

Digital
Discoveries

Digital Learning Resources



by
Vicki Trottier

January 2012

COMMUNITY LITERACY
OF ONTARIO

Acknowledgements

Research and Writing *Vicki Trottier*

Research and
Writing Support *Joanne Kaattari*

Project Manager *Joanne Kaattari*

Project Host *Community Literacy of Ontario*

Project Funder *Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities*



Advisory Group *The LearningHUB, Avon Maitland District School Board
Dr. Ron Wideman, Associate Dean of Education, Nipissing University
Dr. David Booth, Professor Emeritus, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education*

Content Reviewers *Joyce Bigelow, Linda Conley, Karen Farrar*

Copy Editing *Tamara Kaattari*

Desktop Publishing *Steve Knowles, The Right Type*

Publication Date *January 2012*

Digital Discoveries: Guide to Promising Practices in Online Learning for Adult Literacy Learners is available in print format and online. Please contact CLO at clo@bellnet.ca for ordering information.

All weblinks were accurate at the time of publication.



80 Bradford Street, Suite 508, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6S7
TEL 705-733-2312 | FAX 705-733-6197
EMAIL clo@bellnet.ca | WEBSITE www.nald.ca/clo.htm

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Instructional Websites for Adult Learners | 3 |
| <i>Numeracy Instruction</i> | 3 |
| <i>Communication Skills Instruction</i> | 14 |
| <i>Employment-Related Instruction</i> | 44 |
| <i>General Interest Instruction</i> | 50 |
| <i>How to Use the Internet Instructions</i> | 68 |
| <i>Other Useful Instructional Sites</i> | 71 |
| E-Channel | 73 |
| <i>Blogging</i> | 76 |
| Social Media and Social Networking | 76 |
| <i>Bookmarking</i> | 77 |
| <i>Facebook</i> | 78 |
| <i>Twitter</i> | 79 |
| <i>Video</i> | 81 |
| Applications | 83 |
| <i>iPhone, iPods, iPads</i> | 83 |
| <i>Blackberry</i> | 86 |

Digital Learning Resources

INTRODUCTION

When deciding whether or not to include a particular digital resource, we considered how popular it was in Ontario literacy agencies, the degree of relevance to Ontario literacy learners, and any associated costs ...

This section includes instructional resources that were suggested to us by literacy practitioners and students from across Ontario as well as resources that were discovered during online research while we were writing *Digital Discoveries*. When deciding whether or not to include a particular digital resource, we considered how popular it was in Ontario literacy agencies, the degree of relevance to Ontario literacy learners, and any associated costs (all resources are free unless otherwise noted, and prices are shown in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted).

We also aimed to include adult-focused, user-friendly resources. In some cases, we have included websites that are designed for children but which have excellent content and are favourites of adult literacy students across the province.

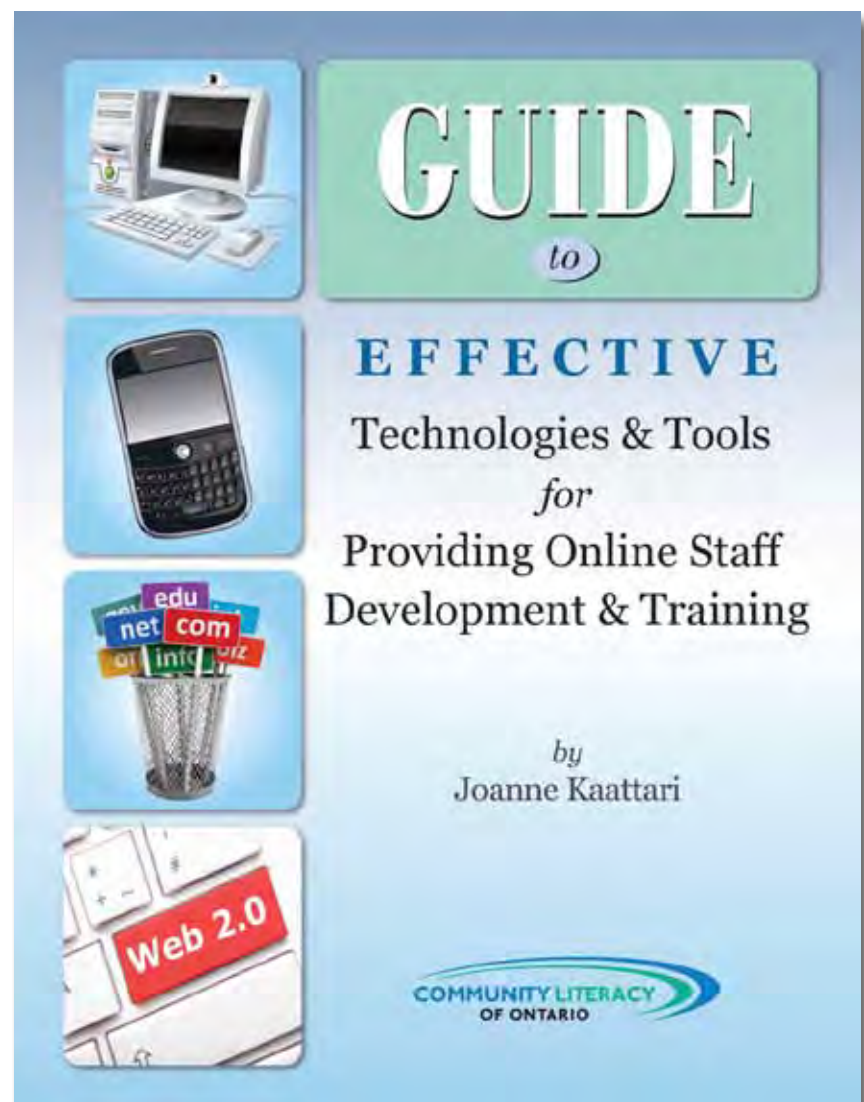
Some of the digital resources included in the *Digital Learning Resources* list will appear in more than one section because they often address more than one subject area. Some resources are difficult to categorize, but we have attempted to include them in the most logical section. *Digital Learning Resources* is divided into four main sections:

- ▶ **Instructional Websites for Adult Learners:** This section includes instructional resources related to numeracy, communication skills, employment, general interest (often sites that combine a number of subject matters), using the internet, and other useful sites.
- ▶ **E-Channel:** This section provides a brief overview of Ontario's e-Channel providers. For more detailed information, be sure to see the e-Channel section in *Digital Discoveries* beginning on [page 44](#).
- ▶ **Social Media:** This section provides an overview of some of the most common social media being used in Ontario's literacy agencies.
- ▶ **Applications:** This section includes some useful applications for iPods, iPads and smartphones.

Digital Learning Resources is provided to help literacy practitioners and students begin to explore digital technology. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list. New websites and other resources are continually

being created, so if you discover a useful digital technology or tool, we would love to hear about it! Please contact CLO at clo@bellnet.ca so that we can add it to the next update of the Digital Learning Resources list.

For information about digital resources and technologies for professional development you can order CLO's "Guide to Effective Tools and Technologies for Providing Online Staff Development" by emailing clo@bellnet.ca



Please note that all websites and information were accurate as of November 2011. CLO does not take any responsibility for the content of any websites or other resources.

INSTRUCTIONAL WEBSITES FOR ADULT LEARNERS

Numeracy Instruction

AAA Math (www.aaamath.com)

This website provides an excellent way for lower level learners to learn and practice basic math skills including addition, subtraction, decimals, fractions and more. Each topic area includes information about the subject along with opportunities to practice. This site was recommended by many community-based agencies. Clicking on the IXL Math Practice links will bring you to a site designed for the Canadian K-12 system. (Hosted by AAA Math)



Aplus Math (www.aplusmath.com)

This is a useful site for math practice and drill work. Users can print out flashcards and worksheets. The site has recently included links for mobile applications for Android phones and iPhones. (Host: Education 4 Free: <http://education4free.com>)

AplusMath
www.aplusmath.com

Welcome to **Aplusmath.com**! This web site was developed to help students improve their math skills interactively.

Visit our [game room](#) and play exciting games like Matho and Hidden Picture...Test your math skills with our [Flashcards](#)! Try out the [Math Word Find](#) puzzle.

Create and print your own set of flashcards online using the [Flashcard Creator](#)! See the [Worksheets](#) section, where you can print worksheets to practice offline. Try the [Homework Helper](#) to check your homework solutions.

Find out [What's New](#)! << MATHO now available for [Android Phones](#) and [iPhone/iPad Touch](#). >>

Sponsored Links

Pre-K - Algebra Math Exercises
At **IXL Math**, practice over 2,000 pre-K to algebra math topics, and win awards and virtual prizes along the way. Students love it!

DreamBox Learning online math instruction; adaptive math adventures students love to play.

Mathway Need math help? Mathway provides [free answers](#) to your math problems, with step-by-step assistance available.

MATHSCORE.COM MathScore.com is the proven online math practice environment for students in grades 2-8. You've got to see their [math website / free trial](#).

Check out the unbelievable new [multiplication games](#) from Big Brainz. Even their free version teaches mastery of [multiplication facts 2-12](#)!

Find a private math tutor with [WyzAnt Tutoring](#). Contact local algebra tutors for free and start lessons with a satisfaction guarantee.

Please feel free to place a link to our site if you have a web page. Also, feel free to support our [sponsors](#). Thanks for visiting and we hope you enjoy it!

Ad Choices

Math Practice - Ages 5-15
A math website kids LOVE — Win awards, certificates, have fun!
[Click Here to Get Started](#)

Kids Online Math Games
A Math-Themed Virtual World for Ages 6-12. Play Free Now!
[Click Here to Get Started](#)

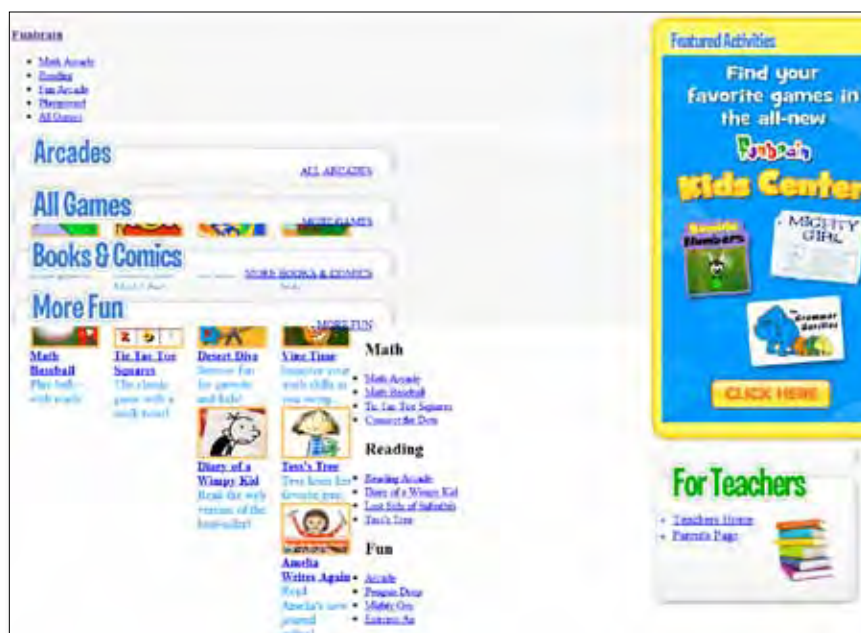
ShotBlasting
Vertical & Horizontal Shot Blasting Storage Tanks and Marine Projects
[Click Here to Get Started](#)

Overstock PS3: \$26.54
Get a 160GB PS3 console for \$26.54. 1 Per Customer. 30 Sold/30. CA Only
[Click Here to Get Started](#)

Fun Learn-To-Read Games
A Breakthrough In Learning To Read! Ages 3 to 7. Free 14-Day Trial.
[Click Here to Get Started](#)

Funbrain (www.funbrain.com)

Designed for children, this site is very popular with some lower-level learners. It features many educational games and quizzes in both math and reading. Although learners don't have to register to use the site, when they leave it, a password is generated that they can use on their next visit. In this way, their progress is saved so they don't have to start over, but they also don't have to give any private information. (Host: Family Education Network, Pearson Education, Inc.)



Gamequarium (www.gamequarium.org/dir/Gamequarium/Math/)

There are dozens of math-related games on this site on topics ranging from decimals to percents to basic math functions. Although the site is targeted for the K-12 system, most of the resources are suitable for adults. The money math does use American bills and coins so it may be confusing for some students. (Host: Gamequarium: www.gamequarium.org)

Math for the Left and Right Brain (<http://ca.ixl.com>)

Learners can use this site to practice math skills free of charge. Agencies can pay a charge to access features such as additional activities as well as tracking and reporting. Please note that this site was designed for the Canadian K-12 system. (Host: IXL Learning)



Math Drills (www.math-drills.com)

This site has a collection of over 10,000 math worksheets with new content being added regularly. Subjects include: arithmetic, integers, decimals, fractions, percents, graphing, geometry, algebra and measurement. The site offers large print for those with vision problems. Please note that the site is organized by grade levels. You can also follow Math Drills on Facebook at www.facebook.com/freemath

Math-Drills.Com Free Math Worksheets Home

Home | + Addition | Algebra | = Base Ten Blocks | + Christmas | Data Management and Probability | % Decimals and Percents | = Division | Dot Math Game | Easter | Flash Cards | % Fractions | = Geometry | Graph Paper | Halloween | + Integers | Large Print | Measurement | = Money | Multiple Operations | = Multiplication | + Number Sense | Order of Operations | Other Holidays | Patterning | @ Powers of Ten | St. Patrick's Day | - Subtraction | Sudoku | Thanksgiving | @ Valentine's Day

Share Math-Drills.Com

Visit us on [Social Media Icons]

Visit us on [Facebook]

Recommended

- * Buy Math Products
- * Share Math Resources
- * Read Education Articles
- * Mobile Math Drills
- * Version Française
- * Kids Fighting? (Article)
- * Back to School (Article)

More Information

- Unit Converter
- Teachers
- Parents
- Suggestions and Feedback
- Help and Contact
- Privacy Policy

Newsletter

Try 20 FREE practice problems!

Kindergarten | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 | Grade 9

PRINTABLE MATH WORKSHEETS

1st Grade | 2nd Grade | 3rd Grade | 4th Grade | 5th Grade | 6th Grade | 7th Grade | 8th Grade | 9th Grade | Addition | Subtraction | Multiplication | Division | Fractions | Decimals | Percents | Integers | Geometry | Measurement | Graphing | Algebra

Welcome!

Math-Drills.Com includes over 10,000 free math worksheets with answer keys.

