Resources for Online and Offline Learning

Free, shareable and high-quality learning materials to support OALCF levels 1 and 2

Last Updated December 04-2020

AlphaPlus

Introduction

This is a growing curated collection of shareable, free and high-quality learning materials that adult literacy educators can use to enhance their personal and program collections.

The collection responds to a need, identified in a survey and through informal discussions, for materials to support lower levels that could be used online or offline.

We looked for materials that could be copied, printed or posted in online and offline environments. This means you can add materials to a website, on a learning management platform, attach to an email, or share with learners in Google Drive. They can also be printed.

In addition, some materials are templates or permit adaptations, allowing you to build and modify materials for your own use.

Copyright information and Creative Commons licencing details are included for all materials. When no Copyright information is provided by developers, we suggest you apply fair use in education/fair dealing copyright.

Most available materials have been assigned a Grade Level Equivalency (GLE) by the developers. This collection includes K-8 materials not secondary level materials. LBS currently uses a three-level system to delineate difficulty. OALCF 1 and 2 are commonly interpreted to represent K-8 or so. However, a more precise alignment between a GLE and OALCF level is not available.

The collection is divided into five sections:

1. Reading texts
2. Practice tasks and writing
3. Numeracy and mathematics
4. Professional learning and how-to guides
5. Creating, modifying and analysing your own materials

We plan to continue adding new materials. Please get in touch with Christine@alphaplus.ca if you have a suggestion. Or fill out a short form where you can also provide some feedback.

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Collections reviewed and criteria for inclusion

We searched and searched again to find useful and relevant materials for adult literacy learning. For a resource to make it into our collection we applied the following rigorous criteria. Instructional materials must be

- **Shareable** and able to be saved, downloaded, posted and printed
- **Free**---that is, no cost, free of advertising and free to use without an account
- **High-quality** and developed by educational non-profits, education institutions, educators and educational experts
- **Not usually content and subject-matter specific**, allowing you to integrate them into existing themes, topics and learning units
- **Made for adults or appealing to adults** without child-oriented graphics and content
- Focused on supporting the development of lifelong **literacy and numeracy skills and strategies**

While searching, we also found some great collections that you might also find useful.

Canada	B.C. Open Textbook basic education collection for Math and English
	Community Literacy Ontario Digital Discoveries
	Literacy Nova Scotia Practitioner Resources
	Nat Banting's Curated Math Resources
United States	The Adult Literacy League Resources
	CrowdEd Learning
	LINCS Resources, Reading and Writing
	Driving Digital Learning
	Ditch That Textbook
Ireland	NALA Workbook Collection
Australia	The Literacy Resource Hub
	Reading and Writing Hotline

Reading texts

Most reading texts are informative and narrative. Fiction and poetry are also included. Video, audio and images are included with some materials.

Adult Literacy Fundamental English

From BC Campus Open Textbook Initiative

Available on the BC Campus open textbook site are six downloadable course packs and readers to support adult literacy development. The six levels cover GLEs K - 9. All are available in different formats that are readable and editable.

It's easiest to download the course packs, designed as consumable workbooks for learners, as a PDF.

How you download and share the readers will be based on the technology you and learners have. The most straightforward option is a print PDF. In addition, if you want to modify, adapt or re-present the materials you can also download an Open Text file (compatible with Word and Docs). Readers are also available in Pressbooks.

The level 1 reader (GLE 1- 1.5) is a series of short stories focused on topics related to plants, gardening and our food.

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 1

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 1

The level 2 reader (GLE 1.5 - 3) is a biography of Langston Hughes and includes his poetry. It's a very captivating approach combining poetry and biography that addresses anti-black racism, the legacy of slavery, family and education. Photos are also included.

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 2

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 2

Continued on next page

Adult Literacy Fundamental English

From BC Campus Open Textbook Initiative

The level 3 reader (GLE 3-4.5) is a series of descriptive, non-fiction texts focus on British Columbia.

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 3

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 3

The level 4 reader (GLE 4.6 - 6) contains a series of biographies about Canadians who have made significant contributions to human rights.

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 4

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 4

The level 5 reader (GLE 6 - 7.5) is comprised of a series of informational texts based on some basic psychology content (e.g., memory, personality, learning).

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 5

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 5

The level 6 reader (GLE 7.5 - 9) is constructed as an instructional resource for digital storytelling.

 Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Reader 6

Adult Literacy Fundamental English - Course Pack 6

Best of the Reader

Funded by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training and published by Decoda Literacy Solutions

The Best of the Reader is a collection of e-books with 8-10 stories covering one topic. A comprehensive Teacher's Guide is also available.

The e-books are compiled from the West Coast Reader a monthly newspaper for English language learners in BC. It is free for BC ministry funded programs but other programs must purchase a subscription to access digital and/or print copies.

Articles cover Canadian Language Benchmarks 1-6.

The Best of the Reader is always free.

Amazing Stories

Calendar of Holidays 2020

Canada

Canada Quiz

Canada's Indigenous Peoples

Easy Stories: People

Families

Keeping Safe

Many Ways to Help

People and Jobs

Readers' Stories

Recipes

Special Days and Holidays

Sports

Teachers' Guide

Word Games and Puzzles

Your Health

ESL Literacy Readers

From Bow Valley College, School of Global Access

The ESL Literacy Readers, developed by Bow Valley College School of Global Access in Calgary, are photostories covering everyday topics for new immigrants. Although literacy learners in basic education programs are not usually new immigrants the topics, such as education, employment, healthcare, weather, etc., are general enough to be of interest. The 39 booklets and one-page stories are grouped into seven levels of gradual difficulty (A-G) covering GLE from K-2.

