

The Best Apps for ESL and ABE Students

For updates, check the iPads and Smartphones tabs on my website,
<http://adulthoodtech.wordpress.com>.

General Apps

- **Duolingo** (free) – General English learning/practice lessons.
- **Learn English** (free with in app purchases) – Common phrases and expression with speaking and listening practice.
- **Berlitz English** (\$2.99) – General English learning/practice lessons.
- **Busuu** (free with in app purchases) – Self-study English learning tool.
- **Rosetta Stone** (free with in app purchases) – General and clear English learning and practice.
- **ESL Daily English** (free with in app purchases) – Comprehensive daily lessons for different level students.

Grammar Apps

- **English Grammar Ultimate** (free) – Grammar explanations and examples by category. No activities.
- **Grammar Up** (\$2.99), **Grammar Up Lite** (free) – Grammar explanations, examples, quizzes, progress tracker, and other tools.
- **Practice English Grammar** (free) – Clear and easy to use grammar guide.
- **English Verb Trainer** (free) – Conjugations and examples of common verbs.
- **English Tenses** (free) – Explanations and examples of different verb tenses.
- **Tense Builder** (\$9.99) – Teaches verb tenses with examples, games and pictures. Contains different levels.
- **English Verbs!!** (free) – Grammar teaching through games and activities.
- **Sentence Builder** (\$5.99) – Sentence creation with given words.
- **Oxford Grammar and Punctuation** (free) – Explanations of parts of grammar and punctuation with examples.

- **English Grammar Practice 3350** (free) – Grammar exercises with explanations and examples.
- **Tense Tutor** (free) – Descriptions of verb tenses with examples and self-correcting exercises.

Life/Work Skills

- **Craigslist** (free) – Search for jobs, apartments, furniture, classes, events, and free stuff. (*Great opportunity to teach about scams.)
- **Do Not Disturb** (free) – Alarm app that can be set to turn off phone noises at certain times of day.
- **Indeed** (free) – Job listings.
- **Yelp** (free) – Recommendations of local restaurants and shopping.
- **Monster** (free) – Job listings.
- **US Citizenship Test 2016 Edition** (free) – Preparation questions for the test with study material and quizzes.

Listening Apps

- **TED Talks** (free) – Videos of speeches and arguments on interesting, real life topics and issues.
- **ESL Podcast Unofficial** (free) – Daily lessons with listening activities containing vocabulary and other help.
- **BrainPOP** (free) – Short video lessons with quizzes.
- **NHPR** (free) – Recordings from New Hampshire Public Radio.
- **YouTube** (free) – Video lessons and/or interesting and popular videos.
- **Learn English, ESL, TOEFL** (free) – Basic phrases and expressions plus translation to several languages.
- **Khan Academy** (free) – Short video lessons with questions.
- **Listening Master Lite** (free) – Listening game with short passages and questions to answer.
- **Learn English by Listening** (free with in app purchases) – Leveled listening activities with text available for reading.

Pronunciation Apps

- **Phonetics Focus** (\$2.99) – Interactive activities, quizzes and lessons.
- **Simplex Spelling Phonics** (different versions, free - \$4.99) – Sound practice with ability to change letters and sounds to see differences in English spelling and pronunciation.
- **Sounds Pronunciation App Free** (free) – Practice by sound with reading and writing. Uses International Phonetic Alphabet.
- **Pronunciation Power** (free with in app purchases) – Comprehensive pronunciation practice.
- **Speech Tutor** (\$9.99) – Includes mouth diagrams and pictures to show students how to produce each sound.
- **ESL Similar Pronunciation** (free) – Comparative word pairs with pictures.
- **Minimal-Pairs** (free) – Comparative word pairs with pictures. Contains quizzes and practice.
- **English Phonetic Pronunciation** (free) – Pronunciation lessons and practice organized by sound. It is listed by International Phonetic Alphabet symbol.
- **English Pronunciation** (free) – Pronunciation lessons and exercises organized by sound. It is listed by Roman Alphabet symbol.