Classroom teachers use the free math worksheets on this website to assess students' mastery of basic math facts, to give students extra practice, to teach new math strategies, and to save precious planning time.

Parents use the free math worksheets on this website to give their child extra practice with essential math skills.

Using the math worksheets over the **summer** and **other breaks** allows students to stay sharp for the upcoming school term.

What's New?

Math Goodies (www.mathgoodies.com)

This free site features interactive lessons, worksheets, puzzles and a glossary. There is also a “feature of the week.” Users can log in as either a teacher or a student to find various resources. The teacher section includes forums and articles. You can also find Math Goodies on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Math.Goodies (Host: Mrs. Glosser’s Math Goodies).




Math Journey (www.quia.com/mathjourney.html)

In this game, students travel the world by answering math problems. The math skills needed to complete the game can include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and rounding using from one- to four-digit numbers. (Host: Quintessential Instructional Archive: www.quia.com)



Math Worksheet Site (<http://themathworksheetsite.com>)

This site can generate random worksheets in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, measurement, fractions and more. Worksheets can also be customized to meet individual learner needs. There is a fee to use the site (\$25 U.S. for one year for one instructor), but you can request a free trial before purchasing. (Host: Scott Bryce: <http://scottbryce.com>)



The Math Worksheet Site.com
On-line Math Worksheet Generator

Subscribe Forgot Password Log In

With The Math Worksheet Site you can create an endless supply of printable math worksheets. The intuitive interface gives you the ability to easily customize each worksheet to target your student's specific needs. Every worksheet is created when you request it, so they are different every time.

This way you can add the practice that your student needs to a curriculum you already like, or you can be freed from the constraints of a workbook or textbook that gives either too much or too little practice if you would rather direct the studies yourself.

These worksheets are provided in PDF format. For those who have a slow internet connection or an older computer, we also provide these [worksheets as printable web pages](#).

[About This Site](#)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>+ Addition Single Digit, Horizontal Single Digit, Vertical Multiple Digit 5 Minute Drill</p> | <p>- Subtraction Single Digit, Horizontal Single Digit, Vertical Multiple Digit 5 Minute Drill</p> |
| <p>x Multiplication Single Digit, Horizontal Single Digit, Vertical Multiple Digit 5 Minute Drill</p> | <p>÷ Division Single Digit, Horizontal Long Division 5 Minute Drill</p> |
| <p>x+ Mixed Problems Mixed Problems</p> | <p>$\frac{x}{y}$ Fractions Least Common Multiple Reduce to Lowest Terms</p> |
| <p>Measurement 1 Reading a Tape Measure</p> | <p>Graphing Number Lines Coordinate Plane</p> |
| <p>Telling Time Telling Time</p> | <p>One Hundred Chart One Hundred Chart</p> |

Subscription Area
This site includes a subscription area with over 270 additional types of worksheets.

Preview
The Preview link will take you to the subscription area home page where you will be able to explore the interface.

Subscription area worksheets are available to subscribers.

Test Drive This Site
If you would like a test drive of the subscribers area of this site, please [e-mail us](#).

Pricing
Pricing is available for individuals and schools.

Endorsements
Find out what people are saying about The Math Worksheet Site.

Permission to create and copy worksheets
Users of this site are granted limited permission to create and copy the worksheets generated on this site.

Questions? [Customer Service](#)

Quiz Tree

(www.quiz-tree.com)

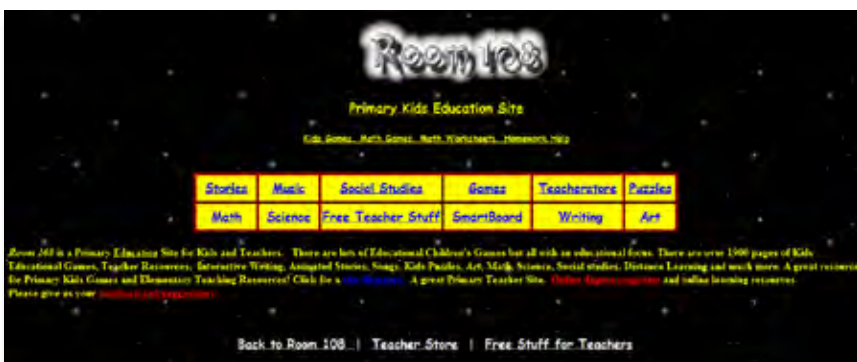
This site was created for children but has been used with adult learners working at lower LBS levels. It features quizzes and games on a variety of topics including math and spelling. You can tour the site and see some of the different puzzles and quizzes that are available, but you have to log in to use them. The site is free, however there is a lot of advertising on it. (Host: Sierra Vista Software)



Room 108

(www.netrover.com/~kingskid/108.html)

This site features hundreds of educational games and puzzles for math, writing, social studies and more. It was developed for children, but like so many other sites, is adaptable for use with lower-level learners. Some games are available as worksheets that can be printed for offline use; others are online games. The site also features SmartBoard activities.



That Quiz (www.thatquiz.org)

Instructors will need to create an account to use this site, but there is no charge to do so. Once registered, quizzes can be created for higher-level math skills including fractions, geometry, measurement and more.



The Top 10 iPod Touch Apps to Use in Math Class

(www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/63422.aspx)

This blog entry will be of interest for learners and instructors who have access to the iPod Touch. All of the applications mentioned are free. Some can also be used on the iPhone and/or the iPad. Applications can be found by searching the Apple Store on iTunes or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AppStore). See also the section on *Applications* starting on [page 83](#). (Host: Bright Hub: www.brighthub.com)



Triple A Math

(www.columbia.k12.mo.us/pke/bhecker/math.htm)


This site provides a variety of resources for beginning math skills such as addition, subtraction, fractions, measurement and more. Each topic area includes flashcards, games and downloadable worksheets that can be printed out to use offline. (Host: Aplusmath.com)



Visual Fractions (www.visualfractions.com)

This site provides a visual representation for fractions which can be helpful in aiding learners to grasp concepts. There are also worksheets available that can be printed out (with accompanying answer sheets). Users can also create their own examples. (Host: Richard E. Rand)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Visual Fractions website. At the top, the title "Visual Fractions" is displayed in a large, bold, red font, accompanied by a logo of a circle with a fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ inside. Below the title, a subtitle reads "A tutorial that models fractions with number lines or circles". A navigation bar contains links: IDENTIFY, RENAME, COMPARE, ADD, SUBTRACT, MULTIPLY, and DIVIDE. The main content area features a large circle divided into three equal sectors, with two sectors shaded red. Below the circle, the text " $\frac{2}{3}$ of the circle is shaded." is shown. A red banner below this states "Fractions are better understood when seen." Below this is a section titled "Special Features:" with four items, each preceded by an icon: a question mark for "Investigate Page", a pencil for "Fraction Maker Page", a person for "Games Page", and a book for "About page". At the bottom, a section titled "VISUAL FRACTIONS WORKSHEETS" describes pre-made slide shows and 101 worksheets for practice.

Visual Fractions 

A tutorial that models fractions with number lines or circles


IDENTIFY + RENAME + COMPARE + ADD + SUBTRACT + MULTIPLY + DIVIDE +



$\frac{2}{3}$ of the circle is shaded.

Fractions are better understood when seen.

Special Features:

- ? You may go to the [Investigate Page](#) for a step-by-step explanation of each of the above main topics. Each explanation is in PDF format, using Adobe Reader™.
-  Design your own fractions examples with the [Fraction Maker Page](#). Here, you may produce either number line or circle fraction images.
-  Check out the [Games Page](#) for helpful games that will enhance fraction learning.
-  Look to the [About](#) page for information on how best to use this web site.
-  This [Site Map](#) will show how this Visual Fractions website is organized. Find the grade levels of each topic.

 **VISUAL FRACTIONS WORKSHEETS** Pre-made slide shows for instruction and 101 worksheets for practice. Circles and number lines are used to demonstrate identifying, renaming, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions.

Communication Skills Instruction

A Game a Day (www.agameaday.com)

This site features a variety of word games at two levels. Games include cryptograms, crosswords, word searches and much more. It is updated regularly. (Host: AgameAday.com, Inc.)



ABC Fast Phonics (www.abcfastphonics.com)

This site is helpful for beginning readers. It features audio lessons for the letters of the alphabet, letter blends and common words. The female voice speaks slowly and clearly. (Host: Carol Moore)



Activities for ESL Students (<http://a4esl.org>)

These activities can also be helpful for adult literacy students. This site includes dozens of grammar and vocabulary quizzes ranked as easy, medium or difficult. There are also links to many other ESL resources, including podcasts and videos. (Host: The Internet TESL Journal: <http://iteslj.org>)



Adult Learning Activities (www.cdlponline.org/)

This site features articles on a number of topics that have been rewritten from an original, more complex article. Topics include health and safety, housing, working, family, nature and more. Many of the articles are accompanied by a video, and all of them are presented as text with an accompanying audio option. Each article also includes learning activities. The articles are from American news sites, but many are of general interest and are suitable for Canadian learners. (Host: California Distance Learning Project)



Breaking News English (www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

Designed for ESL students, this site provides texts about current events in clear language with accompanying activities that can be printed. New content is added to the site on a regular basis. You can also find Breaking News English on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176 (Host: Sean Banville: <http://seanbanville.com>)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Breaking News English website. At the top, there's a header with the site's name and a tagline: "Free, 13-Page, Ready-to-Print ESL/ESL Lesson Plans on Current Events". Below this, there are navigation links for "All by Google", "English Lessons", "Listening English", "ESL Reading Lessons", and "ESL Speaking". A sidebar on the right offers a "FREE Lesson Subscription" and a link to "E-mail this site to a student/friend".

The main content area features a section titled "LATEST LESSONS - December 18, 2011" with three featured lessons: "Zynga disappoints in its public debut", "Self-cleaning clothes coming", and "100 Questions for Santa Xmas Lesson". Below these, there's a section for "RETURN TO SCHOOL WITH FINANCIAL AID. SEE IF YOU QUALIFY." with a "SELECT YOUR AGE" dropdown menu showing options from "Under 18" to "Over 75".

Further down, there's a section for "1,496 MORE LESSONS (All Free)" with sub-sections for "All by Google", "ESL Intermediate", "Free ESL English", "Listening Lessons", and "Beginner ESL". The "All by Google" section lists various news items with dates, such as "Def. spent at Congo battle on Tuesday" and "Christmas front, market, Santa, holiday". The "ESL Intermediate" section includes links to "CDI College Canada", "Online Accounting School", and "Canadian Cloud on Demand".

On the right side, there's a section titled "My 6 Other Sites" with links to "See 3,287 lesson plans from Sean's six other materials websites", "From My Blog" (listing resources like "Business English Materials" and "Online Pairwork Dictation"), and "Put my site widgets on your site or blog" (with a "Tweet this" button and a "Subscribe" button).

Business English Lessons (www.business-english.com)

This site features online writing activities and exercises in topic areas such as business idioms, English for the telephone and more. There is also an option to sign up to receive new lesson plans by email from the site's creator. (Host: Caroline and Pearson Brown)

Business English Lessons

[Ads by Google](#) [English ESL Lessons](#) [Teaching English](#) [Business Writing](#) [English Language](#)

Return To School With Financial Aid. See If You Qualify!



Click Your Age

☐ Under 18 ☐ 19-25 ☐ 26-35 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55 ☐ 56-65 ☐ 66-75 ☐ Over 75

- [Business Idioms](#)
- [English for Human Resources](#)
- [English for Meetings](#)
- [English for the Telephone](#)
- [Listening Lessons](#)
- [Business Language](#)
- [Prepare your Business English Test](#)

- [English for Presentations](#)
- [English for Negotiations](#)
- [Business Phrasal Verbs](#)
- [More Phrasal Verbs](#)
- [Business Idioms Hangman](#)
- [Business English Hangman](#)
- [Articles for teachers and students](#)

My name is Pearson Brown and I have been teaching people from all sectors of business to communicate more effectively in English for over twenty-five years. I have written these exercises for my students to develop their language skills. Now you can use them too.

I send out free English lessons by email from time to time. There is absolutely no charge and you can stop receiving them at any time, just by clicking on a link in the email.

Just fill in this form with your name and email address. I will immediately send you an email with a link to confirm you want to get my lessons. Click on that link and start receiving my free lessons.

Pearson

Name

Email

[Click here to be sent free English Lessons](#)

Dictionary.com (<http://dictionary.reference.com>)

This online dictionary allows learners to browse or search a word. It also features a word of the day and a quote of the day. You can also find it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dictionarycom (Host: Dictionary.com, LLC)



English Page (www.englishpage.com)

This free site provides English lessons on a variety of topics, including vocabulary, verb tenses, prepositions and more. It includes links to dictionaries and also offers crossword puzzles based on the vocabulary lessons. The site features numerous activities that learners can complete and check online. (Host: Language Dynamics)



Free Rice

(www.freerice.com)

The Free Rice homepage features a randomly generated vocabulary word. Correctly identifying the meaning of the word donates rice through the World Food Programme. Students can use the site “as is,” or they can register to keep track of their score. The site also features grammar, math and geography questions. Free Rice can also be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/freerice (Host: World Food Programme)

FREE Rice 2.0

For each answer you get right, we donate 10 grains of rice through the World Food Programme to help end hunger

Sign in | Sign up | Track your scores | Join an existing group | Add more

English Vocabulary | Change subjects

joyful means:

happy
costly
rapid
elderly

1 right = 10 grains
3 right = 30 grains

Play and feed hungry people

How to Play

- Click on the right answer in the middle of this page.
- If you get it right, you get a harder question. If you get it wrong, you get an easier question.
- For each answer you get right, we donate 10 grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Programme.

WARNING: This game may make you smarter. It may improve your speaking, writing, thinking, grades, job performance... (more)

Take this quiz and you'll feed a child. Share it and you'll feed another!

Join our official page on: **facebook**

Latest on FreeRice Blog

- How to: Make this season merrier. It's the season of goodwill and giving. Between wrapping presents and eating them, there is...
- And the winner is... Tell the results of November. Canadian schools battled it out for the Canadian FreeRice School...
- Food Force: an online game with real-world impact. The World Food Programme has launched Food Force, a game on Facebook with real-world impact...

Player Activities

Get Justin Dele, 502 Online

Music: Doking

Donna (Lambert) just earned 1500 grains.

John (J. Dele) just answered 20 questions in 3 min.

Justin (Dele) just answered 5 questions in 3 min.

John (J. Dele) just answered 10 questions in 3 min.