Downloadable PDF stories

Instructor guide (PDF) includes general tips about theme-based learning. The site also contains an instructional video and PD webinar.

Also available are online audio and online print versions of the stories.

CBC has produced five curriculum packages based on the podcast series the Secret Life of Canada. The show focuses on people and stories that are not covered or poorly covered in standard history curricula.

When you click on the link View the Secret Life of Canada curriculum package the five packages will appear on your shared Google Drive. You will first see the folders in the image on your left. When you open one of the five folders you will see all the teaching resources, including the podcast and a transcript, a how-to-use document, activities and a slideshow that organizes your routines for you!

From CBC Radio Canada Curio
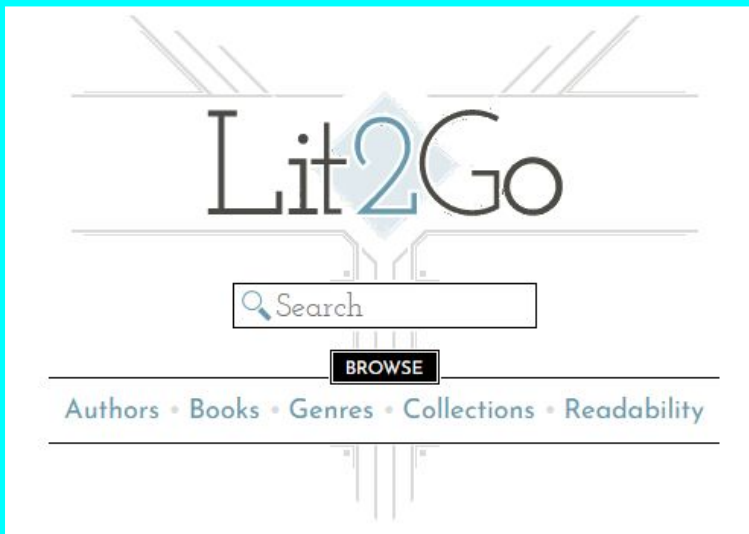
From the Florida Centre for Instructional Technology

Lit2Go is a collection of free audio books, short stories and poems that are no longer covered by copyright. All audio files can be downloaded. Many of the books and poems have free PDFs to download and print so that the reader can follow the audio, highlight, and mark up the passage being read. All material has been assigned a readability level from K-12 using the Flesch-Kincaid formula.

The combination of watching a movie, followed by discussion, listening to, and then independently reading the text is a great way to introduce classic books and stories. Example classic books and stories that are also movies include *Little Women, Peter Pan, Wuthering Heights, The Secret Garden, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The Call of the Wild, Anne of Green Gables*, several works from Charles Dickens including *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist* and many more.

Copyright - A maximum of twenty-five (25) MP3 and/or text files may be used in any non-commercial, educational project (report, presentation, display, website, etc.) without special permission. Credit Florida Center for Instructional Technology (FCIT) whenever a resource is used. If resources are incorporated into a website, a link to https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go must be included.

Poetry 180 and the Favorite Poem Project

From Poet Laureate projects of the US Library of Congress

Poetry 180 is program designed to introduce poetry to secondary students. 180 poems were chosen by Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate from 2001–2003 to be read aloud each day for students. They are not meant to be analysed only heard. The poems are engaging, usually straightforward and sometimes provocative. Guidance on reading poetry is also provided.

Favorite Poem Project is another Poet Laureate project from the US Library of Congress. It was supported by Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate, 1997-1999. The project is a collection of video recordings of Americans celebrating and reading the poems they love. It's designed to break down barriers and misconceptions about the inaccessibility of poetry. The project also includes a resource for teachers.
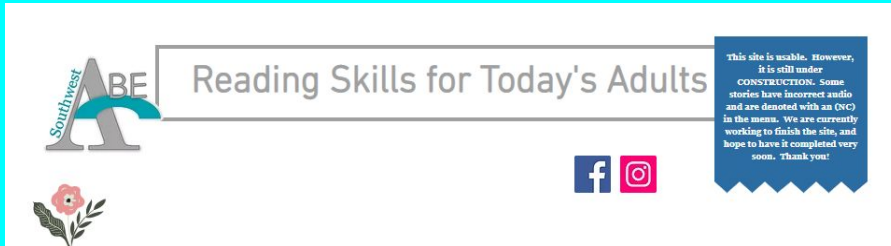
From Southwest ABE Minnesota and the Marshall Foundation

Reading Skills for Today's Adults is a collection of levelled texts with audio. The texts are online and in PDF and Word formats. Comprehension questions are also included. The site was developed in partnership with Southwest ABE and the Marshall Community Foundation.

Use these and other levelled text sets focused on fluency only as a way to supplement more authentic reading and discussion activities. Levelled texts can also be useful when working with multi-level groups.

A supportive learning routine could involve discussing a topic, reading or viewing authentic materials, supporting individual abilities using levelled texts, and then completing the learning routine with an authentic, multi-modal activity such as developing an infographic or photostory.
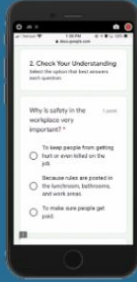
Mobile Leveled Reading

Our first EdTech Maker Space has resulted in over 1,000 customizable, mobile-friendly reading resources (and a mobile reading app!), built using the popular Reading Skills for Today's Adults leveled reading library!

