ELL Resources from Peers

**Grammar**

1. [www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/teaching-grammar-esl/](http://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/teaching-grammar-esl/).

This website provides many strategies for incorporating grammar into our lessons in an engaging and hands on way. I believe they can be modified for any age group depending on the song/movie/cartoon chosen to illustrate grammar uses.

1. Beare, Kenneth.  ***"Methods for Teaching Grammar in an ESL/EFL Setting".***  June 2018. <https://www.thoughtco.com/teaching-grammar-in-esl-efl-setting-1209075>
2. Sentence Builder App - This app is free but if you want access to all content it is $4.99. This app is fantastic for early primary to assist with word order.  It provides an inviting photograph and audio saying the sentence.  The student must touch and drag the words in order to create the sentence (including punctuation).  I have used this with ELLs and identified ASD students.  It is motivating! Great Teacher resource that my colleague told me about and has let me borrow Elizabeth, Coelho, 2004, *Adding English: A Guide to Teaching In Multilingual Classroom*s, Pippin Publishing, Toronto
3. Students can use the Grammar Up app to advance and practice their grammar. This app gamifies the process of learning grammar, giving students a definition followed by a test that they have to pass to get to the next level. This app covers the topics of different parts of speech, like adjectives, adverbs, causative verbs, conditionals. Syondavis. (2019, March 16). 10 Best, Shockingly Good Apps for ESL Teachers. Retrieved from <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/best-apps-for-esl-teachers/>

**Vocabulary**

1. Using the app heads up students practice describing vocabulary words and while the other student practices listening to descriptions and recalling vocabulary words. Syondavis. (2019, March 16). 10 Best, Shockingly Good Apps for ESL Teachers. Retrieved from <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/educator-english/best-apps-for-esl-teachers/>
2. <https://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/vocabulary/>   This website has a lot of short quizzes which focus on vocabulary building on a range of topics. It is primarily designed for ELLs.
3. <https://elt.oup.com/student/academicvocabulary/>  An Oxford University press website that focuses on practicing academic vocabulary.
4. **Free Rice:**  This website has simple quizzes for vocabulary. However, with each correct answer, they donate rice to the World Food Programme. It can be a good filler activity if you have extra time and it has a nice social responsibility message for the students. [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com/)
5. [BusyTeacher.org](https://busyteacher.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is an amazing resource for all kinds of insight and tools.  I performed a search for "ESL Grammar" and was rewarded with [this](https://busyteacher.org/search.html?q=esl+grammar" \t "_blank).
6. I see fun as a powerful student motivator and so I am particularly excited by things like games.  [This link has six simple, fun games](https://busyteacher.org/14455-grammar-review-6-super-esl-games.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for practicing grammar, and the last one of the six (Jeopardy) includes [a link to ten more](https://busyteacher.org/5878-what-you-can-do-with-a-whiteboard-10-creative-esl.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).
7. Rick Stevens, 2013, *Academic Vocabulary In Kindergarten*, viewed on March 23rd 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-6fbMoYk-Y>
8. Institute of Education Sciences, 2015, *Pre-teaching Vocabulary (Second-Third Grade Combined Class),* Regional Educational Laboratory, viewed on March 23rd 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c_lyFiFFVI>
9. Stahl***. “[Fifteen Vocabulary Strategies in 15 Minutes!](http://learningtasks.weebly.com/vocabulary-strategies.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)”****Vocabulary Strategies.*30; Texas Reading Initiative, 20.  <http://learningtasks.weebly.com/vocabulary-strategies.html>

**Writing**

1. This resource from the Alberta Ministry of Education I found very helpful in understanding the levels students are at in for each grade. Instead of just stating the requirements of that level this resource provides a sample of what the work would look like for each level in each grade.  Writing Samples. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/eslapb/writing_samples.html>

**Reading**:

1. <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> is a great website for children aged 3-13 (grades pre K - 8). This website has a variety of books based on characters, topics, interests, lengths, and ages. However, this website is particularly great because the books they provide come in many different languages. You can select a book then select the preferred language from the drop down menu. This way students who have stronger skills in L1 can read online and at home with their families, and practice the development of their English literacy skills as well.
2. <https://www.funbrain.com/>This website has a lot of different interactive games that students up to grade 8 can play to develop their English Literacy  skills. They also have full, well-known books online that students can gain access to and read such as diary of a wimpy kid. Simply select the grade you want to work within and then books will show up where you can either read or play games related to the novel and literacy skills.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> The website bbc newsround posts short newspaper articles about current events that are suitable for ELL to develop their reading comprehension skills. These articles are appropriate for all grade levels and early stage ELL (stages 1-2). Home - CBBC Newsround. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
4. <https://newsela.com/read/elem-country-canada/id/40807/> **Newsela** is an amazing  resource for all grades. It offers interesting news articles that are **current, interesting and age appropriate**. Articles can be adjusted to **any reading level**, so it is great for modifications.
5. Epic! This app has books in many different languages, and they read them to you allowing you to follow along. They have a lot of bilingual books, and the app is user friendly and age appropriate. This can be used in reading groups as mentioned above as well. This way similar comprehension questions can be asked in general, but they can base their answers off of these different books. From my understanding it also logs which books you have read, so students can challenge themselves by reading more difficult books/longer books as the class continues.  <https://www.getepic.com/>