John (J. Dele) just answered 10 questions in 3 min.

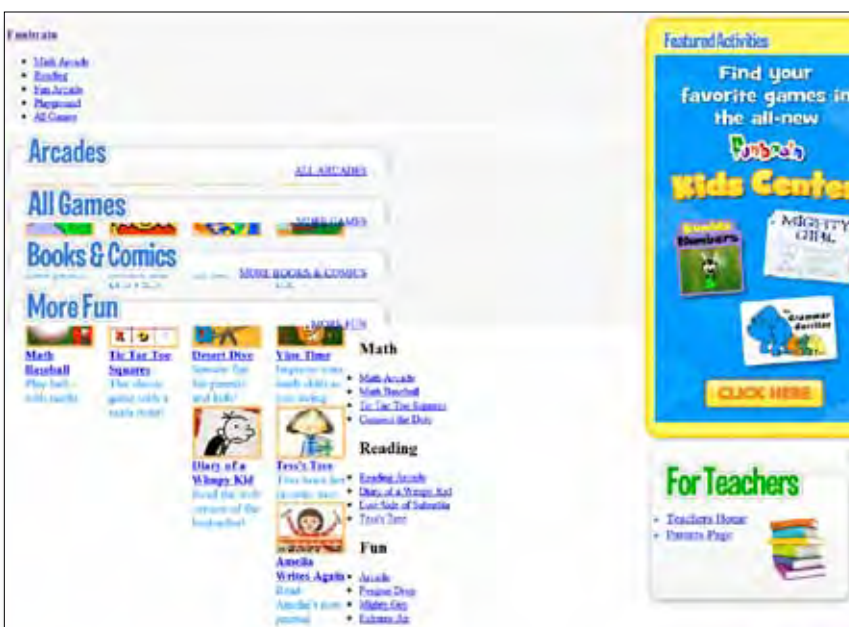
Latest to Fight

7 Facts About Climate Change And Hunger When it comes to protecting the world's poorest children from the effects of weather and natural disasters that many scientists expect in coming years, hunger is a key part of the solution.

World Aids Day: WFP's response Proper nutrition is an essential means of protecting the lives and livelihoods of people living with HIV.

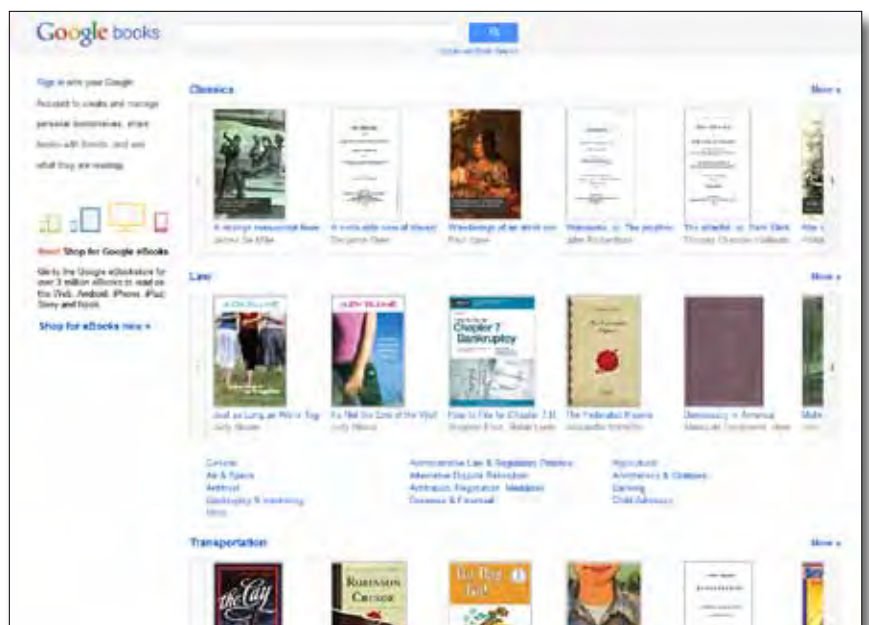
Funbrain**(www.funbrain.com)**

Designed for children, this site is very popular with some lower-level learners. It features many educational games and quizzes in both math and reading. Although learners don't have to register to use the site, when they leave it, a password is generated that they can use on their next visit. In this way, their progress is saved so they don't have to start over, but they also don't have to give any private information. (Host: Family Education Network)



Google Books (<http://books.google.ca/books>)

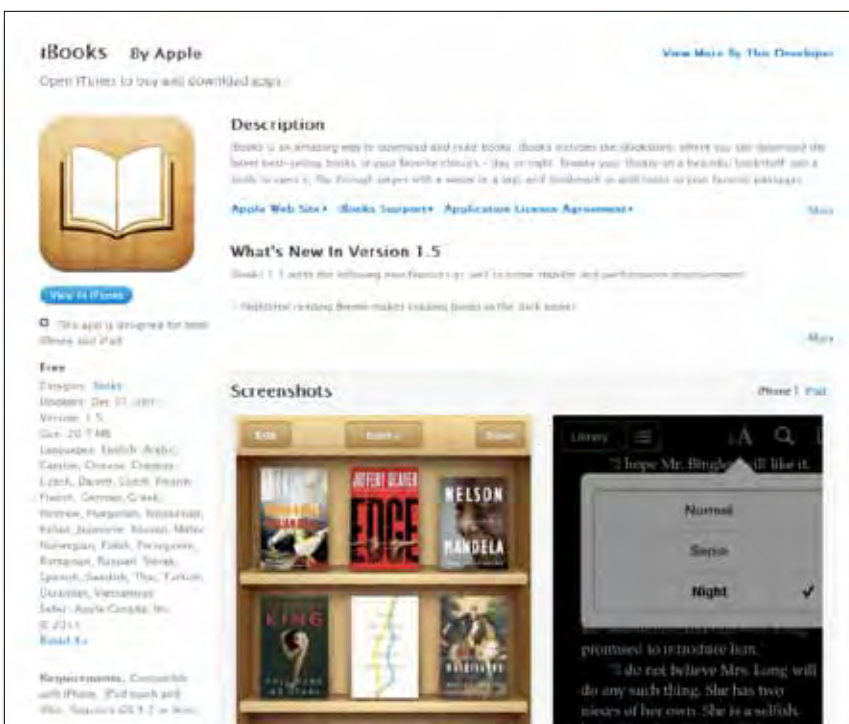
The Google Books site is a great way to access thousands of books for free. Literacy students can browse everything from the classics to graphic novels to self-help books. Books can be read on-screen on a computer, tablet or smartphone. If learners prefer hard-copy versions, they can follow the links to online booksellers such as Amazon.ca and ChaptersIndigo.ca to purchase the books. There is also a link provided to find out if your local library has the book available. (Host: Google)



iBooks

(<http://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/ibooks/id364709193?mt=8>)

iBooks are available to purchase for use on iPads or iPhones. There are thousands of titles to choose from. (Host: Apple)



Language Portal of Canada (www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/index-eng.php)

This site offers writing tips, word games and exercises, and Canadian writing tools. There are also numerous links to other language-related sites, including online dictionaries, tutorials, information about clear writing and more. (Host: Government of Canada)



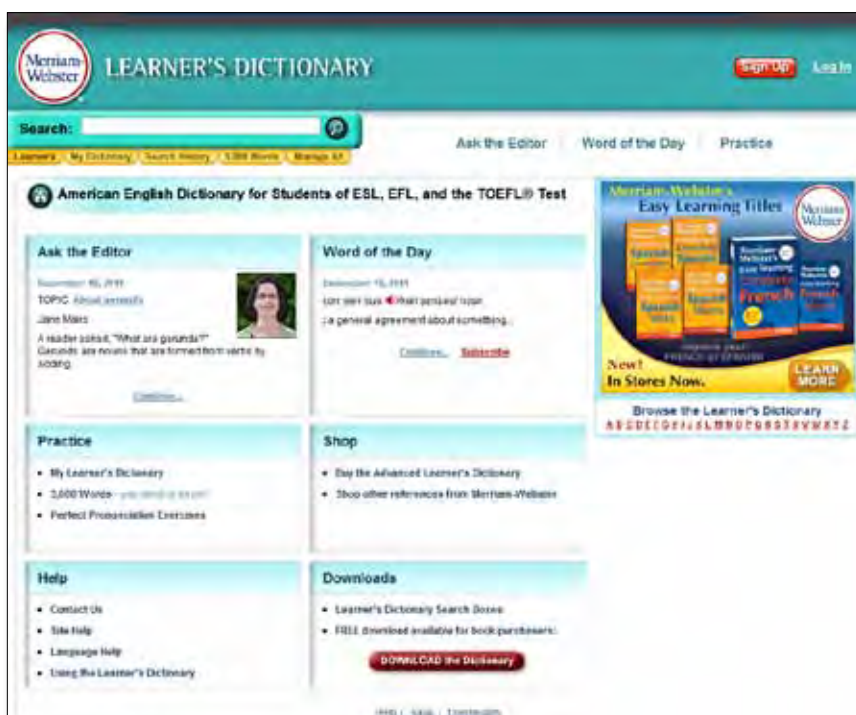
Learn American English Online (<http://learnamericanenglishonline.com>)

This program features seven colour-coded levels of instruction. Lessons, quizzes and exercises can be downloaded at no charge. New content is added daily. There is also a blog at <http://learnamericanenglishonline.com/BlogLAEO.html>



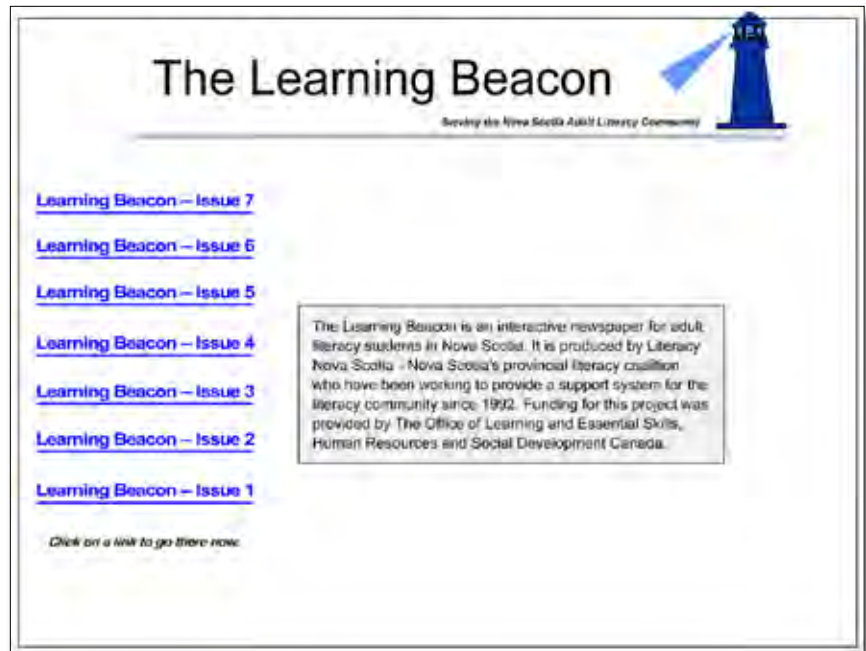
Learners' Dictionary (www.learnersdictionary.com)

Merriam-Webster designed this resource for adult learners and ESL students. It includes a “word-of-the-day” feature as well as a blog. Learners can look up words, take quizzes or do pronunciation exercises. Free registration provides access to additional features, including flash cards, additional exercises and the opportunity for learners to build their own dictionaries. (Host: Merriam-Webster)



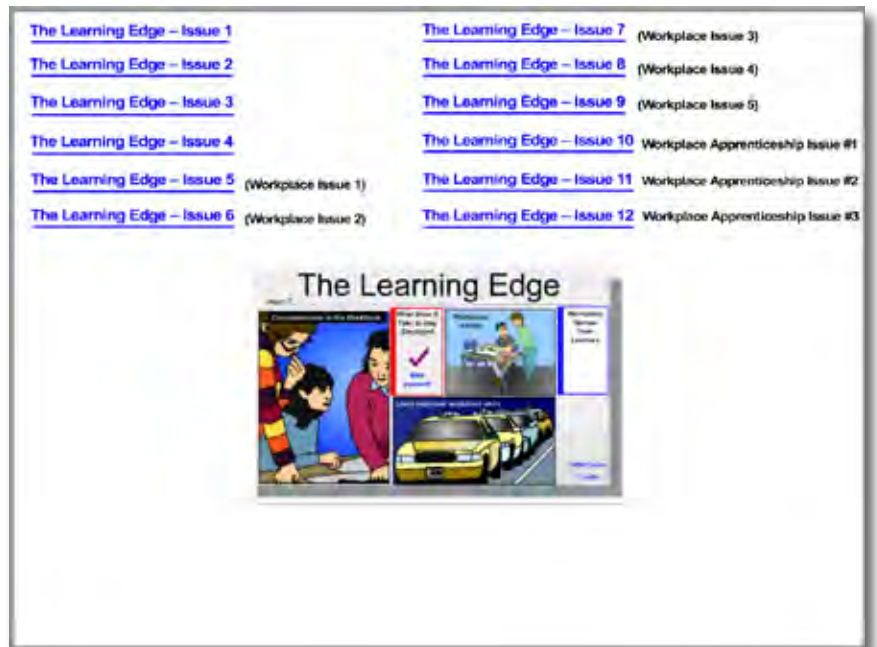
The Learning Beacon (www.ns.literacy.ca/TheLearningBeacon/index.html)

This online newspaper was developed for the Nova Scotia adult literacy community. It features seven issues, some of which have a workplace focus. Articles are written in clear language with accompanying voice-overs. Learning activities are included as are letters from students. (Host: Literacy Nova Scotia)



The Learning Edge (www.thewcllc.ca/edge)

This popular online newspaper was originally created by the Wellington County Literacy Council. There are 12 issues available, some of which have a workplace focus. The Learning Edge features articles written in clear language with accompanying voice-overs. Learning activities are also included.