Quizlets
Each story includes a Quizlet study set to practice vocabulary.

Google Forms
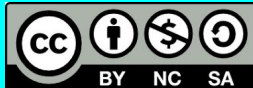Each story includes a Google Forms quiz to check comprehension.

Wakelets
Each story, study set, and quiz is pulled together in a Wakelet.

From CrowdED Learning, a non-profit focused on providing free, open, accessible learning for adults

The same texts in Reading Skills for Today's Adults have been reformulated by CrowdEd for use on smartphones. In addition, short activities using Google Forms and Quizlet follow each text.

You and learners can download the app.

You can also access Mobile Leveled Reading on your desktop using Wakelet. But you will need to get a Wakelet account first. You will then be able to save selected reading sets.

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From the Southern Poverty Law Center

Teaching Tolerance is a comprehensive and excellent site with a variety of resources and supports for educators including texts, videos, teaching strategies, learning frameworks and even a learning plan builder. Teaching Tolerance Texts include informational and literary nonfiction texts, literature, photographs, political cartoons, interviews and infographics. You can search by text type, grade level, subject and topic. The following topics are addressed:

- Race & Ethnicity
- Religion
- Ability
- Class
- Immigration
- Gender & Sexual Identity
- Bullying & Bias
- Rights & Activism

Although aimed at children and teens, the topics, authentic tasks (also featured in this collection) and insights are relevant for all ages. Materials can be carefully selected for adult learners and you will likely find adult appropriate content on each topic since the collection is so comprehensive.

From the Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian has created a collection of news and current events articles covering a range of topics. One topic is presented across four levels of reading (K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12)! It's great for multi-level groups.
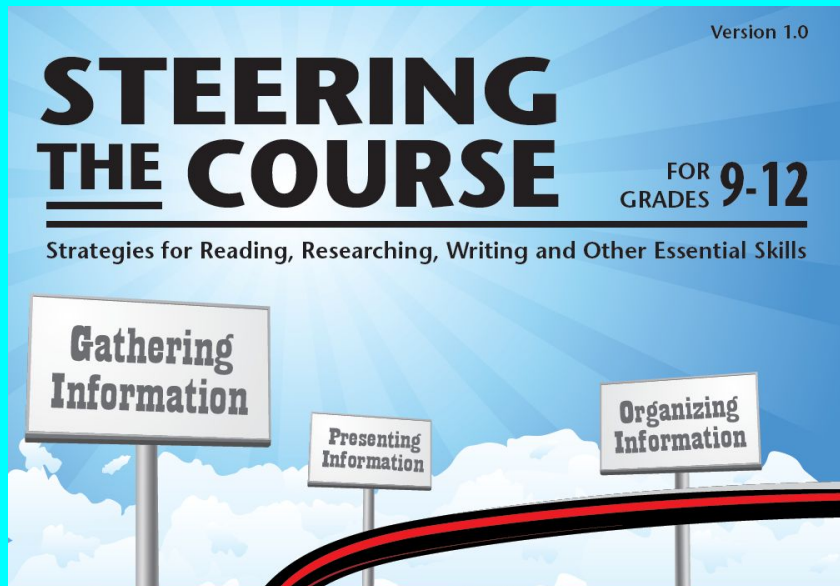
All articles can be accessed without an account. Although they are produced for children and teens, topics such as food and health, science, sports and world news are also of interest to adults.

Grade K-4 - Junior

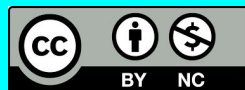Grade 5-6 - Tween

Grade 7-8 - Tween

Grade 9-12 - Teen

From

Steering the Course is an excellent resource for adult learners! Although it is aimed at secondary students, it doesn't teach to the curriculum. Instead, the downloadable PDF helps learners understand and develop essential literacy skills that are useful for academic, workplace and community contexts.

It is focused on the following essential literacy skills:

- Organizational Skills
- Reading Skills
- Writing Skills
- Research Skills
- Visual Presentation Skills
- Communication Skills

Each topic contains explanations, examples, how-to tips and practice exercises. It is an ideal resource for learners to have. It could be used by educators to complement existing communications courses and programs, or it could even be used to support a stand-alone course or workshop.

Note the Creative Commons Licence permits adaptations and remixing, which opens up many possibilities for the use of the materials.

Practice tasks and writing

Includes spelling, grammar, vocabulary, graphic organizers, thinking routines, poetry templates and writing starters.
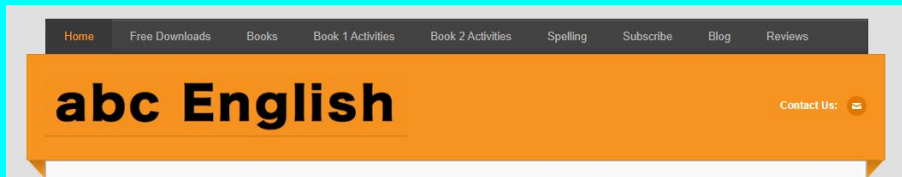
Developed by Jennifer Christenson, an adult educator in Salt Lake City Utah


ABC English is a site developed by an educator working with ESL literacy learners in the US. She has developed her own materials, which are for sale. And has also made some OER available in two sections on the site

Free Downloads contains charts, posters and flashcards to help learners build their phonetic (sound-letter relationship) knowledge.