Reading Apps

- **Speak Like an American** (\$9.99) – Reading passages for students to follow and listen to while reading along to check their speaking and pronunciation.
- **US Citizenship Test Trainer** (free) – Questions and answers to prepare for the written citizenship test. Includes quizzes.
- **World Newspapers** (free) – Collection of thousands of newspapers from around the world. Many can be translated into English.
- **Brilliant Quotes** (free) – Daily quotes and searchable database.

Reference Apps

- **iTranslate** (free) – Clear and concise translations between many languages. It will translate words, phrases or sentences and give pronunciation.

- **Dictionary.com** (free) – Includes definitions, idioms, examples, pronunciation, spelling help, and word of the day.
- **WordWeb Dictionary** (free) – Includes clear definitions, thesaurus, commonly confused words, examples, similar words, and pronunciation.
- **Thesaurus** (free) – Gives students synonyms and antonyms. Can also be used to expand vocabulary.
- **English Idioms Free** (free) – Dictionary specifically for common idioms.
- **Urban Dictionary** (free) – Slang expressions and common idioms and phrases. Caution: Contains some inappropriate language.

Speaking Apps

- **Conversational ESL** (free) – Different lessons allow students to practice different conversations with the phone as the conversation partner.
- **Supiki English Conversation Speaking Practice** (\$11.99) – Improves fluency and understanding with conversation practice.
- **SpeakingPal English Tutor** (free) – Interactive conversations and activities.
- **Speech to Text** (free) – Converts what students say into words.
- **English Conversation** (free) – Authentic sample conversations to listen to and practice.
- **English Speak Vocabulary** (free) – Conversation practice with listening and recording. Recordings are corrected by the app for accuracy.
- **ESL Cards** (free) – Hundreds of conversation starters/questions.

Vocabulary Apps

- **Phrasal Verb Machine** (free) – Definitions and pictures with games to learn complicated English phrasal verbs.
- **Learn English 6000 Words** (free with in app purchases) – Common words with pictures and games.
- **Vocopedia Lite** (free) – Vocabulary builder for higher level students.
- **15500 Useful English Phrases** (\$1.99) – Categorized lists of useful words and expressions to build vocabulary. Includes definitions.

- **Hangman** (free) – One player game with categorized word lists or two player games where partners create words for each other.
- **Word Wit** (\$0.99) – Practice with homophones, synonyms and commonly mixed up words in a fun game.
- **English Prepositions** (\$1.99) – Explanations of uses and quizzes for practice.
- **Quizlet** (free) – Sets of flash cards and quizzes on a variety of topics.
- **Ikea Catalog** (free) – Thousands of pictures of home vocabulary.
- **Infinite Word Search** (free) – Word lists organized by subject.
- **Idioms&Verbs** (free trial) – Glossary of common expressions, idioms, and phrasal verbs.

Writing Apps

- **Evernote** (free) – Comprehensive app for note-taking and short writing assignments with ability to add pictures and recordings.
- **S Memo** (free) – Notepad with ability to draw and handwrite with finger or stylus as opposed to typing.
- **Voice Recorder** (free) – For students who have trouble writing, they can record what they want to write then play it back and copy it onto paper.
- **OfficeSuite 8** (free) – Creates, views, edits and shares Microsoft files.
- **Learn the Alphabet** (free) – Practices upper case and lower case letters.
- **Tracing Alphabets** (free) – Uses a finger to learn to write letters.
- **Spell Checker Editor** (free) – Basic word processor with highly predictive spell checking capabilities.
- **English Letter Writing** (free) – Contains guides, samples, and templates for various forms of writing.
- **Essay Writing** (free) – Guidelines for various types of essay writing. (*Lite version is free, but it only contains a couple essay types. Full version can be purchased for \$0.99.)
- **Writing Exercises** (free) – Writings prompts based on subject, characters, plot, and first line.