Learning Resources by Literacyworks.org

(www.literacynet.org/cnnsf/archives.html)

This American site uses CNN news stories as the basis for adult learning resources. Each module includes the full text of each story and interactive activities to test comprehension. Learners can choose to read the text, listen to the text, or view a short video clip of the story. Each module is designed to be used independently. There is also a page for instructors with ideas on how to incorporate the story into lessons. Although the site does not seem to be actively updated, it is still a useful tool for communication learning. (Host: Literacyworks)

STORY ARCHIVES

Categories

- [Adventure](#)
- [Business & Economy](#)
- [Crime](#)
- [Culture & Society](#)
- [Disasters](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Science & Technology](#)
- [Other](#)

Complete LIST of Stories

CBS 5 Stories

- [Grads Enter Uncertain Job Market](#)
- [Fish Dinner](#)
- [Cirque du Soleil Accused of AIDS Bias](#)
- [Why Were Chemicals Leaked into Willits?](#)
- [Panhandler Controversy Takes to the Street-Signs](#)
- [Sea Otter Census Shows Big Population Jump](#)

CNN Stories

- [Oakland Puts Crime Statistics Maps On the Internet](#)
- [Dry Water? Unique Method To Irrigate](#)
- [Cashing In On JFK Jr.](#)
- [Airport Delays on the Rise](#)
- [Primate Researchers Sent Booby-Trapped Letters](#)
- [Sound Technology Helps Police Locate Gunfire](#)
- [Nurse Tracking Technology](#)
- [Links between Child Vaccines and Autism?](#)
- [Permits to Prevent Fortune-Telling Scams](#)
- [Using Dogs to Sniff Out Mold in Homes](#)
- [Fight to Keep Bison Inside Yellowstone](#)

Marshall Adult Education

(<http://marshalladulthoodeducation.org/index.php/reading-skills-for-todays-adult>)

On this site, learners can choose to read stories online or print them out. Stories are offered at different reading levels and on a variety of topics, including health and wellness, employment, child care, home safety and more. Lessons (some with sound) and answer keys are provided. (Host: Marshall Adult Education)

The screenshot shows the Marshall Adult Education website. The header features the logo 'Marshall Adult Education' with the tagline 'Grow your future here.' and a 'Quick Links' box containing links to 'Scope and Sequence', 'Mindquest (English) (En español)', 'Reading Skills for Today's Adults', and 'Student Lessons'. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Mission, Staff Directory, Feedback, Resources, Schedules, Services, and Contact Us.

The main content area is titled 'Reading Skills for Today's Adult'. It includes a sidebar with a 'Scope & Sequence' menu (Home, Business, Connections, GEO Test Center, Announcements, Technology, Agency Referrals) and a 'Student Lessons' section (Reading Skills for Today's Adult, Group 1, Group 2, Group 1 (printable), Group 2 (printable)).

The main text area contains the following information:

These new health and wellness stories were funded by the National Head Start Family Literacy Center/Sonoma State University.

This project was designed to create leveled reading selections that are appropriate for and valued by adult learners. These materials, combined with the research-proven strategies of repeated reading and guided oral reading, aid in building learners' fluency and comprehension skills. The materials correspond to Casas 200 - 235. This project helps adults become better readers and more informed consumers, parents, employees, citizens and community members. The focus of these reading selections will be on topics such as: Civics, Employment, Housing, Health, School, Money, and Government.

This project is funded in part through an EL/Civics Grant from the MN Dept. of Ed - ABE Division and mini-grant from the Minnesota Literacy Council.

Your comments, questions and feedback are invited. [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know what you think.

READ THE STORIES ONLINE
Reading Skills are divided into 2 groups. Click on the group you want to read.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Group 1 - Levels 0.7 to 4.5 | Group 2 - Levels 5.0 to 8.0 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

PRINT THE STORIES
Reading Skills are divided into 2 groups. Click on the group you want to print.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Group 1 - Levels 0.7 to 4.5 | Group 2 - Levels 5.0 to 8.0 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Merriam-Webster Online (www.m-w.com)

This online dictionary features a word of the day, word games, quizzes, a searchable dictionary and a thesaurus. You can also find it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/merriamwebster (Host: Merriam-Webster)

Merriam-Webster
m-w.com

Word Games Word of the Day New Words & Slang Video ★ My Words

Dictionary Thesaurus Spanish-English Medical Encyclo.

SPECIAL FEATURE

2011

The Year in Words

In politics, culture, sports and more, these words spiked in lookups because of events in the news.
[View the List »](#)

TREND WATCH

"Zany"
Mitt Romney used it while commenting about Newt Gingrich ... [more »](#)

"Blasphemy"
After a Saudi Court sentenced a man to 500 lashes for ... [more »](#)

"Disburse"
When Europe unlocked frozen bailout money ... [more »](#)

Word of the Day

Subscribe to the Word of the Day email
 [SUBSCRIBE](#)

... or get it on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

DECEMBER 19, 2011

ethereal [listen](#)

Heavenly or delicate

Did You Know? If you're burning to know the history of "ethereal," you're in... [more »](#)

QUIZES

?! How strong is your vocabulary?

Take our 10-question quiz to find out (and maybe learn some new words).
[Take the Quiz »](#)

Most Popular

The most frequently looked up words on this site:

| Past 24 Hours | Past Seven Days |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. mercurial | 1. pragmatic |
| 2. pragmatic | 2. didactic |
| 3. courteous | 3. ambivalence |
| 4. protégé | 4. capitalism |
| 5. pretentious | 5. polemic |

Name That Thing

The Northern Edge (<http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/resources/northernedge/edge.htm>)

Similar to The Learning Edge, this online newspaper is a popular site created by the Northwest Territories Literacy Council. There are six issues available plus a special elections issue that was added in 2011. Articles are written in clear language with accompanying voice-overs. Learning activities are also included. (Host: Northwest Territories Literacy Council)



Picture That Dictionary (www.ipicthat.com)

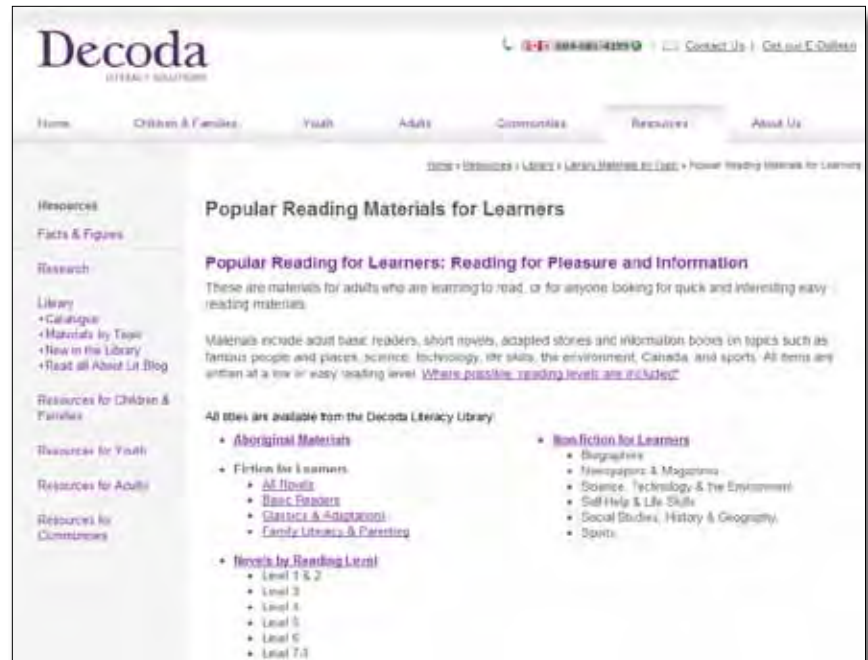
This talking picture dictionary allows learners to search for words alphabetically or by theme. By clicking on an icon, learners can listen to the word and hear it broken down into its various sounds. Basic phonetic rules are also explained. This site was developed by a man who struggled with reading all his life. Note: This is a British site so words are pronounced with a British accent. (Host: Marcus Burns)



Popular Reading Materials for Learners (Decoda Literacy Solutions)

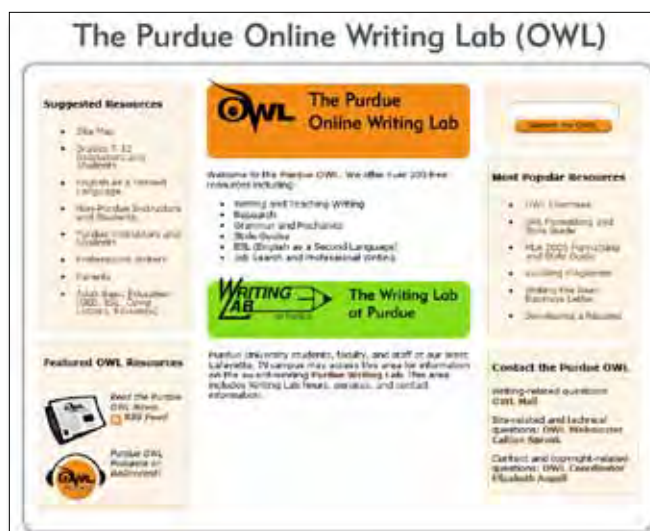
(<http://decoda.ca/resources/library/library-materials-by-topic/popular-reading-materials-for-learners>)

This blog entry from Decoda Literacy Solutions in British Columbia features a number of titles in both fiction and non-fiction categories that are suitable for literacy students. It also features a listing of novels by reading level. Although the materials are only available for borrowing in British Columbia, interested students and instructors outside of B.C. can find titles of interest and then look for them elsewhere. You can also find Decoda Literacy Solutions on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Decoda-Literacy-Solutions/148691295202161



Purdue Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>)

Although it is designed for students at Purdue University, this site features many useful activities and exercises suitable for adult literacy students. Each activity sheet includes a link to a printer-friendly format. If you are looking for an exercise about any writing topic, you will probably find it here. (Host: Purdue University)



Quiz Tree (www.quiz-tree.com)

This site was created for children, but it has been used with LBS learners working at lower levels with good success. It features quizzes and games on a variety of topics, including math and spelling. You can tour the site and see some of the different puzzles and quizzes that are available, but you have to log in to use them. The site is free; however, there is a lot of advertising on it. (Host: Sierra Vista Software)



Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab (www.esl-lab.com)

Designed for ESL students, this site is also valuable for literacy students who are working on their oral communication skills. Recorded conversations are presented in three levels (easy, medium, and difficult) with accompanying comprehension questions. The site is very busy with quite a bit of advertising, but the content is well done. (Host: Randall Davis)

The screenshot shows the homepage of Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab. The layout includes a top navigation bar with links like 'Christmas Card', 'Grammar Project', and 'EnglishVoice.org'. The main content area is divided into several sections: a central banner for the site, a 'Health Information Tech' section, a 'Learning Management LMS' section, a 'Canadian Cloud on Demand' section, and a 'General Listening Quizzes' section. The quizzes are categorized into 'Easy', 'Medium', and 'Difficult' levels. The left sidebar contains links for 'About the Site', 'ESL Students', 'Beginner ESL', 'ESL Listening', 'Website Information', 'Teacher Resources', 'Randall's Blog', 'Mailing List', and 'Follow Randall'. The right sidebar contains 'Using This Site', 'Language Software', 'University of Toronto', 'CDL College Canada', 'Writing Courses Online', and 'TESOL Online Training'.

Reading Comprehension Connection

(www.readingcomprehensionconnection.com/reading_lesson.php)

This site focuses on vocabulary in context, reading for understanding and reading strategy. There are two levels, i.e., intermediate and advanced. Activities are done online, but there are also links to printable resources. (Host: Merit Software)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Reading Comprehension Connection website. At the top, there is a banner with orange flowers and a person reading. Below the banner, the site title "Reading Comprehension Connection" is displayed in a blue box. To the left, the "BookPunch.com" logo is shown with the tagline "Writing and Comprehension Activities for Popular Children's Literature" and a "Click Here To Learn More" button. To the right, a list of featured books includes "Stone Fox", "The Egypt Game", and "The Magic Finger". A left-hand navigation menu contains links for Home, Lesson Menu, How To Buy, FAQ, Technical Issues, Free Downloads, Privacy Policy, Newsletter, Links, Link To This Site, Worksheets, and Contact. Below the menu is a "Keep Informed of Updates and New Products" section with fields for Name and Email, and a "Submit" button. The main content area is titled "Reading Lesson" and includes instructions to "Select a subject and a skill level from the drop down menus and then press the Start a Lesson button." Below this are two dropdown menus labeled "-Select a Subject-" and "-Select a Skill Level -", followed by a "Start Lesson" button. The "Lesson Summaries" section lists three categories: "Vocabulary in context sentences" (helps master confused words like accept/except and precede/proceed, with intermediate and advanced levels for grades 4-6 and 7-9), "Reading for understanding" (helps master specific reading skills like main idea, factual recall, vocabulary, sequence, inference, and drawing conclusions, with intermediate and advanced levels for grades 5-8 and 8-11), and "Reading strategy" (helps improve reading comprehension and develop inference skills).

Special English (www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home)

Provided by Voice of America, this site offers news stories in clear English. Designed for ESL students, Special English is also beneficial for literacy learners. Along with the news stories, the site also includes games with words such as vocabulary quizzes, spelling quizzes and crosswords. There are also podcasts and webcasts available. Special English is also available through an interactive Facebook site (www.facebook.com/voalearningenglish) that is followed by almost 100,000 people.

The screenshot shows the VOA Special English website. The header includes the VOA logo, navigation links for 'Learning English' and 'Learn American English and more', a search bar, and a date stamp: 'Monday, 19 December 2011'. Below the header, there's a 'Special English' section with a main article titled 'Snoopy House' Finds a New Home, and Other Holiday Tales'. To the right of the article is a 'More Stories' list with links to various news items. On the far right, there are several promotional boxes: 'Do You Want To Learn English? Click on The Classroom Now!', 'Click Here For English Activities!', 'We are teaching English on Facebook!', and 'Grammar that's easy and fun!'. At the bottom, there's a 'Program Spotlight' section featuring 'Captioned Videos', 'The Younger Crowd', and 'VOA | EnglishCentral'. The left sidebar contains a 'Special English' menu with categories like U.S.A., World, U.S. History, American Life, Arts and Entertainment, Health, Education, Business, and More Topics. It also includes 'Web Features' (Foreign Student Series, Wordmaster, Words and Their Stories, Word Book, Games with Words), 'Interactive' (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube), 'Web Services' (Podcasts, RSS, Mobile, Newsletter Subscription, Webcasts), and 'Learning Resources'.

Story of the Week (www.nald.ca/sotw)

Each week, the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) publishes a story of the week written by a Canadian literacy student. This is a great place for learners to read about other learners and their experiences.

National Adult Literacy Database

Mobile | About us | Contact us | Services | Help | Français

NALD BDAA
Canada's Literacy and Essential Skills Network

Story of the Week

Home | Headlines | Events | Library | Contacts | Webcasts
Glossary | Calls for papers | External resources | Newsletters | Tools

Search NALD

Story of the Week

This page allows adult learners to share their stories. A new story is put online every Monday.