The Spelling section contains a collection of 57 spelling lists. An overview of the lists and their phonetic focus is available here.

The 57 lists are presented in two formats: 1) on the website in a set of slides and 2) as a printable Google Doc. Both formats incorporate photographs for each word. All lists are organized by major sound groups (e.g. long and short vowels) and word families.

25 Graphic Organizer Templates
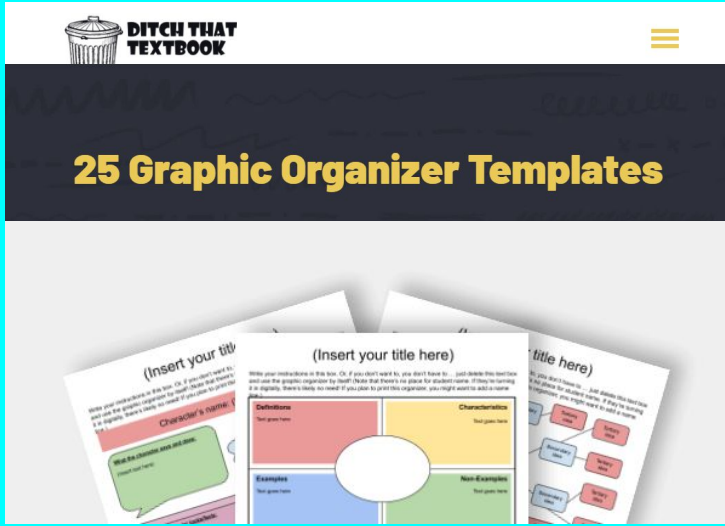
From Ditch That Textbook, an OER and ed tech project from Matt Miller

The comprehensive site Ditch That Textbook contains numerous useful resources related to Remote Learning and the use of Google Apps.

We are focusing on one resource from the site: 25 ready to use downloadable graphic organizers. They were created using Google Drawings and are set up for you to add your own instructions and content. You can download select graphic organizers or the complete collection. The webpage provides some instructions for making changes to the templates and for accessing and saving them to your Google Drive folders.

Driving Digital Learning

Developed by teachers for teachers and overseen by
[Michelle Truman](#)

Similar to Ditch That Textbook, Driving Digital Learning offers a very comprehensive collection of resources primarily using Google Apps. The developer states it "is an extensive collection of resources created by and for teachers." **All resources are "free to use, modify, and expand upon."**

This site has so much to offer that is **designed for you to download and make your own**, including templates, slide presentations, graphic organizers, teaching strategies, learning units and lessons for language arts, reading, writing, digital citizenship, using Google apps and so much more.

Here are a few resources:

1. Driving Digital Learning Graphic Organizers created with Google Drawings
2. Language Arts documents and slides
3. A set of Poetry Templates you can use as a fun and interesting way to promote writing and creativity
4. Reading instruction materials
5. Writing Instruction materials

PZ

PROJECT ZERO

From the Harvard Graduate School of Education

Project Zero is an organization focused on enriching and expanding learning using the arts, humanities and social sciences. Their site is extensive and worth exploring. We are focusing on one section for this collection: Project Zero's Thinking Routine Toolbox.

The toolbox is a collection of thinking routines that can be used in any learning context. They are designed to help educators and learners do more than answer 5W questions when reading, discussing and researching. You will find routines to do the following:

- Introduce and explore ideas
- Dig deeper into ideas
- Analyse objects and systems
- Understand different perspectives
- Explore controversies and dilemmas through different perspectives
- Explore options and possibilities
- Synthesize and organize ideas
- Use art or objects to enrich and expand thinking.

You may want to start with the Core Thinking Routines collection, which likely includes some familiar routines like Think, Pair, Share or Claim, Support. Question. You will be able to download a PDF that explains the routine and ideas for how it can be integrated into your teaching practice.

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From the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Literacy Association

The aim of Read Write Think is to provide free quality resources to literacy educators, including parents and after school support organizations. It is a very comprehensive and searchable site. Content is developed by both staff writers and contributors with oversight and review from literacy experts.

Two areas to first explore are the following:

1. Student Interactives, a curated collection of online games, tools and practice activities. The collection is searchable, allowing you to filter by GLE, learning objective and theme.

2. Printouts, are a curated collection of PDF graphic organizers, assessments and writer starters. They are meant to be used as is but may spark some ideas if you need to re-develop the content.

Each item in the two collections is accompanied by teaching tips.

From the Southern Poverty Law Center

Teaching Tolerance is a comprehensive and excellent site with a variety of resources and supports for educators including texts, tasks, videos, teaching strategies, learning frameworks and even a learning plan builder. Their text collection and tolerance topics were previously featured.

Teaching Tolerance Tasks is a collection of activities designed to work with the Teaching Tolerance Texts and Topics. In addition, they can readily be used in other contexts. The collection is divided into two main categories:

1. Do Something - a collection of 34 ideas that "ask students to demonstrate their anti-bias awareness and civic competency by applying their literacy and social justice knowledge in an authentic real-world context."

2. Write to the Source - a collection of 22 writing "tasks and rubrics ask students to rely on textual evidence when responding to writing prompts about identity, diversity, justice and action."

EduProtocol

Developed by educators Jon Corippo and Marlena Hebern

EduProtocol is a site primarily designed around two books—Field Guides 1 and 2—containing some unique learning strategies and routines referred to as EduProtocols. They are digitally supported learning routines and templates. Some of the EduProtocols are available as free templates.

