Grammar & Vocabulary

http://rea.ccdmd.qc.ca/ri/Expressions/debutEN.asp?sw=1440&sh=900

This site aims to help learners with the meaning of idioms such as 'it's raining cats and dogs'. You search for idioms by keyword and then see the expression as a phrase and hear it in context. There is also a translation into the equivalent phrase but only in two languages, French and Spanish. Under the activities menu, there are cartoons and quizzes.

http://eslcafe.com

A large collection of activities on idioms, phrasal verbs, slang and grammar lessons (confusingly found by following the link to Hints of the Day). The quizzes section provides answers.

www.sightwordswithsamson.com

This site teaches and then tests in several ways lists of sight words based on 4 levels of difficulty. There is audio support for the text and the activities are interactive. The sight words are shown in the context of sentences.

www.usingenglish.com/quizzes

Over 250 quizzes designed for ESOL learners and grouped into two levels. Areas covered include adjectives, verb forms, conjunctions, pronouns and spelling. Some material is suitable for general literacy use. The quizzes take the form of multiple choice or cloze and a score and answer sheet are available.

http://funeasyenglish.com

This site covers pronunciation, slang, idioms, grammar, contractions and writing the alphabet. It has videos in most sections and an alphabetical list of grammar terms.

www.esl-lounge/student/index.php

This site offers a range of listening, reading, and vocabulary and grammar exercises, with a large section on phrasal verbs. Along with some of the exercises, there are links to the grammar reference section where points of grammar are explained and examples are given.

www.englishclub.com

This site offers sections with lessons on grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, reading and writing, speaking and listening. Most of the material is information and explanation but there are some quizzes, mainly using drop down lists of choices and with answers. This site uses British English.

www.dailygrammar.com/archive.shtml

A collection of short lessons with questions and answers covering parts of speech, parts of the sentence and types of punctuation (oddly referred to as 'mechanics').

http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/literacyonline/grammarautomatic/deault.htm

A small collection of web or print based grammar activities, covering nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, comparatives and superlatives and much / many.

http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/courses/elc/studyzone/

The English Language Study Centre study zone has well presented material at five levels from upper beginner to advanced. The material consists of lessons and exercises and cover grammar, reading and vocabulary. There is an index to all content.

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/

The Guide to Grammar and Writing offers detailed explanations and quizzes covering sentence parts, plus material on writing at the paragraph and essay level. 170 quizzes are listed under the Ask Grammar / Quizzes option including sentence parts, verbs, punctuation, spelling phrases, style and homophones.

www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/

An online grammar course covering parts of speech, parts of sentences, verbs, pronouns, phrases, clauses, sentences, spelling etc. It offers explanations with links to other sections. The default font size is small but the home page (top right) allows you to resize this to medium or large font.

www.englishpage.com

This site offers lessons and interactive exercises on topics including verb tenses, prepositions, conditionals, modals, and vocabulary. Exercises use cloze and multiple choice and answers are provided. The Reading Room provides links to online newspapers, magazines and books. The Listening Lounge provides links to radio stations. The games section consists of crosswords related to the vocabulary lessons.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/index.html

This site offers explanations and exercises on grammar, punctuation and spelling. Some exercises are available in an interactive version so you can check answers online; others are printable with an answers sheet. The exercises have links to relevant explanations so information can be revised before the exercise is attempted.

http://a4esl.org/

This site has a collection of grammar and vocabulary quizzes and crosswords. Also there are bilingual quizzes in over forty languages. The format of the activities is fairly simple using multiple choice or drop down lists of choices.

http://www.berghuis.co.nz/abiator/lang/interlangindex.html

A collection of Interactive English Activities using cloze, multiple choice, scrambled sentences, short answers etc. The activities involve practice in identifying similes,

metaphors, onomatopoeia, alliteration and euphemisms, and also nouns, syllables, compound words, conjunctions, adjectives and adverbs.

www.grammarmancomic.com

A collection of comics to read online or print explaining points of grammar, plus templates for learners to write their own stories. Also free puzzles, riddles, jokes, comic clip art, etc.