December 19, 2011

This week, we have a story from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The author, Patti B., is enrolled in literacy classes at **Dartmouth Learning Network (DLN)**, a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving literacy levels in the community. It offers training for adults in language, mathematics, computers and life skills.

Great Day in the Snow
by Patti B.

One Christmas my family went to my Grandmother's house for the holidays. On Christmas morning my sister and brother awakened. Then they came for me in the next bedroom. We all had breakfast first, and then we all opened our gifts. It was so exciting - we all had new skis! All of us were hoping for snow. We couldn't be happier being at my Grandmother's house.

The next Day when we woke up it was snowing outside. So we all put on our winter clothes. My siblings and I went skiing down the small hill behind my grandmother's house. We put on our skis and down the hill we went. Everybody was doing well, but I had to get stuck in the snow bank. I wasn't able to take my skis off. My sister had to go for help. My Dad came to the hill where we were and that was the end of my skiing experience.

(This story was taken with permission, from The Reader 2010, published by the **Dartmouth Learning Network (DLN)**, p.9)

List stories by location:

List stories by author:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

List stories by year:
2011 2010 2009 2008
2007 2006 2005 2004
2003 2002 2001 2000
1999 1998 1997 1996

Story of the week

Stories with audio

Story of the Week

View essential skills and workplace learning content

University of Victoria's Study Zone (<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone>)

Although this site is provided by a university, it is designed for adult English-language learners and features five levels of lessons and exercises in topics such as grammar, reading and vocabulary. (Host: University of Victoria)



USA Learns (www.usalearns.org)

This American site is designed to help adults improve their basic reading, writing, speaking and life skills. There are three levels offered (beginning, intermediate and low-intermediate). If students register, they can keep track of their scores and results. (Host: USA Learns)



Vowels

(www.pc.maricopa.edu/rdg/tutorials/vowless/vowels1.htm)

Students can use this site to learn and practice a variety of vowel rules and sounds. (Host: Phoenix College)

PHOENIX COLLEGE Vowels

Definition

There are 5 single vowels in English: a, e, i, o, and u. Sometimes, the letter y also functions as a vowel. Vowels are single letters. English words are built upon vowels and must contain at least one per word. Vowels can be words just by themselves, such as the word "An" an article, or "I" referring to myself. Vowels have three different sounds: short vowel, long vowel, or controlled vowel sounds. These sounds can usually be determined by the pattern of the letters in the word or a vowel rule.

Single Short Vowels

Sounds

Practice: [Click here to listen to the short vowel sounds of a, e, i, o, u.](#)

Practice: [More practice with short vowel sounds.](#)

Patterns

Short vowel sounds in words can be identified by the Consonant-Vowel-Consonant pattern. A single vowel between two consonants is usually short.

Example: (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) C-A-N. The vowel "a" is short because it is found between the consonants c and n.

Practice: [Click here to practice single short vowels in words.](#)

Single Long Vowels

Sounds

Practice: [Click here to listen to the long vowel sounds of a, e, i, o, u.](#)

Practice: [Click here to listen to the long vowel sounds of a, e, i, o, u.](#)

Practice: [Click here to listen to the long vowel sounds of a, e, i, o, u.](#)

Rules

1. Silent e Rule: When e is located at the end of a word, the vowel before the e is long while the e is silent. In most cases, the pattern of the word is Consonant-Vowel-Consonant-Silent E.

For example, in the word tape, the a is long and the e is silent.

Consonant-Vowel-Consonant-Silent e as in t-a-p-e

Practice with Silent e: [Click here.](#)

More Silent e Practice: [Click here.](#)

The Writing Den (www2.actden.com/writ_den/index.htm)

This website helps students improve their reading and writing skills while they learn about Canada. Topics include history, nature, science, Canada and lifestyles. Each topic provides a writing task and interactive exercises at the word, sentence and paragraph levels. Audio is provided along with some photographs. The site also provides a teacher's guide. (Host: ACT360 Media Ltd.)

WRITING DEN DECEMBER 19, 2011

feature topic

Do wolves deserve their reputation? You be the judge.

more topics
tips-o-matic
word of the day
speak out
teacher's guide
about
den home

Technical Writing Course
 Improve Employee Writing Skills.
 Online Technical Writing Courses.

University of Toronto
 Creative Writing Program - Activate your inner artist.

Copyright © 1996-2000 ACT360 Media Ltd. All rights reserved.

Employment-Related Instruction

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training (www.saset.ca)

Click on the Essential Skills link in the main menu to find videos, stories, resources and tools related to the Essential Skills. (Host: Sto:Lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training)



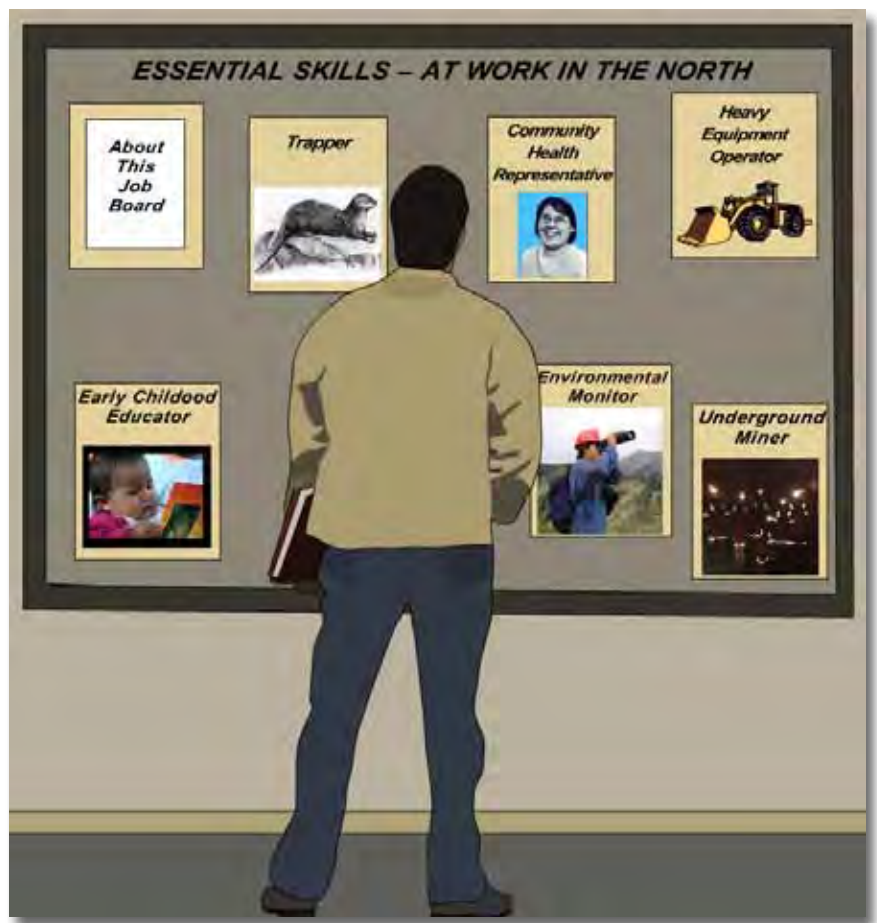
Career and Job Search Help Blog (<http://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/jobhelp>)

This blog is written by the Toronto Public Library and updated regularly with a variety of information about finding a job. For example, they post entries (and links to other resources) about using social networking in your job search, resumé writing and emerging careers.



Essential Skills Job Board (www.nwt.literacy.ca/JobsNorth)

This interactive site was developed by the Northwest Territories Literacy Council. Learners can click on the job board to learn about a number of jobs, including early childhood educator, heavy equipment operator, underground miner and more. Each section includes information about the Essential Skills required for the job. The site is narrated, features interviews with learners and does not include a lot of text, so it is very helpful for learners with limited reading skills. (Note: this site is not fully functional using the Chrome browser)



Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

(www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/LES/tools_resources/job.shtml)

This site can help learners find out about the skills required for certain jobs, identify their Essential Skills strengths and areas for improvement, and improve their Essential Skills. (Host: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada)

The screenshot shows the official website of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The header includes the Canadian flag, the organization's name in English and French, and the Canada wordmark. A navigation bar contains links for Français, Home, Contact Us, Help, Search, and canada.gc.ca. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Skills > Literacy: Essential Skills > Tools and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Job Seekers and Workers' and features a sidebar with a 'Skills' menu. The sidebar menu includes: Trades and Apprenticeship, Literacy and Essential Skills (with sub-links for OLES, Definitions, Essential Skills Profiles, Tools and Resources, and Funding), Foreign Credential Recognition, Foreign Workers, Labour Market Information, Labour Mobility, Sector Councils, Aboriginal Labour Market Programs, Prov-Terr Agreements, Older Workers, Official Language Minority Communities, Youth Employment Strategy, Work-Sharing, People with Disabilities, and a 'Department' section with links for Ministers, About Us, Newsroom, and Publications and Resources. The main text area explains that the site helps job seekers and workers by providing tools to learn about required skills, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and improve those skills. It lists several tools available, including 'Living and Learning - Essential Skills Success Stories', 'What are Essential Skills?', 'Literacy and Essential Skills Toolkit - Postcard', 'Essential Skills Tools for the Skilled Trades - Postcard', and 'What are Essential Skills for the Trades?'. It also lists numerous 'Essential Skills for Success in the Trades' for various professions, such as Automotive Service Technician, Carpenter, Construction Electrician, Cook, Hairstylist, Industrial Mechanic (Millwright), Machinist, Plumber, Sheet Metal Worker, Welder, Ironworker, and Industrial Electrician. Some items are marked as 'NEW'.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
www.hrsdc.gc.ca

Job Seekers and Workers

If you are looking for a job or a change in your career, you may want to consider your Essential Skills. Developing your Essential Skills can help you get a job, succeed at work and adapt to change.

Use these tools to:

- learn about the skills employers need from you on the job;
- identify your Essential Skills strengths and areas for improvement; and
- help improve your Essential Skills.

We encourage you to adapt the tools to meet your needs. To determine if written permission is required, please visit [Apply for Crown Copyright Clearance](#).

Visit [How to Order](#) for ordering information.

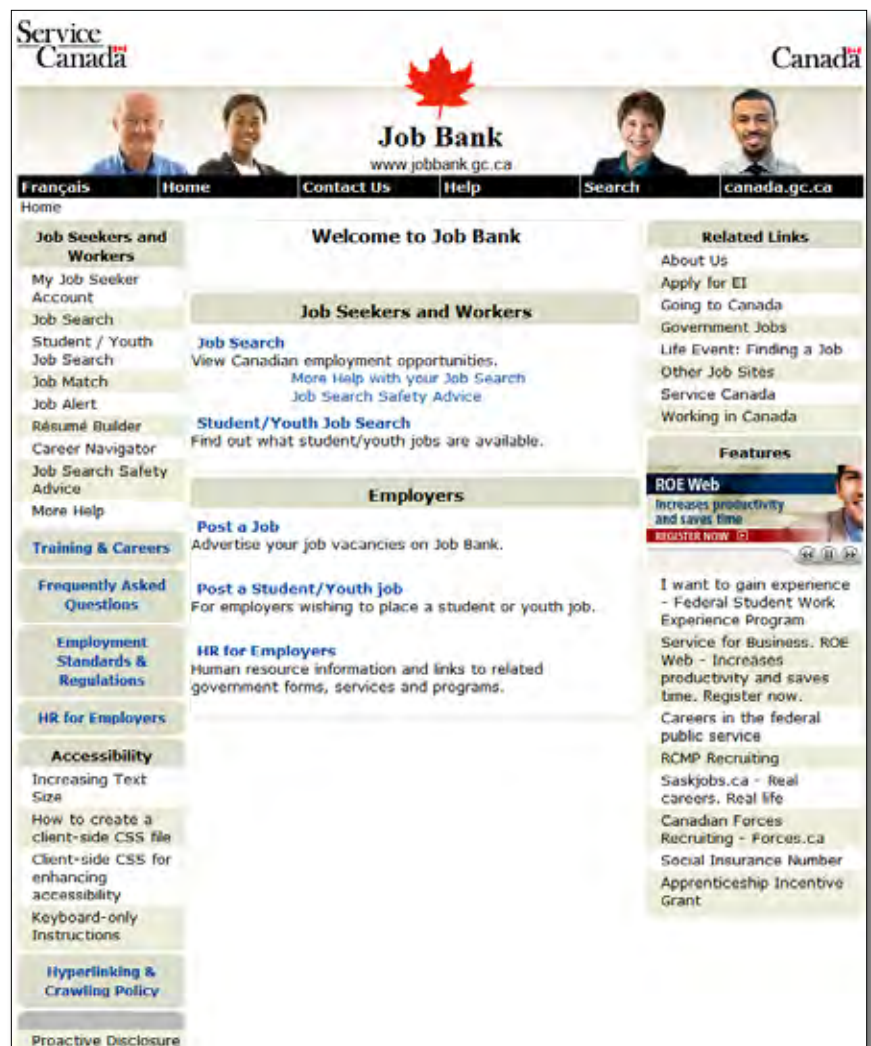
Awareness/Inform

- [Living and Learning - Essential Skills Success Stories](#) (HIP-031-02-06E)
- [What are Essential Skills?](#) (WP-077-12-09)
- [Literacy and Essential Skills Toolkit - Postcard](#) (WP-094-03-10)
- [Essential Skills Tools for the Skilled Trades - Postcard](#) (WP-166-01-11E) **NEW**
- [What are Essential Skills for the Trades?](#) (WP-123-10-09E)
- Essential Skills for Success in the Trades:
 - [Essential Skills for Success as an Automotive Service Technician](#) (WP-125-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Carpenter](#) (WP-126-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Construction Electrician](#) (WP-127-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Cook](#) (WP-128-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Hairstylist](#) (WP-129-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as an Industrial Mechanic \(Millwright\)](#) (WP-130-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Machinist](#) (WP-131-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Plumber](#) (WP-132-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Sheet Metal Worker](#) (WP-133-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as a Welder](#) (WP-134-10-09E)
 - [Essential Skills for Success as an Ironworker](#) (WP-161-01-11E) **NEW**
 - [Essential Skills for Success as an Industrial Electrician](#) (WP-162-01-11E) **NEW**

Job Bank

(www.jobbank.gc.ca/Intro-eng.aspx)

Service Canada provides this free-to-use online resource to help people search for job postings. Once registered, students can use the tools included on the site such as the resumé builder, or they can set an email alert when a job that meets their search criteria becomes available.