Here is an overview of what is called a Cyber Sandwich, a collaborative protocol to learn content and summarize.

BookaKucha is an alternative to the traditional book report.

8 p*ARTS uses a set of very engaging photographs and a parts of speech template to help learners explore grammar and apply their knowledge when writing, using an image as a prompt.

Sentence p*ARTS is similar to 8 p*ARTS but instead of parts of speech, the template helps students write more complex and descriptive sentences.

Developed by language educator Seonaid Beckwith

Perfect English Grammar is a site primarily for adult English language learners but educators may find the comprehensive collection of grammar practice exercises and explanations useful. Not all are applicable in an adult literacy context with learners whose first language is English, but you can quickly scroll through the list to find grammar topics that are. Or search for a specific grammar topic.

Practice exercises can be completed online or offline by downloading a PDF. Each practice exercise will link back to an explanation. All topics in the explanation section contain links to practice exercises.

Think of the site as a grammar toolbox that you can use on occasion to address particular challenges learners are having when writing. For example, if a learner needs some practice with irregular verbs, you can view and share a video, provide links to the practice exercises online or download a PDF. You can also link to an explanation and short or long list of irregular verbs.

-ack, -ail, -ain, -ake, -ale, -ame, -an, -ank, -ap, -ash, -at, -ate, -aw, -ay

-eat, -ell, -est

-ice, -ick, -ide, -ight, -ill, -in, -ine, -ing, -ink, -ip, -it

-ock, -oke, -op, -ore, -ot

-uck, -ug, -ump, -unk

Teaching Phonics with Word Families

From the ABE Teaching and Learning Advancement System (ATLAS), Hamline University and developed by Marn Frank

This is a guide for educators who are looking for teaching ideas and word lists to help adults learn beginning level sound-letter relationships. The focus on word families and rhyming words (also called analogy phonics) rather than isolated sounds and letters may be very helpful for learners having difficulty matching more discrete sounds and letters. The author writes, "many new readers (children and adults) find it psychologically easier to divide words into onsets and rimes rather than individual letters and sounds."

The author has developed a slide presentation (makes for a great PD workshop) and downloadable PDF book. Ideally, educators can focus on word families that are drawn from reading materials or writing.

The word families lists and activities would work very well as a follow-up activity when using the Language Experience Approach. Also consider helping learners set up a personal sound-letter discoveries notebook based on the word families.

The Text Project is a US non-profit overseen by reading and literacy development experts.
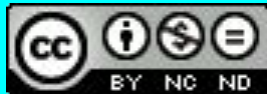
The Text Project is a US non-profit focused on developing "strategies, tools, and texts to bring beginning readers and struggling readers to high levels of literacy." They have a comprehensive vocabulary development section on their site. The following **vocabulary development** resources may be useful:

E4: Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events is a set of lessons that supports vocabulary development by focusing on everyday simple words like listen or look or walk. It is designed to be used in a variety ways when reading, writing or having discussions.

S4: Super Synonym Sets for Stories is an extension of the E4 lessons to focus on vocabulary used in narrative texts.

The Core Vocabulary Project (CVP) Word Maps are an extensive and searchable collection of word maps that support vocabulary development by mapping connections using semantics, word families, and multiple-meanings.

You can access the lessons and materials directly online or by downloading a PDF book.
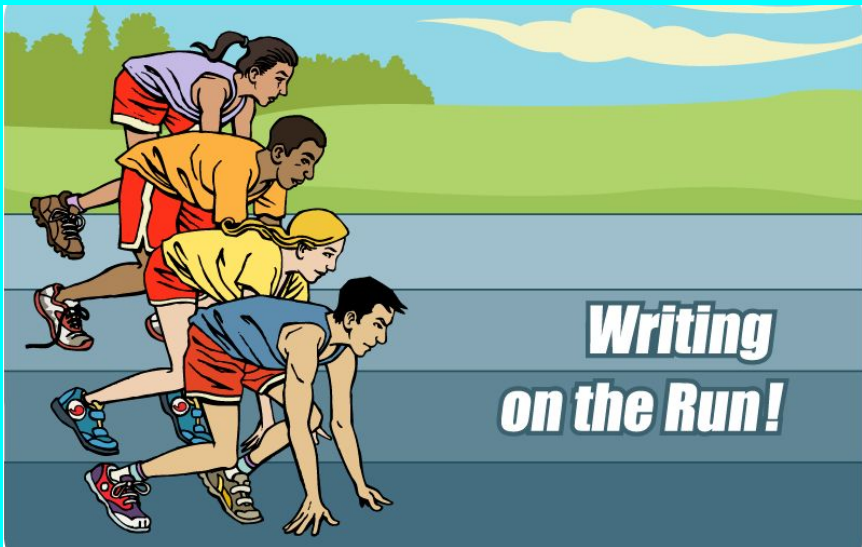
From Open School BC

Writing on the Run is another great resource from Open School BC. The focus is on supporting writing development and addressing challenges that may arise when constructing sentences. The resource has both an online interactive version and a PDF printable version.

The online version contains a check-up pre-test, explanations, and practice quizzes. You can also access the PDF files (Print Tutorials on the menu bar). The site and PDF tutorials were originally completed in 2007. Then updates were made to the PDFs in 2014 and 2016. Here are the updated PDFs:

1. Constructing Sentences (PDF)
2. Parts of Speech (PDF)
3. Punctuation (PDF)
4. Writing Style and Process (PDF)

Numeracy and mathematics

Includes both numeracy (numbers in daily life) and mathematics topics (number sense, fractions, decimals, measurement, problem-solving) covered in K-8.