www.davidappleyard.com/english/index.htm

Presented as a series of 'Guides to' this site covers spelling and grammar. The spelling section covers suffixes, prefixes, double letters, commonly confused words and is clearly laid out showing the spelling rule, then examples and exceptions. Other sections include a grammar glossary that lists terms with examples, punctuation, irregular verbs, pronunciation; an initial sounds section suggests associations between blends and meanings, e.g. 'sn' words are often negative.

http://www.btinternet.com/~ted.power/index.html

This site has a collection of lesson materials mainly focussed on reading and pronunciation. In addition it has a section on literacy which focuses on writing and recognising the Roman alphabet.

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/

This site has a wide selection of material including grammar and vocabulary, quizzes and business English.

Spelling

www.infoplease.com/spellcheck.php

A spelling checker where you enter individual words and alternative spellings are suggested with definitions. It does not cope well with very unconventional spellings. The same page has links to frequently misspelled words, frequently mispronounced words and tips for better spelling.

www.iKnowthat.com/com/L3?Area=L2_LanguageArts

A selection of word searches based on long and short vowels, beginning and final consonant blends, also matching and word building activities with a similar focus. The site does encourage users to register but you can choose 'maybe later' and still use it.

www.spellingcity.com

An online tool for improving spelling based on the words you choose to use. You begin by entering your own list of 5 or 10 words (or more) and have three options. The first is Test Me. Using test me you can play the sound of the word and hear it in context in a sentence (this seems to work surprisingly well given the words are chosen by the user). You type in the word and the spelling is checked. You are given a score although not told the correct spelling of any error but encouraged to try the Teach Me tool. Teach Me shows each word,

lets you hear it, says it aloud letter by letter and the repeats the word. Finally Play Game offers 8 games such as wordsearch, hangman, scrambled words and scrambled sentences using your word list.

www.ghotitcom

A unique spellchecker designed for dyslexic learners where you can paste in a phrase, even with very unconventional spelling and ghotit will mark apparent misspellings and offer corrections. The suggested alternatives are given with a definition to help you and suggestions follow grammatical possibilities (which is why you need to enter a phrase rather than a single word). If you use Internet Explorer as your browser, you can download an addition which enables speech so you can hear both the text you typed and the list of possible correct spellings.

http://www.learner.org/interactives/spelling/index.html

The interactive spelling bee offers short pieces of text and sentences with gaps to complete as you hear the words read. The advantage of this site is that you hear the words spoken in context and if needed can hear them individually again along with a hint. The activity is available at eight levels of difficulty (based on US school grades).

www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp

The student materials section of the Read Write Think web site has a large collection of interactive resources. For example, Flip a Chip explores using affixes and prefixes, and Construct a Word works with adding word beginning to endings so students learn about sound / letter correspondence.

Games
www.freerice.com

Freerice is a site for developing vocabulary and grammar with a twist: for every correct answer, 20 grains of rice are donated to the UN World Food Programme. In the (default) vocabulary pages a word is presented (and its sound can be played) and the user chooses one of four options for its meaning. At the easiest level words like heat, start and build appear. Go to 'Change subjects' on the right of the box to move to the Grammar pages. Note that you can change the level yourself and when you answer correctly several times, the level goes up although you can restart at any time.

http://english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm

A collection of games designed for ESOL learners including the formidable Grammar of Doom. Roll your mouse over the name of the game to find out the nature of the content.

www.englishonline.org.cn/en/learners/language-games/wordshake

A game against the clock to form words from a random group of 12 letters. The longer the word, the more points you score.

http://www.softwareprodigy.com/word_connect_puzzle_game/

Word Connect is a game based on moving falling letters so they form the words on a list (though in any order) or new words to score points. It does require fairly quick thinking and memory skills.

http://games.yahoo.com/console/tx

A free game based on finding words from a group of letters against the clock. The free online version has some limited options.

