

Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Additional Resources

for English as a Second Language Study outside the CTE-ELP

The Center for Teaching Excellence’s English Language Proficiency Program serves Texas A&M University **instructors** of all ranks (teaching assistant to professor) by providing instruction in **oral** English proficiency. (Priority goes to current TAs with Level 2 English proficiency, then to other groups, such as graduate students with upcoming teaching assignments and professors. As space permits, other students may receive services.)

For other language skills, or if you are not a student at Texas A&M, the following resources are also available:

- [face-to-face resources available on campus](#)
- [face-to-face resources available off campus in the Bryan/College Station community](#)
- [self-study resources available online.](#)

On-campus face-to-face resources

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
|--|--|---------------------|--|
| University Writing Center | Individual consultations about compositions and speeches; conversation appointments; for Texas A&M undergraduate and graduate students | free* | https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/English-Learners (979) 458-1455 uwc@tamu.edu https://writingcenter.tamu.edu/Grads/Graduate-Student-Services |
| Byrne Student Success Center | Tutoring for international <i>undergraduate</i> students in reading, writing, speaking, and listening | free | http://education.tamu.edu/byrne-student-success-center (979) 862-8489 |
| International Student Mentor Association (ISMA) | Social events; mentoring of international students by American students | \$10 membership fee | https://www.ismatamu.org/ |

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| Aggie Toastmasters | Registered student organization that encourages public speaking; open to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff | \$10 | https://aggietoastmasters.wixsite.com/website aggie.toastmasters@gmail.com https://maroonlink.tamu.edu/organization/aggietoastmasters https://tamu.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/aggietoastmasters/contact |
| POWER Writing | Academic writing support for graduate students and faculty, with the goal of more productivity and publishing | free | http://power.tamu.edu/ |
| 3 Minute Thesis | An international research communication competition; oral presentation | free | https://grad.tamu.edu/academics/professional-development/three-minute-thesis |

* Funded by a mandatory student fee; no additional cost per service / visit

Off-campus face-to-face resources

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
|--|---|-------------|---|
| Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley Consortium Adult Education & Literacy | ESL classes; multiple levels; morning or evening | free | Classes held at: Bryan Adult Learning Center 301 Post Office St, Bryan, TX 77801 adulted505@gmail.com (936) 438-1756 Facebook page |
| Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley Region VI + Grace Bible Church | Beginning ESL Advanced ESL | free | adulted505@gmail.com (936) 438-1756 (979) 693-2911 700 Anderson Street College Station, TX 77840 Facebook page |
| Baptist Student Ministry Conversational English Classes | Speaking practice, vocabulary, and idioms | free | www.aggiebsm.org/international/s/ contact@aggiebsm.org 979-846-7722 203 College Main College Station, TX 77840 |
| Bridges International at Texas A&M | Intercultural conversation on campus; cultural/religious activities off campus | free | Public Facebook page: Bridges International at Texas A&M brett.boles@bridgesinternational.com 254-227-3725 |
| Larry Ringer Public Library | Conversation practice "English Conversation Circle": Practice speaking English in a safe and friendly space. All levels welcome. Registration is not required. Adults 18 and older. | free | https://www.bcslibrary.org/programs/adults/ (979) 764-3416 1818 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. S. College Station, TX 77845 |
| Oasis | Conversations, games, and snacks for TAMU international students on Friday nights | free | TamuOasis@gmail.com Call/Text/WhatsApp: 281-687-8131 |
| Discovery | Conversation practice for international spouses and their preschool children; <i>"While you attend the sessions planned especially for you, your preschool children will enjoy creative activities for each age"</i> | free | https://www.discoverybcs.com/discoverybcs.tx@gmail.com First Baptist Church, 2300 Welsh, College Station 77845 |

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| | <i>level. Modern childcare facilities with trained personnel provide a safe and wholesome environment for everyone. Music, games, stories and snacks are enjoyed each Wednesday that we meet for Discovery.”</i> | | |
| Toastmasters | International organization that encourages public speaking; off-campus locations in College Station and in Bryan | \$ | www.toastmasters.org www.toastmasters.org/find-a-club |
| Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network | Conversation practice, preparation for US citizenship exam | free | https://brazosimmigration.com/conversational-english-classes/ 979-393-8228 2500 South College Ave. Bryan, TX 77801 viviana@brazosimmigration.com |
| Texas ENT & Allergy | Lorin Catalena, Certified Physician Assistant, specialist in voice disorders. Works under doctors for ear, nose, and throat (ENT) issues. Can diagnose speech disorders and refer patients to speech-language pathologists. | \$ | https://texasentandallergy.com/team/lorin-catalena-pac/ (979) 693-6000 1730 Birmingham Rd College Station, TX 77845 |