**Assessment**

1. [Seesaw](https://web.seesaw.me/) is a very engaging digital tool for giving each student optional formats for creating and submitting their work: Photos (plain or annotated with a digital pen and/or voice-over recordings), Videos, Drawings, Notes, Links, Files (from Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox, etc.) This creates a lot of room for differentiation, speaks to varied learning styles and can be used for formative (teacher feedback) or summative assessment.
2. A Multitude of digital resources for assessment:
https://www.nwea.org/blog/2019/75-digital-tools-apps-teachers-use-to-support-classroom-formative-assessment/
3. **Shadow Puppet Edu**. It is a free educational app that is simple to navigate and allows students, in particular younger students and/or beginner ELLs, to design presentations and videos. Students can take pictures of their work, or download researched images, and then include those images in a presentation or document and record themselves orally describing and discussing their work/images, for assessment purposes. Students are able to interact with their footage by circling and highlighting any important concepts, all the while demonstrating their comprehension of academic concepts. A video tutorial of the app may be found: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RamsDZZf48>, posted by The Techy Teacher’s Tech Tips (2016).
4. “Plickers” is an engaging formative assessment tool that is great for all learners, including ESL students. It is useful for: prepared questions, questions on the go, and quick polling. Student answers are anonymous while displayed on the board (so students don’t stress about participating with the ‘wrong’ answer) but answers WITH names are kept and can be accessed by the teacher later. How it works: pick up your card, rotate it to answer A, B, C, or D. Finally, hold it so the teacher can scan it. The teacher can choose to show your answers or keep them secret.
5. “Padlet” is great for group discussions without the stress students put on themselves from potentially saying the ‘wrong’ thing. It can be used for: creative projects, individual work, group projects and whole class activities. Students can pose a review question on our ‘board’. Students then have to answer a question that is not their own.
6. Students can use the website scratch to create stories, games or animations. It allows you to click and drag pieces of code onto a storyboard. Students can customize the motion, characters, sounds, and events that occur in their story. Students can use this in an english class to write their own short story or in a science class to describe life cycles. <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/editor/?tutorial=getStarted>

**Primary/Junior Grades**

1. Teaching your Monster How to Read by The Usborne Foundation: <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>
2. Usborne offers a wonderful learning resource helping young children (or beginner ELLs) develop their reading and listening skills. It is worth checking out and I have personally enjoyed it but I find that the British accent proves a bit challenging to understand at times. This might prove all the more difficult for ELLs who are learning and becoming accustomed to a Canadian approach to pronunciation of English words. It is, nevertheless, a wonderful series of games making learning to read quite fun!
3. ABCMouse.com by Age of Learning Inc.: <https://www.abcmouse.com/> ABCmouse.com is an early learning program developed by the team at Age of Learning Inc. in the United States, targeted towards the primary grades, and covers a significant amount of their curriculum. Unfortunately, you have to pay to subscribe and to access over 800 of their lessons but you can access it as part of a 30-day trial. It is award-winning and appears to be similar to Starfall (<https://www.starfall.com/h/>) although more comprehensive in content. Both Starfall and ABCMouse emphasize the development of reading and listening skills, as they are designed for the primary grades, and could offer wonderful practice for beginning ELLs.
4. The Bero Group.  " ***Classroom Clips - 4th Grade Math - Kelli Mays (Part 1)".*** 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZMbCENzaws>
5. The Ministry of Education Reading and Writing Resource for K-Grade <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentguideliten.pdf>> Even though it is not explicitly designed for ELLs I think it is a very good resource for all as it emphasizes talking with children. I think it is parent friendly because it is written in a way to convey helpful strategies, including websites for phonics etc.  (not teacher language)
6. The Sentence Song, Scratch Garden, viewed on March 30th 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9S7DY2lgJlU>
7. Search Engines: <https://www.kiddle.co/> <https://www.alarms.org/kidrex/> and <https://www.kidtopia.info/>
8. Websites: <https://mocomi.com/> and <https://www.ducksters.com/>
9. News Outlets: <https://www.dogonews.com/> and <https://newsela.com/>

**Family Friendly**

1. Government of Alberta website [https://education.alberta.ca/literacy-and-numeracy/literacy/everyone/what-is-literacy/.](https://education.alberta.ca/literacy-and-numeracy/literacy/everyone/what-is-literacy/)   This website has resources and links that include literacy posters, parental information about developmental milestones for speech, also family friendly activities to do at home monthly.