http://zone.msn.com/binGame/SBLS/default/loader.swf

Scrabbleblast is a game where you find words from letters on a board and score for the letters you use (as in real scrabble). Good for developing the ability to work out the relationship between letters and sounds.

http://www.merriam-webster.com/game/index.htm

A collection of word games provided by the Merriam Webster Dictionary site. Games are based on scrambled letters, building on root words, finding words from groups of letters and include popular ones like Fowl Words. The free online games have some limited options.

http://edhelper.com/crossword_free.htm

A simple crossword generator that is suitable for up to 30 words and clues which can be printed out. Other tools on the site (such as a word search generator) unfortunately require a subscription.

www.eclipsecrossword.com

Eclipse Crossword is a free tool you can download to your computer. The programme works from the list of words and clues you enter to create crosswords as simple or demanding as you like.

Pronunciation

www.chuala.com/index.php

This site helps with pronunciation by offering sound files of words in English (and other languages) and allowing you to record and play yourself saying the word and also compare your pronunciation by playing your voice recording immediately after that of the model voice. In addition you can search the site's collection of lessons by keyword and then use a conversation to practice pronunciation in the same manner.

www.spokenskills.com/index.cfm?type=15&content=studentactivities

Spoken skills has a collection of sound files to model correct pronunciation and a record and playback tool so you can compare your voice with the model voice. It covers vowel and consonant sounds plus idioms, work conversations and legal terms.

www.manythings.org/pp/

This site has sound files with two very similar words (e.g. pond, pound). You can hear the two sounds and then are asked to identify which is being spoken in the next section.

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/pron/

The BBC's Learn English site's pronunciation section uses phonemic symbols and covers similar sounds, the relationship between sounds and spelling, the unstressed schwa sound, connected speech and voicing. Radio programmes and quizzes revise the information.

Listening & Reading

http://tarheelreader.org/

Tarheel reader is a collection of short 'books' with photo illustrations on a wide range of topics aimed at 'beginner readers of all ages'. The site has speech so that the books can be heard as well as read and they can be downloaded as PowerPoint or Flash presentations. You can also write new versions of an existing book or write your own (though you have to register with the site to do so). Note that downloaded books do not have speech.

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/

This has a variety of listening material in the form of podcasts and news items (some with text).

www.elllo.org

A large online listening collection with interviews, news stories and everyday conversations. Each recording comes with images, a full transcript and multiple choice quizzes. In addition there are listening games designed for beginning students.

www.eslpod.com/website/#

A selection of listening material on topics such as daily life, business, health, shopping and entertainment. You can search for audio files by these topics or a keyword and listen to them online or download them. Unfortunately there is no transcript for those who are using the site for free.

www.china232.com/category/fun-english-lessons

A variety of short listening files generally with a transcript and some explanation of words and phrases. Although there are over 100 audio files, there is no search tool, nor indication of the level, just brief descriptions.

www.englishexpress.ca/

This Canadian web site has a collection of articles and stories to listen to. Each story or article can be read as it is heard and some have graphics and photos to provide further clues to the meaning. The site also includes word games in the form of word searches and crosswords.

www.esl-lab.com

Provides listening activities where you can choose from three levels (easy, medium, difficult) and from several purposes (everyday conversation, academic language, vocabulary building). Along with the recording, there are comprehension questions and vocabulary exercises. The recordings are not accompanied by text.

www.english-trailers.com/index.php

This site uses trailers for films as the basis for listening activities using gap filling. There is a large collection of over 100 trailers to choose from and the script of the trailer is used as one of the cloze exercises.

www.englishonline.org.cn/en/learners/listening/stories

The British Council's English Online site has a good selection of stories for listening to. The text of the story is also displayed so learners can follow this.

www.englishonline.org.cn/en/learners/listening/articles

In the same vein as the English Online's stories collection, above, here you will find a set of factual articles to read and listen to.

www.yappr.com

An engaging site with a collection of videos designed to support English language learners. The video is shown alongside transcribed text in English and a choice of seven other lan-

guages and sentences can be replayed. The site has a wide choice of videos (news, comedy, music etc.) but is intended for older learners' use and so content includes, for example, commercials with sexual innuendo.

www.yolango.com

Another site offering a collection of videos to support English language learner but with 13 languages available and games to practice spelling, vocabulary etc.