Self-study resources online

Speaking

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Pronunciation Doctor | Marsha Chan's videos about English accent modification | free | www.youtube.com/user/PronunciationDoctor |
| Juna Accent Coach | App for English accent modification | free | www.junaaccentcoach.com |
| Rachel's English | Youtube channel for pronunciation advice | free | https://www.youtube.com/user/rachelsenglish |

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| Spoken Skills | Speaking and listening activities. Record yourself and compare to the original | free | http://www.spokenskills.com/student-activities.cfm |
| Business English Pod | Youtube channel offering practical advice on oral communication in business settings | free | https://www.youtube.com/user/bizpod/videos |
| Well Said | ESL pronunciation textbook by Linda Grant, with accompanying website | \$ | ISBN 1305641361 Available at online bookstores |
| American English Pronunciation Card | Laminated tri-fold card with downloadable audio | \$ | https://www.languageartspress.com/product/the-american-english-pronunciation-card downloadable audio: https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/languageartspress |
| Color Vowel Minute | One-minute videos about pronunciation and spelling | free | https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL40At9EEsnl_zOZqOvkQhpppjHTtFCDwd |
| Pure Pronunciation Practice | a 30-minute live pronunciation workout in Zoom, twice a month | free | https://learn.colorvowel.com/courses/pure-english-practice |
| Pronuncian | Information about suprasegmental aspects of English phonology | free | https://pronuncian.com/content-and-function-words/ |
| Easy Pronunciation.com | International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) chart for American English. Audio and video of a native speaker reading each word | free | https://easypronunciation.com/en/american-english-pronunciation-ipa-chart |
| Phone skills | “Improve Your English Telephone Skills” by ThoughtCo. “46 Must-Have Phrases for | free | https://www.thoughtco.com/telephone-practice-english-with-dialogues-1211307 https://www.speakconfidentengl |

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| | Professional Telephone Calls in English” by SpeakConfidentEnglish | | ish.com/telephone-calls-in-english |
| Public speaking | Five Levels (of explanation by scientists) Useful for preparation for the Three Minute Thesis | free | five levels WIRED Video Search Results |

Writing

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
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| Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) | A respected website offering writing advice for international students (and others); style guides | free | https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/english_as_a_second_language/esl_students/tips_for_writing_in_north_american_colleges/index.html https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html |
| ESLflow | Advice for writing paragraphs and essays | free | www.eslflow.com/AcademicWriting.html |
| Writefix | Preparation for writing tasks on the TOEFL and IELTS exams | free | writefix.com |
| Using English for Academic Purposes | Advice on academic writing “For Students in Higher Education” | free | www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm |
| Michigan Corpus of Upper-Level Student Papers | Database of real papers that earned the grade “A” in many fields, from undergrad seniors and grad students. Models | free | micusp.elicorpora.info |
| Paradigm Online Writing Assistant | A website offering advice, activities, and examples related to all aspects of the writing process (from pre-writing to editing) | free | https://www.powa.org/ |

Listening

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
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| Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab | Listening activities and quizzes for everyday language and academic language | free | www.esl-lab.com/index.htm |
| TED Talks | "influential videos from expert speakers on education, business, science, tech and creativity, with subtitles" and transcripts | free | www.ted.com/talks |
| English Accent Coach | Exercises and games to hear the difference between similar sounds (English vowels and consonants) | free | englishaccentcoach.com |
| English Listening Lesson Library Online (ELLLO) | Conversations about language and culture with audio and transcripts | free | http://www.ello.org/ |
| Voice of America News: Learning English | News and current events, audio with transcript, and short videos teaching English | free | learningenglish.voanews.com |
| BBC Learning English: Dramas | British English | free | http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/drama |
| National Public Radio "This I Believe" series | Audio with transcripts by a variety of voices | free | https://www.npr.org/series/4538138/this-i-believe |
| 60-second Science | Short podcasts with full transcripts, from Scientific American | free | https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/60-second-science/ |