Ontario Skills Passport

(<http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca/OSPWeb/jsp/en/introduction.jsp?lang=en>)

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities jointly provide this site which includes clear descriptions of the Essential Skills and work habits important for work, learning and life. Interactive learning resources (including games) and other Ontario Skills Passport materials can be found at www.skillszone.ca



Summer in Smaillywood (<http://summerinsmaillywood.ca>)

This interactive video game was developed by The Centre for Skills Development & Training in Burlington. It was designed for young adults to help enhance their employability, but it has proven to be popular with adult literacy students as well. The game focuses on three Essential Skills: Oral Communications, Working with Others, and Thinking Skills. The site also features a facilitator's guide, activities and an instruction manual. You can find Mr. Small E. Wood on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Mr-Small-E-Wood/164133400300389



General Interest Instruction

Adult Learning Online (www.bbc.co.uk/learning/adults)

The BBC provides this excellent portal site for adult learners. There is information about online learning along with links to courses, useful websites and videos. The links to courses include academic courses such as learning to use the internet, communication skills and numeracy, but there are also links to general interest courses such as dancing, gardening and more.



Adult Literacy and Essential Skills Resources (www.nwt.literacy.ca/adultlit_res.htm)

This site features a number of resources produced by the Northwest Territories Literacy Council that are available for download. Titles include “Stories and Activities for English,” “Essential Skills Fact Sheets,” “Everyday Math Skills” and many more. You can also find the Northwest Territories Literacy Council on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NWT-Literacy-Council/127017804034844

The screenshot shows the Northwest Territories Literacy Council website. The header includes navigation links: Home, Contact Us, Site Search Engine, and Sponsors. The main banner features the council's name and a graphic of people learning. Below the banner, the 'Adult Literacy and Essential Skills Resources' section is highlighted with a yellow background. It contains a list of links to various resources, including 'NWTLC Lending Library', 'Online Resources', 'How To Help', 'Community Created Resources', 'What makes a successful adult education program?', 'Adult Literacy and Basic Education Curriculum', 'Supports for Adult Learners with Disabilities', 'Workplace Literacy', 'Referrals Centre', 'Adult Literacy Links', 'Literacy in the NWT', and 'Download Downloads'. Below this, the 'Northwest Territories Literacy Council Lending Library' section provides information about borrowing materials and contact details. The 'Online Resources available for download on our website' section lists several PDFs for download, including 'Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books Volume II', 'Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books', 'Best Practices in Action Tools for Community-Based Adult Literacy and Basic Education Programs', 'Daringness Calls Comic Book Study', 'English 110: Five Photo Stories', 'English 120: Two Old Women Novel Study', 'Stories and Activities for English 110 and 120', 'English 120: Nonfiction Study - Raising Ourselves', and 'Essential Skills - At Work in the North'. A 'Navigation Menu' on the right side lists various categories like 'What's New', 'Family Literacy', 'Adult Literacy and Essential Skills', 'Aboriginal Languages', 'Digital Literacy', 'Community Development', 'Research', 'Resources', 'Literacy Facts', 'Plain Language', 'PGs for Literacy', 'Links', 'E-News', and 'About the NWT Literacy Council'. Social media icons for YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter are also present.

Basic Skills for Living (www.basicskillsforliving.ca)

This site was developed in Manitoba to help adult literacy students increase their literacy skills and develop their daily living skills. The site focuses on eating healthy foods and learning about money. There are downloadable fact sheets along with lessons and links to other resources. (Host: Basic Skills for Living)

Basic Skills for Living

Basic Skills for Living Project
Email: info@basicskillsforliving.ca

Consumer & Learner Fact Sheets
Adult Learning & Literacy
Resources for Educators

Eating Healthy Foods

- Introduction
- Food Basics
- Meal Planning
- Food Shopping
- Food Preparation

Now You're Cooking! - Cookbook

Learning About Money

- Introduction
- Banking Skills
- Spending Plans
- Understanding Credit

Handling Money

Consumer Education

Newsletters

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Links](#) [Contact Us](#)

Welcome to the Basic Skills For Living Website

Basic Skills for Living is a website that provides **online resources** for consumers, learners and educators on topics related to:

- **Eating Healthy Foods**
- **Learning about Money**

Manitoba Home Economists created this site as a community outreach project to promote functional literacy. These resources provide information and educational modules on adult literacy and life skills.

Follow the **links on the side bar** to view these materials. The **overview pages** provide a quick reference for links to activity sheets, resource sheets and fact sheet information. In the **Now You're Cooking!** Cookbook, links to recipes are located in the Table of Contents.

Educators will find **Literacy Stages One—Three** indicated in the educational modules as a guideline for learner reading levels.

Newsletters are provided online giving updates about resources and related website links. See Newsletters for further information.

The resources on this website have been developed with funding support from the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada.

[Click here](#) to get a free copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Basic Skills for Living © 2008

BBC Skillswise (www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise)

This British site is very popular across the Ontario literacy community. It includes both tutor resources and learning activities in communication skills and numeracy. There is also a job skills section. (Host: BBC)



Brightstorm (www.brightstorm.com)

This site is described as a site that offers “free homework help and affordable test prep”. Some Ontario literacy students have found it helpful, especially the videos that explain concepts related to math and communications. Many of the resources are free, but some are offered for a fee. (Host: Brightstorm, Inc.)



Canadian Literacy and Learning Network

(<http://literacy.ca/themes/clln/learners/index.html>)

This national organization has created a learner area on its website. It features clear language, learner profiles from across Canada and audio voice-overs.



Discovery Education (www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers)

Although this site is designed for teachers in the K-12 system, it is suitable for use in literacy programs. It features links to a wide variety of resources, including communication skills, math and science. There are lesson plans and worksheets as well as interactive games and puzzles. You can also find Discovery Education Classroom Resources on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Discovery-Education-Classroom-Resources/61804670086 (Host: Discovery Education)



edHelper.com (<http://edhelper.com>)

This comprehensive site features dozens of printable worksheets for math, reading and writing, science and more. It is designed for children but has proven popular with many adult literacy agencies. Some of the worksheets are available free of charge but there is a fee for full use of the site (\$40 U.S.). (Host: EdHelper)

The screenshot shows the edHelper.com website interface. At the top left is a yellow school bus logo with the text "edHelper.com". To the right of the logo is a search bar with a "Go" button. Below the search bar is a "Table of Contents" section with a yellow background, listing various categories and subcategories. To the left of the "Table of Contents" is a "What's New?" section featuring a "Create Puzzles" link and a "Hidato Puzzles" grid. To the right of the "Table of Contents" is a "Winter" section with a snowman illustration. Below the "Table of Contents" is a "Language" section with a list of language arts topics. To the right of the "Language" section is a "Social Studies" section with a list of social studies topics. Below the "Table of Contents" is a "Special Education" section with a list of special education topics. To the right of the "Special Education" section is a "Teaching" section with a list of teaching topics. Below the "Table of Contents" is a "Foreign Languages" section with a list of foreign language topics. To the right of the "Foreign Languages" section is a "Test Prep" section with a list of test prep topics. Below the "Table of Contents" is a "Word Puzzle Makers" section with a list of word puzzle topics. To the right of the "Word Puzzle Makers" section is a "Grade" section with a list of grade levels. At the bottom of the page, there is a "Runaway Math Puzzles" link and a "Let's Go to School" banner.

What's New?

Create Puzzles

Hidato Puzzles

A New Treat (Chocolate Day) December Weekly Read and Colors January

Runaway Math Puzzles

Search: **Go**

Table of Contents

Reading and Writing
 Reading Comprehension
 Read and Color Books
 Literature Units
 Writing
 Writing Prompts
 Reading Skills

Math
Math Worksheets
 Middle School Math
 Algebra

Critical Thinking
 Critical Thinking

Puzzles
Make Puzzles
 Quick Prints

Social Studies
 Social Studies
 Geography
 United States
 50 States

Science
 Science
 Health
 Animals

Teaching
 Bulletin Board Ideas
 Charts for Classroom
 Classroom Helpers
 Book Reports
 Learning Centers

Test Prep
 Test Prep

Grade
 Preschool
 Kindergarten
 First Grade

Winter

Weekly Reading Books

Christmas

Critical Thinking

Let's Go to School

FOCUS

(<http://focus-alc.blogspot.com>)

The Adult Learning Centres of Grey-Bruce-Georgian developed FOCUS to help literacy students and instructors work on personal development issues such as decision-making, goal-setting, anger management and more. This site features text and short videos related to each topic.



Fotopedia (www.fotopedia.com)

This online magazine features some stunning photos of places around the world accompanied by brief text-based information. Fotopedia could be used for research projects, book reports or general interest. You can also find Fotopedia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fotopedia

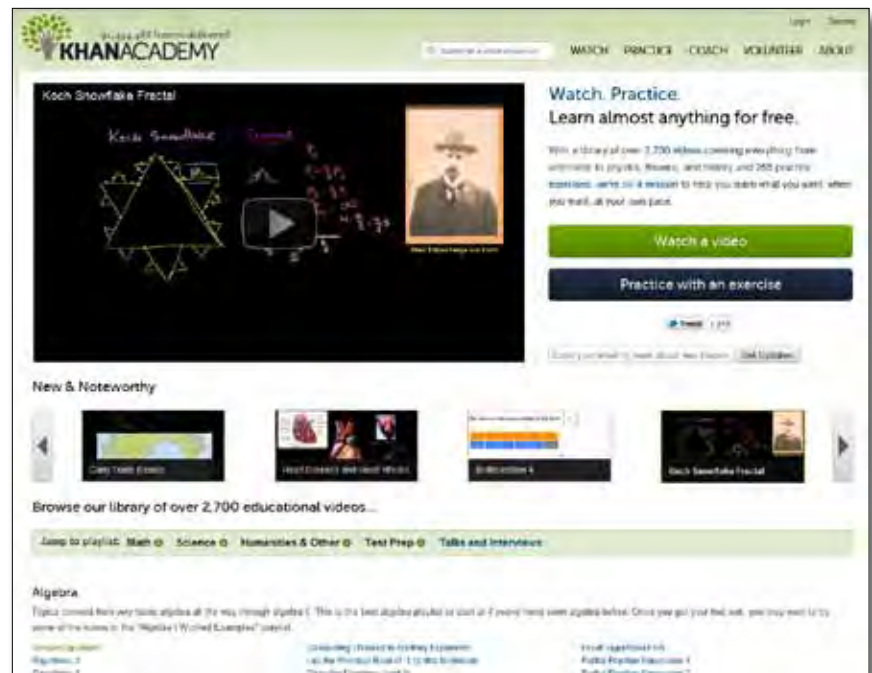
**GCF LearnFree** (<http://gcflearnfree.org>)

This is one of the most popular websites used by Ontario literacy practitioners. It includes over 750 free lessons on reading, math and computers. It includes tutorials on how to use common software such as Microsoft Word, how to use Facebook safely and more. Learners can choose to have information presented by video or text. The site also features a blog (<http://blog.gcflearnfree.org>) that is regularly updated with new information about the site and what it offers. GCF LearnFree also has a YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/gcflearnfree) that features hundreds of videos. You can also find it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GCFLearnFree.org (Host: Goodwill Community Foundation International)



Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org)

This popular site offers over 2,500 educational videos on a wide variety of topics and is very popular with learners. It also offers online activities with helpful hints and the ability to check answers. You can find the Khan Academy on Facebook at www.facebook.com/khanacademy



Laubach Literacy Ontario: Trainer Supplement

(www.laubach-on.ca/teach/resources/trainer%20supplement)

This helpful page on LLO's website features many links to websites on topics such as reading, writing, math, Essential Skills, computers and more. There are also links to a variety of online game and fun sites such as Puzzlemaker, Funbrain, Google Earth and more. You can also find LLO on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LaubachLiteracyOntario (Host: Laubach Literacy Ontario)



Literacytools

(www.literacytools.ie)

Created in Ireland, this site offers exercises in reading, writing, spelling and math in both online and printable formats. There are also games and tutor resources. (Host: National Adult Literacy Agency)



Literacy Nova Scotia Learner's Links (www.ns.literacy.ca/learnerslinks.htm)

Literacy Nova Scotia is the provincial literacy coalition in the province of Nova Scotia. Their website includes a “Learner's Links” section with links to a wide variety of useful websites in the areas of computers, math and communications. They update it regularly, so be sure to visit often. (Host: Literacy Nova Scotia)

Literacy Nova Scotia
Our Mission: to ensure that all Nova Scotians have equal access to quality literacy, essential skills, and lifelong learning opportunities

Home Calendar About Us Learners Practitioners Workshops/Workbooks Activities Resources Contact Us

Learners' Links

Level 1: Computer
BBC Computer Tutor
A fun tutorial that teaches you how to use the mouse, keyboard and screen functions. You will need speakers or a headset.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/computertutor/computertutrone/index.shtml>

Level 1: Math
Hidden Picture - Addition
You've given the answer; click on the tile containing the correct equation that gives you the answer. If you click the right one, the tile disappears; click all the correct tiles and you see the hidden picture underneath.
<http://www.aplusmath.com/cgi-bin/games/adopicture>

Level 1: Spelling / Vocabulary
Catch the Spelling
Use the left and right arrow keys on your keyboard to move the 'slider' back and forth and 'catch' falling letters to spell simple words. This is a fun interactive game that requires [Flash Player](#).
<http://www.manythings.org/sc/sc062.htm>

Level 2: Math
Math Playground
Play with numbers and give your brain a workout. Number games, word problems, logic puzzles and more.
<http://www.mathplayground.com/>

What's New at LNS
Click here for our **December eNews**
Our 2011 Fall Newsletter is online. Check out the great articles in this issue!
Introducing Our Scholarship and Bursary Winners for 2011-12.
Reading Can Change a Life: Apply for Baber-a-Reader Grants Deadline: January 16, 2012
Family Literacy Day Materials Available Free in Nonprofit Community-based Literacy Groups in Nova Scotia!