16 BOXES
Ten Numeracy Routines for the Classroom

Developed by Saskatchewan math educators Nat Banting and Bailee Yaganiski

This downloadable e-book (available as a PDF or Google Doc) is a series of games supporting basic operations, integers, fractions, factors, equations, order of operations, and strategy. It is aimed at middle school mathematics.

All of the games use the same 16 boxes or four by four array game board. The games are meant to be played in pairs or groups (in-person or in breakout rooms). All are "designed to designed embed procedural skills within conceptual decision making."
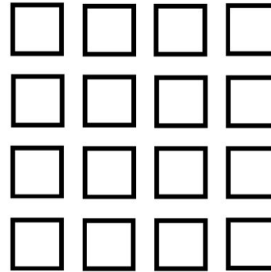
BCcampus ::: OpenEd

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Math

From BC Campus Open Textbook Initiative

Available on the BC Campus open textbook site are six downloadable mathematics course packs, covering GLE 1-8. Similar to the reading course packs, they are available in different formats that are readable and editable.

The first link (the title) will take you to each book's website page. Or you can use the second link (Print PDF) to go directly to the coursebook.

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 1 Print PDF

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 2 Print PDF

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 3 Print PDF

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 4 Print PDF

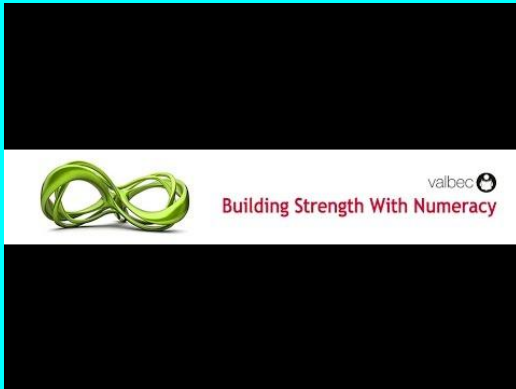Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 5 Print PDF

Adult Literacy Fundamentals Mathematics: Book 6 Print PDF

Developed by Beth Marr and the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council

More than a workbook, Building Strength with Numeracy will help you use a more holistic approach to numeracy development. In addition to skill practice, topics integrate language, interaction, practical and hands-on activities, use of authentic materials and applications (How do I use this in real life?), general knowledge, awareness about social and economic structures influencing their lives and some fun. **It's truly a remarkable resource.**

The following six topics are introduced online and available in PDF format. All are free.

1. The Resource   PDF (17 pages)

2. Getting Started   PDF (55 pages)

3. Exploring Numbers   PDF (64 pages)

4. In the Head Calculations   PDF (63 pages)

5. Fractions   PDF (45 pages)

6. Percentages   PDF (73 pages)

Two additional books 'Decimals' and 'Measurement' can be purchased for $25.00 AUD here.

Emmy Noether Circles

Named in honour of the mathematician Emmy Noether, this free online project aims to encourage the participation of both teachers and students at the Grade 5 and 6 level in solving problems for enjoyment and satisfaction. The 'circle' symbolizes an inclusive and collaborative setting, open to a variety of ability levels, wherein mutual support enhances individual investigations.

Each Circle is a set of six problems, plus hints, suggestions, and solutions. The problems can be used individually, or as a set, as time permits. While group work is a major focus, most problems are also accessible to students who prefer to work on their own.

From the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, University of Waterloo

The Emmy Noether Circles page is a collection of interesting mathematical problems aimed at grade levels 5 and 6. The term circles is being used to indicate that the problems work best when solved in collaboration with others. All problems can be downloaded as PDFs and contain a description of the problem, a hint to help students and the solution (phew!). A quick review indicates that most content and illustrations will work with adults.

We have focused on this page, rather than the Problem of the Week (although you may want to look at that too!) because problems are organized by topic. This will help you quickly find relevant problems. The topics are Number Sense, Measurement, Geometry, Patterning and Algebra, Data Management, Probability and Logic.

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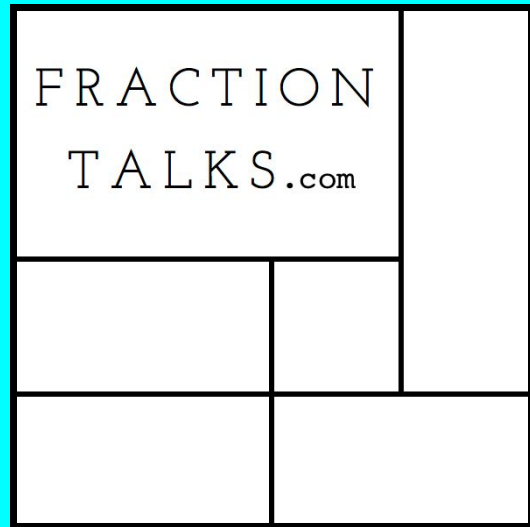
Developed by Saskatchewan math educator Nat Banting

Fraction Talks is designed to help learners understand fractional concepts using images, prompts, and ideas in combination with talk and action.