Reading

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
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| Breaking News English | Current events, texts at different levels, speed-reading and dictation practice | free | http://breakingnewsenglish.com |
| News in Levels | World news for students of English. Three levels of reading comprehension difficulty. Definitions of difficult words. | free | https://www.newsinlevels.com/ |
| News ELA | Current events, texts at different levels, quizzes | free | https://newsela.com/articles/#/rule/latest |
| Using English for Academic Purposes | Academic ESL. Reading advice and exercises for university-level work | free | www.uefap.com/reading/readframe.htm |

Grammar

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
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| Grammarly | Corrects grammar, punctuation, and spelling mistakes | free or \$ | www.grammarly.com www.grammarly.com/premium |
| Ginger | Checks grammar and spelling, translates, and suggests alternate wording | free or \$ | https://www.gingersoftware.com/ https://www.gingersoftware.com/online_store/ginger_upgrade |
| Perfect English Grammar | Instruction in English grammar for adult learners of English | free | www.perfect-english-grammar.com |
| Dave's ESL Cafe | Grammar lessons (explanation) and quizzes | free | www.eslcafe.com/grammar.html www.eslcafe.com/quiz |
| Elements of Success 3 online practice | Online exercises with feedback, corresponding to a high-intermediate grammar textbook | \$ | https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/grammar_vocabulary/elements_of_success/elements_of_success_3/9780194706810? |

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| | | | cc=us&sellLanguage=en |
| English Grammar Revolution | Clear explanations with visuals (sentence diagrams) | free or \$ | https://www.english-grammar-revolution.com/ |
| Guide to Grammar and Writing | Grammar explanations, sentence/paragraph/essay writing tips, and interactive quizzes | free | http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/index.htm |
| Game Show Grammar | Humorous short videos about ESL grammar using British English | free | http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/tgg |

Vocabulary

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Service / Audience</i> | <i>Cost</i> | <i>Contact</i> |
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| Oxford Advanced American Dictionary for Learners of English | Meaning, usage, frequency, grammar, common errors, and pronunciation. For non-native speakers of English Online dictionary Available as an app for iPhones and iPads | free \$ | www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english https://apps.apple.com/us/app/oxford-advanced-learners-dict/id442911228 |
| Word and Phrase Info | See frequency, meaning, part of speech, usage, and nearby words | free | www.wordandphrase.info/frequencyList.asp |
| Using English for Academic Purposes | Lists of academic vocabulary and subject-specific vocabulary, plus exercises | free | www.uefap.com/vocab/vocfram.htm |
| Reverso | Context-sensitive translation, vocabulary suggestions, spelling and grammar checker, and grammar explanations | free | http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN |
| Duolingo | Gives practice for vocabulary and some grammar concepts | free | www.duolingo.com |

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| De-Jargonizer | Highlights jargon (specialized vocabulary), which you should minimize when communicating to the general public | free | http://scienceandpublic.com/ |
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Combined skills

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| USA Learns | Create a free account and learn beginner or intermediate English online using these video-based lessons. We highly recommend the Access America course, which provides practical information about living in the USA. | free | https://www.usalearns.org/free-online-english-courses |
| Learning Express at the local public libraries | Both Ringer Public Library in College Station and Bryan Public Library offer free accounts on Learning Express to library card holders. Learning Express has online courses for writing, speaking, grammar, TOEFL and more. | Free for library card holders | https://www.bcslibrary.org/education/#learningexpress |
| Mango Languages | Online language learning resource that teaches vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills for many different languages, including ESL | free if logging on through TAMU library | library.tamu.edu Select "Databases" Select "Mango Languages" |
| Rosetta Stone | Especially appropriate for beginning and intermediate learners of English | \$ | https://www.rosettastone.com/learn-english/ |
| English with Jennifer | Especially appropriate for beginning and intermediate learners of English | free | http://englishwithjennifer.co0m/ |

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| Elemental English | Short videos teaching "practical English pronunciation and grammar lessons" | free | https://www.youtube.com/user/eLeMentalEnglish |
| Ed TED lessons | Educational animated films with captions, short quizzes, and opportunity to discuss by writing | free | https://ed.ted.com/lessons |

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Do you know of an excellent resource that should be added to this list?
Please share it with us by emailing cte-elp@tamu.edu.