<mark>Text to Speech Tools</mark>
http://readthewords.com/

This site reads aloud any text (Word, PDF or web site) that you paste in or upload. You can choose from a variety of voices and vary their pace. You can listen online or download your audio file to your computer. You have to register to use all the features but this is quick and free.

http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/

WordTalk is a free tool you can use with Microsoft Word for learners who would benefit from hearing text. It will speak the text of the document and will highlight the words as they are spoken. There is also a talking dictionary to help the user choose which spelling is correct. It is easy to alter the colour of highlight, speed of speech and voice. It can read words, sentences, paragraphs or selected text.

www.pixi.com/~reader1/allbrowser/

Help Read is a free text to speech reader that works with documents, email and web pages, which you download and save to your computer. You can adjust the voice pitch, volume and speed and have the programme highlight words as they are read.

www.naturalreaders.com/free_version.htm

Natural Reader is a free text to speech reader that you can download to your computer. It will read text from documents, email and web pages. You can adjust the voice pitch, volume and speed and have the programme highlight words as they are read. With this tool you don't have to paste text in, just highlight it and click on the reader. You can have the reader appear as a 'floating' tool on your word processing or web page.

www.readplease.com/

Read Please is a free text to speech reader that you can download to your computer. It will read text from documents, email and web pages. You can choose from three voices and adjust the voice pitch, volume and speed.

www.yakitome.com

YAKiToMe is a free text to speech reader that works online but you can save your audio file to your computer. It works with documents, email and web pages by copying and pasting these in. It has high quality voices and you can choose the voice and set the speed and if you wish, see the text as it is spoken. You have to register to use the tool but it is free and quick.

Translation Tools

www.nicetranslator.com

This translation tool is unusual in that it translates as you type rather than by pasting in a block of text. It is great for phrases and words that are causing confusion and works in 32 languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi and Polish. Another feature is that you can ask for translation into several languages simultaneously.

http://babelfish.yahoo.com/

Well known translation tool that works with western European languages plus Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

www.google.com/language_tools

A useful translation tool where the advantage is that it works in a huge range of languages. It can translate blocks of text as well as individual words.

www.esldesk.com/esl-reading/esl-reader.aspx

A translation tool and reader, ERSL Reader works from blocks of text you paste in which it reads aloud and if you click on a word it will look it up. It works with around 15 (mainly European) languages.

http://lingro.com/

Lingro translates words within web sites. It works from the web site addresses you add to its home page, it then takes you to that page and you can click on any word for a translation. It offers around seven European languages.

http://lingro.com/dictionary/

Lingro dictionary translates words and phrases from and to English, Swedish, Polish, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Dictionaries & Thesauruses

www.language.guide.org

Language Guide is an online dictionary with sound and pictures which works in lots of languages including Arabic, Spanish, Polish and Vietnamese.

http://wordweb.info/free/

Wordweb is a free download that works as a dictionary and thesaurus which is able to look up words within a range of programmes. The software has a speech tool so words can be heard (though not definitions or lists of synonyms).

www.visualthesaurus.com/bee/play

The Visual Thesaurus spelling bee allows you to hear a word and see its definition and then spell it. It keeps a score and gives you a hint when you are incorrect (e.g. you are two let-

ters out). It adjusts to your level of ability – as you get more words right, harder words are presented.

www.lexipedia.com

Type a word into the search box and similar words appear in a visual map. They include nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. and you can narrow down to a specific type of word. Click on a word and a definition appears along with a sound icon so you can hear how the word should be said.

www.ninjawords.com

Ninja Words is an online dictionary that aims to be really quick to use and to offer straight forward definitions of words.

