

Online Resources to Help You Practice English

Developed by [English Language Services](#), Illinois Tech

This page contains links to English language websites to help you practice listening, timed reading, pronunciation, and more! All sites have been reviewed by our instructors. The ones we've listed first are interactive, meaning you can review, practice, and be quizzed on-line. Enjoy!

- [Speaking](#)
- [Vocabulary](#)
- [Pronunciation](#)
- [Listening](#)
- [Reading](#)
- [Writing](#)
- [Grammar](#)
- [Learning about American Culture](#)
- [Exploring Chicago](#)

Speaking

[SPEAK sessions at Illinois Tech](#)

This is an in-person event. Every Wednesday during the lunch hour meet with domestic students and English language instructors to practice your spoken English. Lunch is provided! See our website for more details.

Other Speaking sites:

[Toastmasters International](#)

Public speaking tips to help in public speaking and giving presentations

[Bank of English conversational phrases](#)

A huge list of phrases commonly used in discussion with audio for pronunciation

Vocabulary

Interactive Vocabulary practice:

[Academic Word List exercises](#)

Academic Word List vocabulary exercises

[Quizlet](#)

This site helps you create flashcards to practice new vocabulary. You can also add images and access shared lists of vocabulary from other users.

Pronunciation

Interactive Pronunciation practice:

[English Central](#)

Wide variety of short videos with pronunciation exercises

Other Pronunciation sites:

[Rachel's English](#)

You Tube channel with a wide selection of pronunciation and conversational videos

Listening

Interactive Listening practice:

[Business English Pod](#)

Hundreds of authentic business conversations, lessons, and quizzes

[English Language Listening Library Online](#)

Listening sites with audio and video for different levels. Includes transcripts and vocabulary quizzes

Other Listening sites:

[Stitcher](#)

A variety of news and entertainment podcasts

[Voice of America Learning English](#)

Voice of America news podcasts, and videos on several topics. Includes audio at slower speeds and transcripts to follow along as you listen.

[Scientific American](#)

Several news, podcasts and videos on scientific topics

[National Public Radio](#)

Several podcasts on many topics such as business, politics, contemporary topics, and issue.

[MIT OpenCourseWare \(OCW\)](#)

Academic lectures from MIT courses to practice academic listening skills

[Check, Please Chicago](#)

A local show about Chicago restaurants and food

[Story Corps](#)

A collection of stories on several cultural topics including justice, love, military, and parenthood

[The Kids Should See This](#)

Interesting short videos on current subjects in science and technology

[The Daily Podcast](#)

New York Times podcast that is released daily on a current event. Short podcasts of 20-30 minutes

[Scientific American](#)

Interesting short videos on current science topics

[Spotify](#)

Various types of music

Reading

Interactive Reading practice:

[ELC Study Zone](#)

Short readings sorted by level, followed by comprehension quizzes

[Cengage Learning](#)

Timed reading practice

Other Reading sites:

[Scientific American](#)

Science and engineering related articles from a popular magazine

[Reader's Digest](#)

Hundreds of short news stories to choose from

[Magatopia](#)

A collection of magazine articles

[Ron-Chang](#)

A variety of links to essays, short stories, mini novels, and dictation practice

[Short Story Guide](#)

A collection of short stories to choose from

[ESL bits](#)

Selection of audiobooks and novellas to read on-line

Writing

Interactive Writing practice:

[UEFAP \(Using English for Academic Purposes\)](#)

This website gives students the chance to practice all the basics of academic writing on-line.

Click on the exercise tab on the left to access topics.

[Purdue Online Writing Lab Grammar Exercises](#)

A collection of grammar exercises to help students practice grammar skills

Other Writing sites:

[Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

Purdue University Writing Center website that includes information on academic writing and citation

[Zotero](#)

A tool to help you collect, cite, and store research. Online tutorial available [here!](#)

[Writing about data](#)

This site gives good information on integrating information and data into your writing.

[Longman English Dictionary](#)

Online dictionary that includes grammatical information, examples, and pronunciation

[Merriam Webster's Thesaurus](#)

Online thesaurus which includes synonyms, antonyms, related words, and phrases

[Merriam Webster Learner's Dictionary](#)

Online dictionary that includes the most popular words, as well as vocabulary quizzes

[Wordnik](#)

Dictionary site that also includes how the word is being used right now on Twitter and other social media sites

Grammar

Interactive Grammar practice:

[Grammar Bytes](#)

Grammar practice with many different grammatical errors

[Ron Lee - Grammar](#)

Several links to grammar exercises and tips

[Purdue Online Writing Lab Grammar Exercises](#)

A collection of grammar exercises to help students practice grammar skills

Learning about American Culture

News:

[Vox](#)

[Slate](#)

[CNN](#)

[New York Times](#)

Life in the U.S.:

[Useful guide to living in the U.S.](#)

[Guide to cultural differences in the U.S.](#)

Exploring Chicago

These sites give up to date information on what is happening in and around Chicago

[Chicago Metromix](#)

[Chicago Reader](#)

[Timeout Chicago](#)

[Welcome to Chicago](#)

[Chicago Magazine](#)

Other Resources:

[Chicago Eater](#)

A local magazine with different up to date current events and topics mostly about Chicago

[Yelp](#)

Local restaurant news and ratings as well as ideas of places to dine in the city

[Check, Please Chicago](#)

A popular TV show on which local people review and discuss restaurants in the city.

[Chicago Tribune](#)

Chicago's largest daily newspaper

[Chicago Sun-Times](#)

A daily Chicago newspaper