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