http://chir.ag/projects/tip-of-my-tongue

Tip of my tongue is a word finder rather than a dictionary which can locate words from beginnings and endings and by unscrambling letters.

http://visual.merriam-webster.com/

A visual dictionary giving picture images of entries and with sound (when you click on an entry) so you can hear the word pronounced.

http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/esl/

A talking dictionary provided by Harcourt publishing. Choose a letter from the alphabet and then a word from the list or use the search box. The audio buttons allow you to hear the word, hear its definition and hear it in a sentence. An image offers more clues to the meaning. An advantage is that you can hear both the word and its meaning, although the range of words is limited.

www.writeexpress.com/online2.html

 A rhyming dictionary where you enter a word in the search box and then choose from the drop down menu what kind of rhyme you are looking for: end rhyme, beginning rhyme, first syllable, last syllable.

www.rhymezone.com/

Rhyme zone allows you to enter words and search for rhymes as well as synonyms, antonyms, definitions, homophones, sounds like and quotations.

www.pdictionary.com The Internet Picture Dictionary can be searched by word, first letter or category (e.g. kitchen, transport, body parts) to show words and an image. Although there is no audio, there are activities such as word scramble, flashcards, and fill in the blanks to practice the words.

Teacher Sites

www.aloscotland.com/alo/22.html

This is the site for Scotland's online resource bank including the Curriculum Framework, Tutor Training materials, Learning Resources and Research and Reports. A search tool is available to look for Learning Resources and there is an ESOL category.

www.skillsworkshop.org

This site holds an enormous collection of literacy, numeracy and ESOL resources submitted by practitioners. Many are PDF or Word documents. The contextualised resources are mainly vocational.

www.rwp.qia.oxi.net/embeddedlearning/searchinteractive.cfm

Here you will find interactive practice materials set in authentic adult contexts from the English and Welsh Skills for Life initiative. There are around 100 sets of activities involving literacy, numeracy or ESOL. Audio support guides learners through the materials.

www.tesol.org/s_tesol/cat_tapestry.asp?CID=1585&DID=8732

The tapestry for Teachers of English Language Learners brings together research on what works for learners. Although the studies included are based on children, the material presents a wide range of information on areas where complex questions have been addressed by leading bodies, with a direct application to classroom teaching and learning.

Creative & Useful Tools

http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

A fairly sophisticated and free mind mapping programme you can download to your computer. It is useful for brainstorming, capturing ideas, summarising, planning and writing. Screenshots on the site show you how maps can look.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/

A typing tutor which is in the BBC's schools pages but, as it offers audio support, has advantages for speakers of other languages and those who find reading demanding.

www.memorylifter.com

Memory Lifter is an automated flash card maker based on the work of Ebbinghaus and Leitner and is a free software download. Suitable for learning vocabulary or multiplication tables, for example, the cards can include sample sentences, audio, images and even video. Some free flashcard sets are available on the website for you to download (English to Polish basic words, Subtraction) and you can create your own sets. Cards can be sorted into categories. As you work through the cards, wrongly answered ones are stored for re presentation.

www.cambridge.org/elt/esol/citizenshiptest.htm A free way to practice questions in preparation for the Citizenship test with multiple choice questions and a time limit.

www.lyricsfly.com/lyrics/

Reading lyrics can be an interesting and useful listening and reading experience. This site finds lyrics by putting into a search box any word or phrase. It provides links to audio music and video and also lets you print out the song.

www.wordle.net

Wordle is an online tool for creating an image from text you have pasted in. It could be used as a starting point for creative writing or to present keywords. You can choose fonts and colour schemes and then post your image on the net or print it or save it to your own computer. You are free to use the image on a t- shirt or a magazine cover as long as you acknowledge the source. Note that although unsuitable language is deleted from the gallery, it is possible to come across it before this is done.

www.simplewikipedia.org

A version of the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia using simple words and grammar to make it more accessible. Articles are found by using the search box and are quite short with links to other entries.

www.makebeliefscomix.com

This site lets you create a short comic strip using a range of characters in different poses with thought or speech bubbles. You can print or email your finished work.