MTCU's Online Learning Quiz (www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/literacy/quiz.html)

Learners can use this short and simple quiz to help them decide if they are ready to begin online learning. (Host: Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities)

Ontario
MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Search

HOME | POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION | EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO | ABOUT THE MINISTRY | NEWSROOM | CONTACT

Literacy and Basic Skills

- Overview
- Need help now?
- Learning Options
- What Is Your Learning Style?
- Online Learning Quiz
- Try Online Learning
- Publications and Websites
- Council of the Federation Literacy Award

Postsecondary Education

Employment and Training

Ontario Job Bank

Labour Market Information

Popular Topics

Publications

Explore Government

Contact Us

Features

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

Literacy and Basic Skills

Online Learning Quiz

Having face-to-face contact with my teacher is:

☐ Not important to me
☐ Somewhat important to me
☐ Very important to me

I prefer:

☐ Figuring out what I have to do for myself
☐ Trying to follow directions on my own, then asking for help if needed
☐ Having the instructions explained to me

I need teachers to remind me to get my work done:

☐ Rarely
☐ Sometimes
☐ Often

The time I have to spend on learning each week is:

☐ 1-3 hours
☐ 4-10 hours
☐ 11 or more hours

Qwiki

(www.qwiki.com)

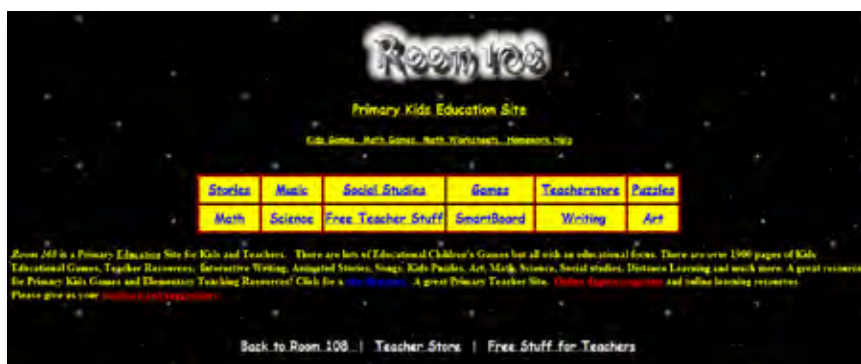
This site was launched in early 2011 and is similar to Wikipedia but instead of text, information is presented as a slide show with narration. Narration can be turned off if learners would prefer to read the text on their own. Like Wikipedia, individual users can add to the content already on the site or add their own content. As well as searching for topics of interest, learners can sign up for a “qwiki of the day” email. Qwiki content can easily be shared through links to Facebook, Twitter and email. You can find Qwiki on Facebook at www.facebook.com/qwiki



Room 108

(www.netrover.com/~kingskid/108.html)

This site features hundreds of educational games and puzzles for math, writing, social studies and more. It was developed for children, but like so many other sites, is adaptable for use with lower-level learners. Some games are available as worksheets that can be printed for offline use; others are online games.

**School Express**

(www.schoolexpress.com)

There are over 16,000 free worksheets available on this site in a wide range of topics. Although the site is designed for teachers in the K-12 system, there are many resources that are suitable for adult literacy students. Most of the resources can be printed. (Host: Comp Ed, Inc.)



Settlement.org (www.settlement.org)

This site was developed for newcomers to Ontario, but it is also useful for literacy students wishing to learn about issues relating to housing, health, employment and more. Information is presented in text format only, but it is written in plain language. There are also helpful links to local and regional services such as crisis lines, community legal clinics, and housing assistance. (Host: Citizenship and Immigration Canada)



Simple Wikipedia (http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Simple English Wikipedia is similar to the highly popular Wikipedia website, except it provides encyclopedia entries that are written in plain English. These articles are shorter than the main Wikipedia site, and they use simpler words, shorter sentences, and less complicated grammar to help make this encyclopedia more accessible for learners at lower levels. (Host: Wikipedia)



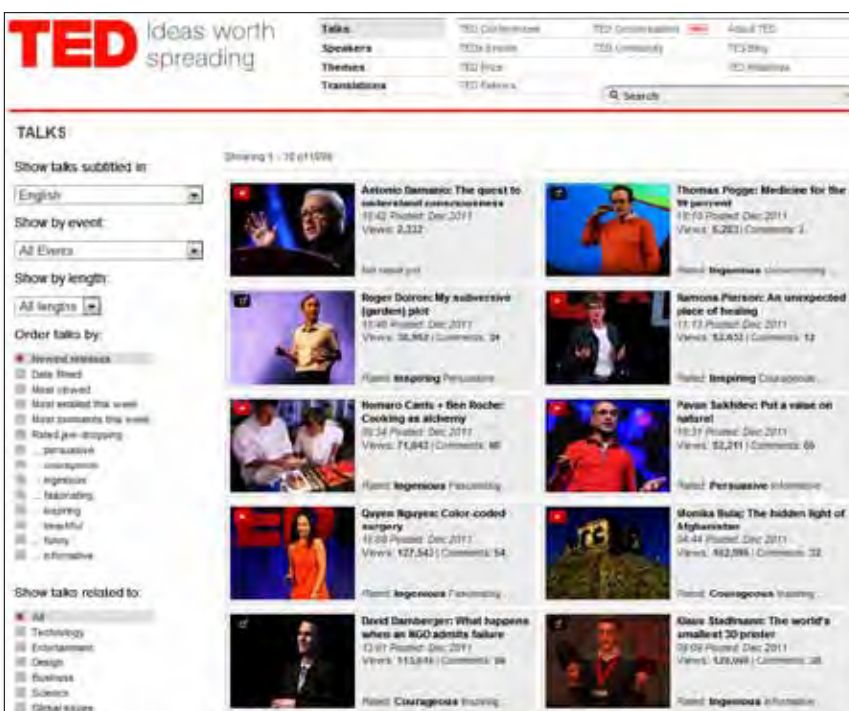
Skype (www.skype.com)

Skype is a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) tool. In other words, it allows you to communicate with people around the world through speech and video. Skype is free to use with other people who are Skype users, but there is a small charge to use Skype to call telephones (landline or cellular). Skype can be used in a variety of ways in literacy agencies. For example, it can be used for learners at different sites, locations or at other agencies to meet. It can be used for role-playing exercises to practice interviews or presentations. It can also be used for an instructor and learner to communicate at a distance. You can find Skype on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Skype



TED Talks (www.ted.com/talks)

TED Talks are videos by speakers about many different topics. There are inspirational talks, funny talks, and informative talks. Subjects include technology, entertainment, science and more. The videos range from 3 minutes to 18 minutes in length. This site is popular with many literacy students. You can find TED on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TED (Host: TED Conferences, LLC)



Top 100 Tools for Learning 2011

(<http://c4lpt.co.uk/top-tools/top-100-tools-for-learning-2011>)

The Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies conducts annual surveys of learning tools with learning professionals around the world. The list includes links to all of the tools. You can find the Centre for Learning & Performance Technologies on Facebook at www.facebook.com/C4LPT

C4LPT
CENTRE FOR LEARNING & PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGIES

MONDAY
November 14, 2011

Top 100 Tools 2011

Here are the Top 100 Tools for Learning 2011. This, the 5th Annual Survey of Learning Tools, was finalised on 13 November 2011. This year's list was compiled from the Top 10 Tools lists of 531 learning professionals worldwide – from education, training and workplace learning. [You can see some of the votes cast [here](#).]

What is a "learning tool"? This could be a tool you use to create or deliver learning content/solutions for others, or a tool you use for your own personal learning.

Analysis: [Best of Breed 2011](#) | [Winners & Losers 2011](#) | [Top Tools 2007-2011](#)

The slideset is available on Slideshare and is embedded below, the text list appears beneath it:

UPDATE: Over 100,000 views of this presentation in the first 5 weeks

Top 100 Tools for Learning 2011

CONTENTS

C4LPT was founded by [Jane Hart](#).

Main

[C4LPT Home Page](#)
[Jane's Blog : Learning in the Social Workplace](#)

Resource Pages

[Top 100 Tools 2011 Directory of Learning & Performance Tools](#)
[Jane's 2011 Reading List](#)
[Jane's Articles and Presentations](#)
[How to use Twitter for social learning](#)
[How to use Facebook for social learning](#)

Special sites

[Social Learning Handbook & Social Learning in Practice](#)
[Social Learning Community](#)
[The Smart Worker's Guide to Social Media](#)

How to Use the Internet Instructions

The internet offers us almost unlimited access to information. However, not all of that information is factual, reliable or valid. So how do you know what is a “good” site? Here are a few resources to help you decide:

- ▶ *The Five W's of Web Site Evaluation* by Kathy Shrock: <http://kathyschrock.net/abceval/5ws.pdf>
- ▶ *Knowing What's What and What's Not: The 5 Ws (and 1 "H") of Cyberspace* by Media Awareness Network (www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/special_initiatives/wa_resources/wa_shared/tipsheets/5Ws_of_cyberspace.cfm)
- ▶ *Research on the Internet* by AlphaPlus: <http://english.alpharoute.org/cafe/OnlineCourses/internet05/index.htm>
- ▶ *Web Site Evaluation Form* by the International Reading Association: www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson328/evalform.pdf

WEB AWARENESS

[printable version](#) | [email a friend](#) | [francais](#)

KNOWING WHAT'S WHAT AND WHAT'S NOT THE 5 W's (and 1 "H") OF CYBERSPACE

The old formula used by police, journalists and researchers – Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How – can be applied in cyberspace to help identify credible online information sources.

Ask yourself:



WHO

is the source of the information?

- Has someone taken responsibility for the content of this Web site?
- Is information about the author or organization clearly stated?
- Are there any links to in-depth information about the author or organization?
- Can you contact the company or author through a real world postal address or phone number?
- Can you confirm that the company or author is a credible, authoritative source of information?
- Can you verify the authority of any of the site's content that is attributed to other sources?



WHAT

are you getting?

- Is the information biased in any way?
- Does the site rely on loaded language or broad, unsubstantiated statements?
- Is emotion used as a means of persuasion?



Related Lessons

[Taming the Wild Web](#)
(Grades 7-9)

[Deconstructing Web Pages](#)
(Grades 7-10)

Visit the [Site Directory](#) for more on this topic.

You have
0 items
in your content cart.
[Review your selection](#)

BBC Webwise: A Beginner's Guide to Using the Internet (www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/courses)

This is an excellent site, particularly for learners with little or no computer experience. Instruction is offered in everything from mouse skills to social media basics. The tutorials are provided in video format with some accompanying text. The site also features a helpful glossary of the terms used. (Host: BBC)



Computer Skills Lessons (<http://alcbasiccomputertraining.blogspot.com>)

The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library offers quick tutorials on mouse use, internet basics, internet searching and email.



Learn 2.0 (<http://learn2-alc.blogspot.com>)

This site, developed by the Adult Learning Centres of Grey-Bruce-Georgian, teaches internet skills using a variety of popular and useful Web 2.0 tools such as Gmail, YouTube, podcasts and more. Learners work through online lessons and complete brief activities.

NOTE: I received an error message when trying to get the screenshot here. I will insert it later.



Other Useful Instructional Sites

Keyboarding Skills

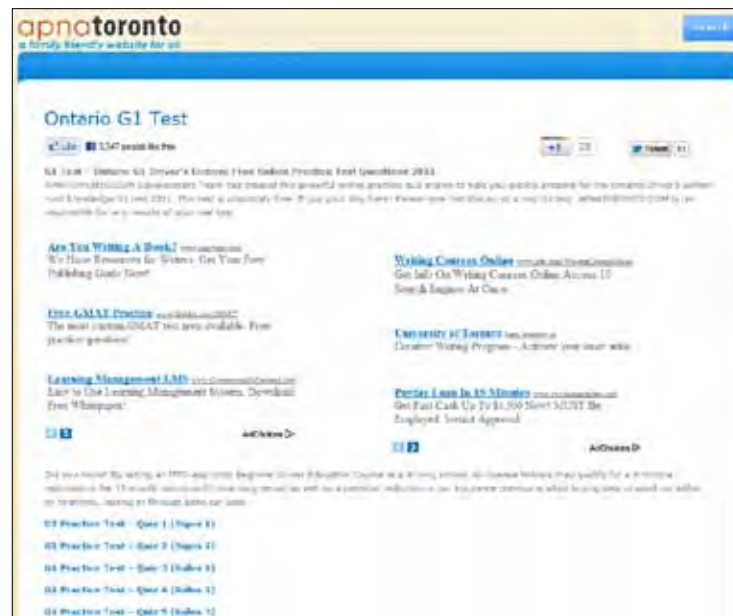
Learning to use the keyboard properly can help learners make the most out of their time with a computer or other digital device. Here are a few sites that learners and instructors have told us are helpful:

- ▶ Learn To Type Typing Test and Tutor: www.learn2type.com
- ▶ TyperA (Typing Speed Test): www.typera.tk
- ▶ Learn to Type: Free Lessons, Games and Certifications: www.typingweb.com
- ▶ Learn to type faster and with fewer errors: www.keybr.com



Ontario G1 Test (<http://www.apnatoronto.com/ontario-g1-test/>)

Provided by APNAToronto, this site includes a number of quizzes related to G1 licensing. Learners have found this site very helpful when preparing to take the G1 test.



Pinterest (<http://pinterest.com>)

This site allows you to bookmark photos from any website. You can also view photos that others have bookmarked, and you can follow the virtual pinboards your friends create. Pinterest combines social bookmarking and photo sharing in one site. It will be very useful for learners who like to add photos to their writing assignments or for instructors who want to create a slide show or add visual interest to documents. At the time of writing, Pinterest was still in the development stages so you have to request an invitation, but they respond very quickly. You can follow Pinterest on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pinterest



E-CHANNEL

ACE Distance Delivery (www.acedistancedelivery.ca)

ACE Distance Delivery is the Ontario e-Channel provider for Academic and Career Entrance programs delivered by Ontario's Community Colleges in both English and French. The site provides all the information students need to know about registering for ACE Distance Delivery, including the mandatory *Learn to Learn* course.

ACE DISTANCE Academic & Career Entrance / Accès Carrières Etudes

Contact Us | Map of Locations | Privacy Policy

[Click Here for a Map of Locations](#)

Choosing ACE
 The ACE Advantage
 Studying Online
 Transferring to Distance
 Learn to Learn (L2L)
 L2L Registration
 Online Learning (OL)
 IOL Registration
 More About ACE
 ACE Credential
 Registering for ACE
 ACE Courses
 Meet Our Team
 Student Feedback
 FAQ
 Important Links
 Locations
 Contact Us

Home
 October Intake - ACE Distance

Students wishing to register for an ACE Distance course in October, November and December are required to pay fees. There will be tuition-free intakes in January and April, 2012.

What Are the Fees?