You may want to start with Nat Banting's webinar and resources available in a Google Folder. Or read an introductory blog post that explains the learning routine. A how-to overview is also available.
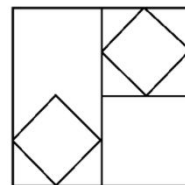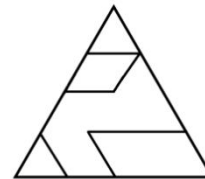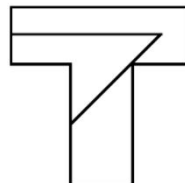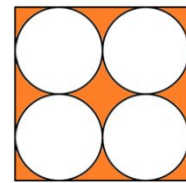

SQUARES   TRIANGLES   MANIPULATIVES

POLYGONS   MISCELLANEOUS   PHOTOS

[Open-up Resources](#) is a US non-profit focused on developing OER to address inequities

Open Up Resources 6–8 Math are complete curricula ifor Grades 6, 7 and 8. Although adults do not need to take such a comprehensive approach, you can pick and choose units that are needed. Each grade level has nine units.

To explore the material, you need to identify your role: 1) teacher, 2) family or 3) student. You need to create an account if you access the curricula as a teacher. You may want to look at the family and student resources first, both available online without an account. The family resources are explanations of concepts and skills with graphics. Right click to print/save as a PDF or you can cut and paste the explanations into your own documents, slides or website.

The student materials are actual lessons. Some of the lessons contain applets (mini interactive applications) and references to manipulatives to demonstrate concepts. You can cut and paste the applet link to supplement your online teaching. You can also adapt some applets (print different versions) if printing the materials.

Project Binders

Developed by Saskatchewan math educators Ilona Vashchyshyn and Nat Banting

Two math educators from Saskatchewan have created a series of projects to re-formulate Saskatchewan's *Workplace and Apprenticeship Mathematics* course.

Writing about her motivation to change the course, Illona Vashchyshyn writes, "Not only did [the course] fail to spark interest *or* motivation, teaching the outcomes as disconnected units concealed the many connections between the topics." Instead, projects integrate "practical mathematical skills that are useful in many workplace (especially trades) and everyday settings, with topics ranging from measurement to salaries to currency exchange."

Both developers have written more on their posts/webpages about their approach and include links to the resources. Read more about Illonya Vashchyshyn's Project binders and Nat Banting's Creating PBL 3.0.

Access Illona Vashchyshyn's four projects directly in this Google folder. Materials are available as a Document or PDF in both French and English.

Access Nat Banting's six projects directly in this Google folder.

No individual or organization is identified. The site has been around since 2004. You can read more [here](#).

That Quiz stretches our criteria for this collection by not including some readily accessible PDF formats. But, the site is so good that we had to include it. One of the reasons is the potential for the site to be used as an online assessment tool. The site is basically an interactive assessment and practice builder focused on particular math skills.

The site is easy to use, clearly organized and contains repeated configuration options for each topic, allowing you to quickly learn how to build your quizzes. The screen shot on the left is the home page where you can instantly see all the topics. Some additional quizzes for vocabulary, geography and science are also available.

You can use all the quizzes online without an account. But you won't be able to save configurations or share a link that will allow learners to access your particular configured test.

If you do sign-up (for free), you then have access to more test and practice tools. In addition to configuring the tests, you will be able to share a link, track progress, share resources with other teachers, have more control over adaptations and configuration of the tests and have access to a library of resources.

Developed by Richard Rand, a retired middle school math teacher from Maine.

Visual Fractions also stretches our criteria by including distracting ads. They make the online interactive components difficult to use. However, the site does have downloadable PDFs. If these work for you, once they are downloaded, you can avoid re-visiting the site.

Access the PDFs in the Lessons section (the Explanations and Worksheets sections contain the same materials). Ten units are available.

As an example, here are the available PDFs in the first lesson on identifying fractions.

Identify Fractions Pretest and Answers

Slide presentation How to Identify Fractions

Number Symbols worksheets 7 and 8 and Answer Sheet

Numerator and Denominator 5 worksheet and Answer Sheet

Identify Fractions Test and Identify Fractions Test Answers

Note: The first time we reviewed the site in October 2020 there were no ads, the next time there were. The developer states that he doesn't use advertising. It's not clear why this may have changed.

Professional learning and how-to guides

Includes ready-to-use presentations and resources that you can download and adapt for your own professional development. Some resources, such as the Google how-to materials, can also be used as is or with modifications with learners.

Digital Literacies

EAL Teachers' Guide

NEW!
Innovative
practices

Developed by Katrina Tour, Faculty of Education at Monash University

Digital Literacies is an online guide focused on the development of digital literacy practices (e.g. reading a webpage, online discussions, communicating with email, using search engines making a YouTube video, etc.) . It examines digital literacy development in blended learning contexts and is focused on helping educators integrate digital literacy instruction and activities into their curriculum.

A section on teaching ideas has 18 instructional activities, all of which are focused on problem-centred tasks and include scaffolding activities that can be used to complete the tasks.

A section on innovative practices currently contains one toolkit on experiential digital storytellings (Hopefully, more innovative practices will be added in the future!).

Driving Digital Learning

Developed by teachers for teachers and overseen by [Michelle Truman](#)

The Driving Digital Learning site "is an extensive collection of resources created by and for teachers. The G-Suite items here are free to use, modify, and expand upon." Some resources were featured in the task section. In addition, the site contains presentations directed at educators that could be used as part of a professional development session.

An extensive ELL Toolkit filled with teaching strategies and templates that is also useful for adult literacy learning.

