

Learning English websites

There are many fine websites that have been providing materials and exercises for many years and are still going strong. And there are new types of websites, too. Here are some of the most useful to supplement our 11/09 article "Log on and Learn" by Anne Hodgson and Joanna Westcombe:



Language Sites and Portals

<http://bab.la/> **Babla** provides translations and quizzes and lets you make your own flash cards.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/> **BBC Learning English** is a huge resource for English. Communicate across cultures in the BBC Community.

<http://www.dalango.de/> **Dalango** is Spotlight Verlag's video-based multimedia course package.

<http://www.digitalpublishing.de/de/sprachenlernen.htm> **digital publishing** has a course on a 2GB USB stick that lets you move around between workstations. Including 10 online lessons with a live tutor.

<http://www.englishclub.com/> **English Club** is a social learning network. Best feature:

<http://www.englishclub.com/listening/dictation.htm> dictations at three levels.

<http://www.ego4u.com/> **English Grammar Online** has interactive exercises aimed at children and young adults, with explanations in English and German.

<http://www.englishtown.com/online/home.aspx> **Englishtown** has lessons, flashcards and a pronunciation lab.

<http://www.eslfast.com/robot/> **ESL Fast** lets you practise "speaking" English with an online robot.

<http://www.lingorilla.com/> **Lingorilla** is a multimedia language learning platform with video-based lessons, texts and a vocabulary trainer. Self-organized learning groups discuss the site's own Lingua TV. Focus on travel and music videos. Winner of the 2009 World Summit Award in the category eLearning and Education.

<http://www.yabla.com/> **Yabla** uses authentic videos. Featuring "slow play" technology, dictionaries, a listening game and dual language subtitles.

<http://www.real-english.com/> **Real English** is a school site with videos and exercises with a home-made feel.

Finding a teacher online

<http://edufire.com/> **Edufire** is a worldwide social learning network, where teachers and students can find each other. Slightly cheaper than Myngle.

<http://www.myngle.com/> **Mingle** is a global marketplace where teachers and students can meet. Sign up for courses. Slightly more expensive than Edufire.

<http://secondlife.com/> **Second Life** is a place to meet other learners of English, with formal courses, e.g. at **Languagelab** (<http://www.languagelab.com/en/>) or informal learning e.g. at **Second Life English** (<http://slenglish.ning.com/>).

<http://www.tutoria.de/> Find a "regular" offline teacher via **Tutoria**, a well-established German site.

Podcasts

<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/> **Grammar Girl** provides short and friendly tips to improve your writing.

<http://www.listen-to-english.com/> Voted top language blog of 2009, **Listen to English** is a podcast read in British English twice a week, with grammar and vocabulary notes and quizzes.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute/> **Six Minute English** lets you listen to and read the podcast online and do the interactive exercises, or download the podcast and print out the script to take offline. The script is available in Word, so you can edit a worksheet for yourself.

<http://www.spotlight-online.de/audio/podcast> The **Spotlight** weekly 5-minute audio show is published on Wednesdays. Download both the podcast and the transcript.

Blogs

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/> **Breaking News English** has been published every 4 days since 1 November 2004. Audio, worksheets, interactive quiz. Also see the lower intermediate site, <http://www.newseenglishlessons.com/>

<http://daily-english-activities.blogspot.com/> **Nik Peachey** shows you how to use the Internet more creatively to learn English. Technically challenging, but very motivating.

<http://esolcourses.blogspot.com/> **ESOL Courses** provides multimedia activities with videos, games, tests and worksheets. <http://www.esolcourses.com/> has complete courses from beginner through upper intermediate.

<http://bite-sized-english.com/> **Bite-sized English** is a daily blog/ podcast by an American teacher living in Germany. Topics are presented in a series of "bite-sized" posts over several days.

<http://www.der-englisch-blog.de/> **Der Englisch Blog** gives English language advice in German every day, often with a video or a game. With a forum for students and teachers.

<http://www.spotlight-online.de/blogs> **Spotlight** blogs by Dagmar Taylor, Eamonn Fitzgerald, Jan Stuermann and Mike Pilewski. Vocabulary glossed. With the Macmillan Dictionary widget.

Other useful sites

<http://www.collins.co.uk/Corpus/CorpusSearch.aspx> and <http://sara.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/lookup.html> **Concordancer** sites let you find out how words are really used in context.

<http://dict.leo.org/forum> **LEO (Link Everything Online)** has a forum to let you ask translators working online for tips.

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/> The **Visual Thesaurus** provides word maps. Copy any text into the integrated Vocabgrabber <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/vocabgrabber/> and the system will sort the words for you.

<http://www.wordle.net/> Use **Wordle** to create word maps that present the words from any given text according to their frequency.

Essential tools

<http://delicious.com/> **delicious** lets you bookmark your favourite sites online, tag them systematically using your own categories (grammar, listening, India...) and write a short summary.

<http://www.google.de/reader> **Google Reader** is the best RSS feed organizer for your subscriptions to blogs and other publications.

<http://www.apple.com/de/itunes/> Use **iTunes** to download, save and archive your podcasts.

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