). The mix of reading and listening activities, critical thinking exercises, and review that is personalized to the learner are available in more than 70 languages. For English language learners, there are courses tailored to speakers of more than 20 native languages. Many of the libraries that offer Mango Languages also offer [Little Pim](#), language-learning developed specifically for children. To locate an organization that offers Mango Languages near you, go to [Find Mango](#). Some libraries offer membership to anyone who lives or works in their state. Here are some that offer that level of membership including access to Mango Languages:
[Philadelphia Free Library](#), Pennsylvania
[Brooklyn Public Library](#), New York
[Enoch Pratt Free Library](#), Maryland
2. Many libraries offer [Rosetta Stone](#), which for a long time was sold on CDs. Having explored both Rosetta Stone's 3-day free trial and Mango Languages through my library, I recommend both. They engage the learner by introducing new vocabulary within the context of familiar language.
3. Many libraries offer [Pronunciator](#), with instruction in 163 target languages, for students who speak 140 support languages. The student can specialize in 60 courses offering English for specific purposes (ESP) for various vocations.
4. Libraries, school systems, and other organizations use [Transparent Language](#) to train their personnel to speak over 110 languages. English learners can access materials targeted for speakers of more than 30 languages.

If Your Library, School or Organization Doesn't Offer One

1. Ask about a reciprocal sharing agreement they may have with other organizations.
2. Ask them about subscribing to one. Libraries value patron input for their allocation of resources.

3. Although [Pronunciator](#) charges organizations for a subscription, they make their resources available partly free to individuals at [Bluebird Languages](#). English students can use any of 140 support languages to learn English in eight different dialects: American, Australian, British, Canadian, Indian, Irish, New Zealand, and Scottish.

Free Apps for Language Learning Programs

Since language is learned most effectively through social interaction, an app or a website is usually not the best option, but it may be the most accessible one. These programs can be used most effectively when they are used to prepare for in-person learning or as a supplement for social learning.

When the most effective way isn't possible, use one of the websites or apps on this list to supplement your social learning. If you prefer, you can use a computer with some of them instead of a smartphone. All the websites and apps listed below were free as of July 2020 although some of them do offer an optional premium version you can pay for.

1. Students who are fluent in Hindi, Assamese, Bengali (India), Bengali (Bangladesh), Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Telugu, Tamil, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Chinese, Indonesian, Malay, Thai, or Turkish can use [Hello English](#). It covers vocabulary, translation, grammar, spelling, speaking, and reading. It does require some basic English knowledge, including the alphabet.
2. The [Duolingo](#) website provides interactive games for those who wish to learn Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hawaiian, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Navajo, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, or Welsh. Fewer languages are available on the app than on the website, but English is one of them. Learners can benefit from Duolingo's interactive games that range from verbs, phrases, and sentences for total beginners to writing, speaking and vocabulary for advanced students. As you register, indicate your support language and the language you want to learn. Duolingo has a premium version you can pay for if you get tired of their ads.

3. [Lingbe's](#) language exchange system meets the need for learners who want to speak English with a real person. The path to doing that is to first speak with someone in their native language and help them learn. Participants experience being a teacher and a learner. If you don't want to build up minutes by speaking your native language, you can purchase Lingbe coins to buy minutes to speak to native speakers of your target language.
4. You can learn Chinese, Danish, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese on [Memrise's](#) crowd-sourced learning platform. Sign up in your chosen support language to learn by playing games. If you become a regular user then you can share knowledge of your native language to create courses for other learners.
5. [Hello Talk](#) is a program to improve your target language while sharing your skill in your native language. You send text or voice messages to your language partners and they give you feedback. You can do the same for them.
6. [Learn English Daily](#) is an app that focuses on listening and speaking. If a student is studying British English, this app will reinforce the classroom experience. For other students, this is an opportunity to practice listening to an unfamiliar accent.
7. [BBC Learning English](#) provides lessons based on the news. Students can learn new vocabulary, take grammar lessons, and improve pronunciation.
8. [Drops: Language Learning](#) doesn't focus on grammar but rather on conversation. You acquire the grammar as you progress. This free app has a premium version that you can pay for. You can study British and American English, as well as Ainu, Arabic, Cantonese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Maori, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese.

Links to Independent Learning

1. Created by teachers for students to learn on their own, [Activities 4 ESL](#) has quizzes, tests, exercises and puzzles to support students in their English language learning. this is a nonsecure site.

2. [ESL Study Guide](#) from Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab has listening activities divided by topics.
3. [Jones Library](#) has independent study links in the following areas
 - a. General ESL—speaking listening, reading, writing
 - b. Pronunciation
 - c. U.S. Citizenship
 - d. U.S. Culture
 - e. TOEFL
 - f. HiSET/GED
 - g. Accuplacer Test Preparation
 - h. Driver's Permit Test for Massachusetts
4. [BBC Learning English](#) provides lessons based on the news. Students can learn new vocabulary, take grammar lessons, and improve pronunciation.
5. [Voice of America](#) has many courses, including *Let's Learn English* for adults, *Let's Learn English with Anna* for children, and *Let's Learn English with Anna in Your Language* for speakers of Amharic, Bambara, Lingala, Uzbek, French, Vietnamese, and Korean. There are also many articles based on your competency—beginning, intermediate, or advanced.
6. These links worked as of May 2023.