Just Gotta Blog - A Mini-Unit for Teachers - Slide presentation that can be modified

Course Design for the Online and Blended Learning Environments - Slide presentation that can be modified

Google How to Guide - filled with links to slides and docs tip-sheets that you can use yourself or modify for use with learners

Introduction to Gmail, Google Drive, Google Classroom, Sites, Calendar and Chrome and Chromebooks - Slides, tip sheets and anatomy (labelled) images included

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The Text Project is a US non-profit overseen by reading and literacy development experts.

The Text Project is a US non-profit focused on developing "strategies, tools, and texts to bring beginning readers and struggling readers to high levels of literacy." We have previously included Beginning Reads in the text section and vocabulary activities in the task section.

They also have an extensive collection of professional development resources such as articles, videos, guidebooks and presentations.

You may want to start with small changes = BIG RESULTS two recent videos.

Text Project Topics contain extensive resources that you can explore to suit your interests.

In addition Comprehension Guides from Reading Partners, developed for parents and tutors, are also useful. The guides address the following topics:

- Explaining scientific concepts
- Main topic in informational texts
- Making inferences (informational text)
- Explaining information
- Cause and effect (historical events)
- Cause and effect

Math Tutoring Videos

A free resource available on the New Readers Press website to support tutors

New Readers Press math videos are designed to help tutors teach specific strategies, skills and concepts.

Math Video 1: Concrete to Representational to Abstract

Math Video 2: Fraction Packets

Math Video 3: Solving Word Problems

Math Video 4: Place Value Mat and Chips

Math Video 5: Operations on an Open Number Line

Math Video 6: Using Ten Frames

Math Video 7: Using Base Ten Blocks

Math Video 8: Multiplication Strategies

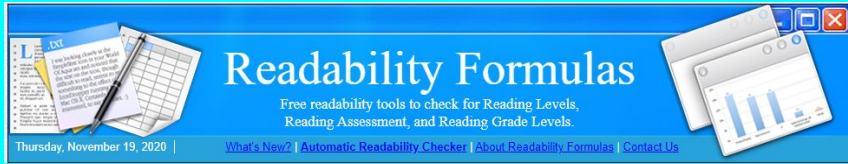Math Video 9: Division Strategies

Math Video 10: Fraction Operations

Math Video 11: Using Algebra Tiles

Math Video 12: Geometry with Pattern Blocks

Creating, modifying and analysing your own materials

Includes a few tools to help you create and modify reading texts for instruction. Also included are tools to help learners read/listen to more complex texts and a site that allows you to build worksheets using your own content.

Calculate Your Words

Free Readability Tools

Readability tools will help you determine the difficulty of text. Most tools will assign a grade level. To reach most readers who may not not be familiar with a certain topic, it is estimated that texts should be at a Grade 8 level. Texts then become more difficult with the use of specialized vocabulary and more abstract sentences. To ensure accessibility for those with low literacy levels,a Grade 5 readability is the standard.

You can use the tools when deciding whether to use certain texts or when writing your own texts. Read more about the topic in general and within the context of adult literacy education,

The following sites offer excellent free readability analysis (no need to purchase a subscription!):

- CalculateYourWords.com
- Free Readability Formulas
- AnalyzeMyWriting.com

(FYI, the first paragraph has a median grade level of 11.7 based on a readability analysis using five different tools at AnalyseMyWriting.com.)

Created by educator Neil Goldman to make "reading less scary, making it more likely that people will read more."

Rewordify is a comprehensive text analysis and modifier tool for both educators and learners. Simply cut and paste text into their online tool and access the following features:

- A simplified version of the text showing all changes

- A pop-up box beside each change to allow you to compare the change with the original

- Another pop-up with a recording of the complex word and option to save to a learner's personal dictionary.

The original text can also be analysed for readability using different analysis tools, including a Flesch-Kincaid grade level.

In addition, you can print vocabulary lists containing the modified words along with quizzes and cloze exercises. You can also view the text with the parts of speech highlighted in different colours.

A free account allows you to access additional features for saving, sharing and accessing rewordified texts.

Read&Write is a Chrome extension with reading support tools that can be accessed across Google products using a menu bar.

Learners can access tools to do the following:

- Read the text aloud
- Look up words in a pop-up-dictionary
- Look-up words using a visual dictionary
- Use a text and type feature to compose text
- Proofread text

Educators can use the same tools and others (remove distracting ads from web pages, convert text into an audio file, build a vocabulary list) when creating and modifying their own activities for learners.

Developed by WorksheetWorks.com team, a membership supported site.

WorksheetWorks.com is an online worksheet builder where you can use your own content to develop a range of worksheets for Math, English, Geography and fun. Graphic organizers, calendars and note-taking templates are also included. All worksheets can be downloaded as PDFs.

There are two levels of access to the site. You can download pre-made worksheets for free. For a very reasonable annual membership ($14.95 USD per year) you can create your own worksheets **with your content** using the WorksheetWorks platform, templates and instructions.

Copyright US fair use for education applies to all worksheets, including the ones that contain your own content. In general, worksheets can be used by educators in educational settings with students. They can be printed or distributed on a private website. No commercial use. No modification or concealment of logo.

About AlphaPlus

AlphaPlus is Ontario's only organization focussed on helping adult literacy education professionals to incorporate digital technology. We believe that through the use of digital technology in our sector, we can build capacity, create equity and access to learning, and enhance learning experiences. We work as a leader and guide, sharing knowledge and directly helping literacy educators and administrators to integrate technology in innovative ways that increase effectiveness and reach.

Learn more about AlphaPlus: visit alphaplus.ca