Currently Durham College is the only college registering (pre-paying) students for ACE Distance. Additional colleges will be identified for the November and December intakes.

| Course | Tuition | Hours | Text Book Costs |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|--------------------------|
| Apprenticeship Mathematics | 540 | 100 | \$142.40 + \$25 shipping |
| Business Mathematics | 648 | 120 | \$106.81 + \$25 shipping |
| Core Mathematics | 648 | 120 | No Text Required |
| Technology Mathematics | 648 | 120 | \$29.90 + \$25 shipping |
| Biology | 648 | 120 | No Text Required |
| Chemistry | 648 | 120 | No Text Required |
| Physics | 648 | 120 | \$109.20 + \$25 shipping |
| Communication | 648 | 120 | No Text Required |
| Self Management/Self Direction | 432 | 80 | No Text Required |
| Computers | 540 | 100 | No Text Required |

ACE Students Say-

...the perfect fit for me because I do not have the time to travel to an actual college at the moment and I am able to study and learn at my own pace... (Michelle B.)

...I'm also looking forward to the interaction with other students in this forum and hope we can all accomplish our goals... (Tony V.)

Coalition ontarienne de formation des adultes (www.coalition.ca)

La Coalition ontarienne de formation des adultes is the Ontario e-Channel provider for online French-language literacy instruction. Its e-Channel program is called Le Service de formation à distance pour adultes de l'Ontario (F@D) and can be found at www.sefad.ca. You can also find F@D on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Formation-%C3%A0-distance-pour-adultes-de-lOntario/290119381014792



Good Learning Anywhere (www.sioxhudsonliteracy.com)

Sioux Hudson Literacy Council is one of the Ontario e-Channel providers for online literacy English-language instruction. Learners will use this site to access the course catalogue, register for courses and log in to courses. You can find Good Learning Anywhere on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Good-Learning-Anywhere/120198907990144



The LearningHUB (www.learninghub.ca/Home.aspx)

The Centre for Employment and Learning is one of the Ontario e-Channel providers for online literacy English-language instruction. Learners will use this site to access the course catalogue, register for courses and log in to courses. You can find The LearningHUB on Facebook at www.facebook.com/the.LearningHUB.lbs



SOCIAL MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

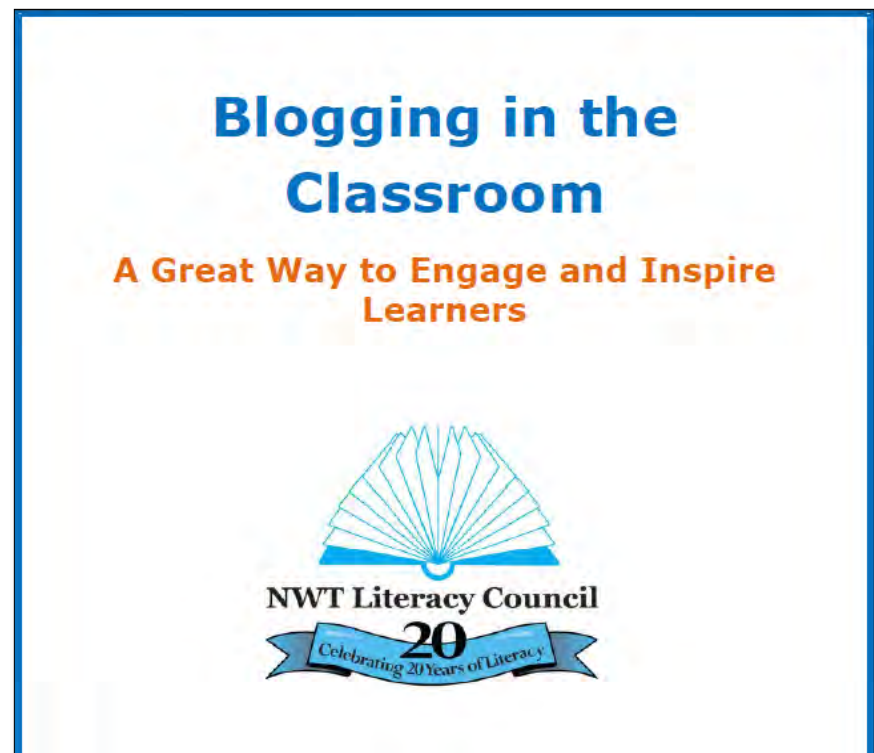
Blogging

Blogs are very useful tools and can be used by literacy learners to track their progress, for private journaling, for one-on-one communication with an instructor, for group communication with others in the program, or for staying in touch with friends and family. Blogs can also be valuable sources for researching information, for reading comprehension and for developing writing skills. Blogs are useful well beyond the traditional reading and writing skills, i.e., learners can add pictures, video clips, audio clips and more.

To find out more about blogs and how they can be used in literacy instruction, be sure to read:

Blogging in the Classroom: A Great Way to Engage and Inspire Learners
(www.nald.ca/library/learning/nwt/blogging/blogging.pdf)

Written by the Northwest Territories Literacy Council, this valuable resource provides information about blogs and how to use them in the classroom.



Blog Hosting Platforms

- ▶ Blogger: www.blogger.com
- ▶ WordPress: <http://wordpress.com>
- ▶ Tumblr: www.tumblr.com
- ▶ TypePad: www.typepad.com

Bookmarking

Social bookmarking sites can help learners, instructors and volunteers save and easily find their favourite websites. Bookmarks can be kept private or shared publicly. Social bookmarking also allows users to follow and network with other people and organizations and their bookmarks. Some examples of commonly used social bookmarking sites include:

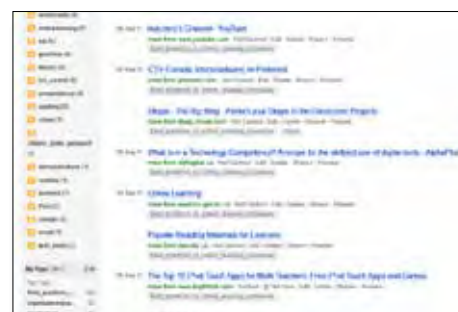


Delicious (www.delicious.com)

This is one of the most popular social bookmarking sites. At the time of writing, Delicious was going through major changes in the way users save and share bookmarks. For more information, see <http://delicious.com/help#share>

Diigo (www.diigo.com)

Diigo is very similar to Delicious but offers some added functionality including the ability to highlight sections of a bookmarked website. You can also add sticky notes to a website to leave a note for other people who access your bookmarks. Bookmarks from Delicious can be easily transferred to Diigo.



Facebook

(www.facebook.com)

Facebook is the second most popular website in the world after Google. It is used throughout the world, but Canada has embraced this method of keeping in touch with friends, finding old acquaintances, sharing photos and following causes, businesses, organizations and celebrities.



Literacy agencies are using Facebook with learners at all levels by setting up private groups for group work. Some agencies are using Facebook to track exited learners because they have found that it is a good way to keep in touch.

Using Facebook can allow learners to learn about safe online practices, practice and demonstrate writing and reading skills, and increase their general computer skills in a real-life setting.

Ontario literacy agencies and networks that are currently using Facebook include:

- ▶ Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie
(www.facebook.com/literacyforterie)
- ▶ AlphaPlus (www.facebook.com/alphapluscentre)

- ▶ Community Literacy of Ontario
(www.facebook.com/CommunityLiteracyOntario)
- ▶ Good Learning Anywhere (www.facebook.com/pages/Good-Learning-Anywhere/120198907990144)
- ▶ Laubach Literacy Ontario
(<https://www.facebook.com/LaubachLiteracyOntario>)
- ▶ Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy
(<https://www.facebook.com/mtml.literacy>)
- ▶ Midland Area Reading Council
(www.facebook.com/midlandareareadingcouncil)
- ▶ Ontario Literacy Coalition (www.facebook.com/pages/Ontario-Literacy-Coalition/270794520054)
- ▶ Organization for Literacy Sarnia-Lambton (www.facebook.com/pages/Organization-For-Literacy-Sarnia-Lambton/93579440945)
- ▶ Project Read Literacy Network Waterloo-Wellington (www.facebook.com/pages/Project-READ-Literacy-Network-Waterloo-Wellington/154029477955932)
- ▶ Tri-County Literacy Council (www.facebook.com/pages/Tri-County-Literacy-Council/142256179126185)

Twitter

(www.twitter.com)

Twitter is a very popular social media tool that allows users to share information using 140 characters or less. Twitter users can follow as many other users as they want and can allow others to follow them. Messages, or “tweets”, often contain links to websites with more information. Learners can use Twitter to communicate, to research and to enhance their computer skills.

- ▶ Twitter is used by a number of Ontario literacy agencies and networks, including:
- ▶ AlphaPlus (<http://twitter.com/#!/alphapluscentre>)
- ▶ Brant Skills Centre (<http://twitter.com/#!/BrantSkills>)
- ▶ Canadian Literacy and Learning Network
(https://twitter.com/#!/Cdn_literacy)
- ▶ Laubach Literacy Ontario (<http://twitter.com/#!/LLOntario>)
- ▶ Literacy Council York Simcoe (<http://twitter.com/#!/LCYorkS>)

- ▶ Ningwakwe Learning Press (<http://twitter.com/#!/firstnationbook>)
- ▶ Ontario Literacy Coalition (<http://twitter.com/#!/ontarioliteracy>)
- ▶ PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs (<http://twitter.com/#!/ptpliteracy>)
- ▶ Trent Valley Literacy (<http://twitter.com/#!/TVLA>)



Video

YouTube (www.youtube.com)

YouTube is extremely popular with internet users around the world. It is a terrific research tool. If you want to have a visual demonstration about how to do something, YouTube is a great place to look for it. If you are doing research about virtually any topic, there is likely to be a YouTube video available.

For a great example of how YouTube can be used for literacy awareness, see “Make the Call for Literacy” created by People, Words & Change in Ottawa: www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=HTL2C09gQNk



YouTube also offers a channel specifically for teachers (www.youtube.com/Teachers). It features helpful tips and ideas for using YouTube in the classroom. You can subscribe to the YouTube Teachers Channel for regular updates when new content is added.

Vimeo

<http://vimeo.com>

Vimeo is a site where people can share videos they create. Click on “explore” to browse through the thousands of videos that are available or use the search bar to find something of interest. Vimeo also features a “video school” (<http://vimeo.com/videoschool>) to help you learn to create better videos. Users can subscribe to other users’ channels or comment on videos that have been posted. They can also be notified when new videos of interest are posted by subscribing to tags.



APPLICATIONS

iPhone, iPods, iPads

As the saying goes, “there’s an app for that,” and literacy instruction is no exception. The following are some useful applications developed for the iPhone, iPod Touch and/or iPad. All apps can be downloaded using iTunes. Click on the “view in iTunes” link on each webpage. You can also search iTunes for more applications as new ones are added regularly. Pricing was accurate as of November 2011.



A+ 300+ Sight Words, Learn to Read

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/a-300-sight-words-learn-to-read/id304807272?mt=8>)

Sight words are presented on flashcards. **Cost: \$0.99**

A+ English — Speak & Read + Audio Books (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/a-english-speak-read-audio/id338982960?mt=8>)

This application lets users download and save audio books from a selection of classics, including *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and *Robinson Crusoe*. The iPhone version also allows users to record their own voice. It is a good tool for ESL learners but it is also helpful for adult literacy students. **Cost: \$1.99**

Financial Football (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/financial-football/id387111925?mt=8>)

This free app teaches financial literacy through football. Users test their money management skills. Correct responses allow them to move down the field and score touchdowns. There are three levels of play.

Free Books

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free-books-23-469-classics/id317776727?mt=8>)

Although the application isn't free, the books are. This application is updated regularly and currently has over 23,000 books available for download in a number of languages. There is no limit to how many books a user can download after installing the application. **Cost: \$1.99**

Grammar Prep: Subjects and Verbs

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/grammarprep-subjects-verbs/id372370020?mt=8>)

This app is designed for college students but it is also useful for literacy learners. It includes tutorials, quizzes, answer feedback and progress tracking. **Cost: \$3.99**. The maker of this app (Pearson Education) also offers other grammar-based applications. For more information, see the website at www.pearsonhighered.com/grammarprep

IntelliVocab for GRE and GMAT

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/powervocab-lite/id413511366>)

This free app includes almost 300 commonly used words from the GRE and GMAT exams. However, some of the words will be useful for some adult literacy students. Users can also upgrade to a paid version that includes almost 5,000 words. **Cost: \$0.99**

Literacy Skills Sampler

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/literacy-skills-sampler/id375422643?mt=8>)

This free app helps adults recognize basic words and signs related to independent living in situations such as shopping and road safety. There are 80 videos, and the app is updated regularly and is part of a series of applications related to functional life skills, literacy, social and work skills. For more information, see the Conover site at <http://conovercompany.com/education/mobile-technology/applications>

Math Cents

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mathcents/id342129893?mt=8>)

Users can learn to count money. Please note that this app uses U.S. cash so it may be confusing for some learners. **Cost: \$0.99**

Miss Spell's Class (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/miss-spells-class/id308754739?mt=8>)

Developed by Dictionary.com, this free app is a word game that lets players test their spelling skills against the most commonly misspelled words on Dictionary.com. Note that spellings are American, so Canadian literacy students may face some frustration with some words.

Money Equivalence

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/money-equivalence/id375340581?mt=8>)

This app teaches users how to make change. It includes 80 videos and is recommended for learners with independence skills needs.

Cost \$0.99. Please note that Money Equivalence uses U.S. cash so it may be confusing for some learners.

My Spell Test — The Custom Spelling Test Creator

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-spell-test-the-custom-spelling/id370265535?mt=8>)

As its name implies, this app allows users to create custom spelling tests. It also includes a practice mode with feedback on each word.

Cost: \$2.99

SpellBoard

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spellboard/id390290951?mt=8>)

This app allows users to create a spelling quiz in any language. Quizzes can even be shared with other SpellBoard users. The app also allows for multiple student profiles, so instructors can track the results. **Cost: \$4.99**

Blackberry

There are also some useful applications available for Blackberry users. To find additional apps, be sure to search Blackberry Appworld at <http://appworld.blackberry.com>. Pricing was accurate as of November 2011.



Dictionary and Thesaurus

(<http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/3626?lang=en>)

Dictionary.com offers this free dictionary app that includes audio pronunciations, spelling suggestions and a Word of the Day.

Math Flash Cards (<http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/34761?lang=en>)

Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, exponents and square roots are all included with this application. **Cost: \$0.99 U.S.**

Oxford A–Z of Grammar and Punctuation

(<http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/34136?lang=en>)

This app provides basic information about grammar and punctuation. Users at all levels will find this application helpful.

Cost: \$10.99 U.S.

Ultimate Math Skills Quiz

(<http://appworld.blackberry.com/webstore/content/55004?lang=en>)

Intermediate to advanced math skills are covered in this game app including fractions, decimals, order of operation, algebra and more.

Cost: \$2.99 U.S.