

LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY

WEBSITE REVIEW

June 2000



SITES FOR CHILDREN



Site Name	Freeworksheets.com
Address	http://www.freeworksheets.com/
Clientele	Worksheets for parents and teachers, for preschool to pre-teen age groups
Content	Phonics/math/language/science/social studies/geography/history/thinking skills/sentences/writing
Ease of Use	Easy to use
Examples of Activities	Activity sheets and lesson plans, as well as thematic units (coming soon)
Online / Offline	Can print worksheets
Commentary	The content is very American, most noticeably in the social studies section. The phonics worksheets remind me of the very worst kind of phonics drills in isolation, dating back 30 years plus. Some of the language worksheets would be useful for kids.

Site Name	CBC 4 Kids
Address	http://www.CBC4kids.ca
Clientele	Children 3-15, parents and educators
Content	Music, sports, news, science, english and history activities, puzzles and quizzes.
Ease of Use	Moderately easy (may need to download software for some activities)
Examples of Activities	Homework helper; ask questions about difficult homework assignments, internet scavenger hunt.
Online / Offline	Online
Commentary	

Site Name	Sports Illustrated for Kids
Address	http://www.sikids.com
Clientele	Children 5-15, parents and educators
Content	Games, sports reports and trivia
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Articles on current sporting events written for children, great to encourage reading in the sports enthusiast.
Online / Offline	Online and offline, articles and reports can be downloaded
Commentary	

Site Name	Puzzlemaker (Discovery Channel School site)
Address	http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/
Clientele	All ages
Content	Makes customized word searches, crossword puzzles, math puzzles, cryptograms and mazes
Ease of Use	Just input the words or numbers you want to incorporate in your puzzle
Examples of Activities	Puzzles galore!
Online / Offline	Can print puzzles
Commentary	This is a really cool site. Kids and adults would both be motivated by this type of customized puzzle.

Site Name	Kidzpage
Address	http://web.aimnet.com/~veceet/kids/kidzpage.html
Clientele	Children 3-15, educators and parents
Content	Stories and poems from all over the world, mostly written by children, for children. Links to other great kids websites
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Kids can submit poems and win awards
Online / Offline	Offline. All stories and poems can be downloaded.
Commentary	

SITES FOR YOUTH



Site Name	Teachers.net
Address	http://www.teachers.net/
Clientele	Grades K-12
Content	Lesson Plans for all subject areas
Ease of Use	Very well organized, has over 1500 lesson plans
Examples of Activities	Structured lesson plans in all subject areas
Online / Offline	Can print lesson plans
Commentary	Lesson plans are highly structured and teacher directed. They are mostly geared to teaching a whole class, rather than one student.

Site Name	Amby's Education Site: Language Arts Skills Development
Address	http://www.amby.com/educate/language.html
Clientele	Youth - Adults: E.S.L. and literacy learners, tutors and instructors
Content	High level grammar quizzes, exercises and vocabulary building
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Same as content
Online / Offline	Online
Commentary	

Site Name	Canada's Digital Collections
Address	http://collections.ic.gc.ca/
Clientele	Teachers, tutors, learners
Content	There is a wealth of material available on a huge variety of subjects. Some subjects have information followed by online quizzes and word searches. There are also a few teaching units and a few unit plans with activities.
Ease of Use	Easy if you know topic the learner is interested in.
Examples of Activities	You can find out about most Canadian topics from agriculture to west coast shipbuilding
Online / Offline	Some activities are on-line
Commentary	This would be a great place to go for information and exercises if your learner is interested in a particular subject.

ADULT LITERACY ACTIVITIES



Site Name	Training Post
Address	http://trainingpost.org
Clientele	Adults: literacy tutors, instructors, coordinators and learners
Content	Training modules, bookstore (link to Amazon.com), bulletin board, skills bank and resources
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Online training modules for tutors and instructors in adult learning, duet reading, simplifying material and more. Online cloze exercises for literacy learners
Online / Offline	Online
Commentary	

Site Name	Tampa Reads.com
Address	http://www.tampareads.com/intro-seminole.htm
Clientele	Grades K-4 and older students who don't have reading basics
Content	A complete remedial reading plan to teach the 20% of students who need more direct instruction
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Writing exercises, phonics, vocabulary building, word lists
Online / Offline	Can all be downloaded
Commentary	This is a very structured program written by a man who has been teaching remedial reading to grade one students for many years. There is a lot of repetition and memorization involved.

Site Name	Rideau Street Youth Enterprises
Address	http://collections.ic.gc.ca/literacy/
Clientele	Youth
Content	A collection of literacy and ESL activities and answers
Ease of Use	Very straightforward
Examples of Activities	Stories with exercises, grammar and punctuation exercises, poetry by street youth with exercises, ESL exercises for grammar, word use, etc.
Online / Offline	Both online and offline activities
Commentary	This is a creative site that is easy to use. The materials have all been tested by street youth, and they are particularly suited to this population.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) SITES



Site Name	Internet TESL Journal
Address	http://www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/index.html
Clientele	ESL teachers
Content	A monthly web journal with articles, research papers, lesson plans, classroom handouts, teaching ideas and links
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	A variety of ESL activities, including a cultural rally, sentence completion activities, review exercises, grammar, language games, conversation, etc.
Online / Offline	Offline
Commentary	This is a great teaching resource. Most of the activities are designed for use with a class, but many are adaptable for a tutoring situation.

Site Name	Dave's E.S.L. Café
Address	http://www.pacificnet.net/~sperling/eslcafe.html
Clientele	Adults: E.S.L. and literacy tutors, instructors, coordinators and learners
Content	Chats and discussions, ideas exchanges, idiom and slang lists, quizzes, job wanted and offered boards and links to other sites
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	Online grammar and pronunciation quizzes
Online / Offline	Online
Commentary	

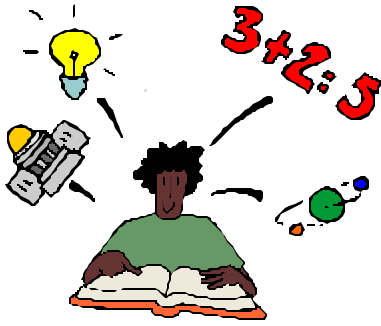
Site Name	English Club.net
Address	http://www.englishclub.net
Clientele	ESL students It also has a teacher's room
Content	An online club for ESL students full of grammar help, irregular verb lists, jokes, games, pronunciation tips, guide to the internet, links to ESL sites
Ease of Use	Easy
Examples of Activities	On-line hangman, e-cards, e-friends, forum
Online / Offline	Many online activities, some info to be downloaded
Commentary	A very motivational site for ESL youth and young adults. The teacher's room is full of activities and lesson plans too.

RESOURCES



Site Name	LD Resources
Address	www.ldresources.com/
Clientele	All people with learning disabilities, their families and teachers
Content	Information about learning disabilities, links to LD organizations across the world
Ease of Use	Easy to get lost in it
Examples of Activities	Many math activities, some on-line books, but mostly theoretical and support articles rather than actual activities
Online / Offline	Some online activities, some you can print
Commentary	This is a very useful source of information for any LD student and their teacher to browse when and if they have time to spend.

MATHEMATICS



Site Name	Kids Math
Address	http://www.kidsmath.com
Clientele	Children ages 3 – 18
Content	Math quizzes and activities in English, Chinese and Spanish. No instruction is given, it is only beneficial for practicing skills already known.
Ease of Use	Moderately easy
Examples of Activities	Counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, algebra
Online / Offline	Online
Commentary	