www.befunky.com

This online tool converts images into cartoons. You upload a photo and can then sketch and colour and even warp the picture to create an image.

www.soundsnap.com

A large collection of copyright free sound effects which can be searched. Categories include nature, transport, house and animals. These can be used in PowerPoint or to enrich recordings of stories for example. Note that these are not music tracks.

www.sxc.hu

Photo stock exchange is a collection of copyright free photos which can be searched by keyword. It is a useful source for photos to insert into documents, flash cards and worksheets etc.

www.copyrightfreephotos.com

Another is a collection of copyright free photos which can be searched by keyword. It is a useful source for photos to insert into documents, flash cards and worksheets etc.

ESOL On-Line Resources

www.englishlanguagespacestation.com

www.breakingnewsenglish.com

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

www.howjsay.com

www.eslgamesworld.com

www.esoluk.co.uk

www.englishgrammarsecrets.com

 (look up ESOL Nexus)

www.esl-galaxy.com

www.onestopenglish.com

www.idiomsbykids.com

www.skillsworkshop.org

www.teachingenglish.org.uk

www.eslvideo.com

www.eslpartyland.com

http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/

www.englishgrammar.org

http://britishmuseum.org/learning/adults_and_students/esol_programmes.aspx

www.projectbritain.com

www.eslcafe.com/idea/index.cgi?Ice:Breakers

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page

http://www.englishmyway.co.uk/

http://esol.britishcouncil.org/teachers

www.englishbanana.com

www.englishtips.com

http://www.uni.edu/becker/TESOL_ESL2.html

http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/SecondLanguageLearning/esol/strategiestips.asp

http://www.esolinhighered.org/

http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/?
CFID=1666680&CFTOKEN=6dbbc943eab13c5a-7416F4A6-F987-B43E-6D0B16E53FFF-
B3FD

http://www.puzzle-maker.com/

http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/

http://www.readsuccessfully.com/

http://www.talkingdice.com/

http://www.skillsworkshop.org/category/link-types/learning-resources-external-
links/printable-resource-sites/printable-esol-resour

http://www.esolresources.co.uk/#!

http://www.onestopenglish.com/esol/

http://www.teachitelt.com/1881

http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/learning/online-resources/esol-resources/

http://www.usingenglish.com/teachers/

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/5398.html
http://www.npg.org.uk/learning/access/esol/esol-resources.php
http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/skills-for-life/
http://www.esolcourses.com/
https://globaldimension.org.uk/esol-resources
http://www.niace.org.uk/projects/esolcitizenship/
http://savte.org.uk/resources/
https://www.skillsforlifenetwork.com/article/reflect-for-esol-resource-pack/964
https://www.skillsforlifenetwork.com/article/esol-resources/4917
http://esolscotland.com/documents/esolresources_dec.pdf
http://sblair.com/teachers/esol.htm
http://www.valrc.org/resources/esol.html
http://www.esolliteracy.co.uk/
http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/node/1516
http://www.esoluk.co.uk/
http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2012/08/free-esol-websites-for-teacher-s.html
http://www.esolforhealth.co.uk/
http://old.skillsworkshop.org/e1esol.htm
http://www.prometheanplanet.com/en/resources/themes/esol.aspx#.Vk8w3L-CzXcs
http://www.mathswithgraham.org.uk/?cat=67
http://esolonline.tki.org.nz/ESOL-Online/Teacher-needs/Reviewed-resources
http://englishlanguagespacestation.com/ESOL.htm
http://esolworksheets.com/
http://www.reflect-action.org/~reflecta/sites/default/files/u6/Reflect%2520for%2520ESOL%2520Resource%2520Pack-1.pdf
https://www.pinterest.com/nque22/esol-resources/
https://www.pinterest.com/
http://www.cls.utk.edu/pdf/esol/esol.pdf
http://www.acuras.co.uk/efl/resources/
http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4556495.asp
http://www.usingenglish.com/
http://www.elt-training.com/