

Learning English in a Connected World

Learning to speak English can be a daunting task for students today. With its complex grammar, strange spelling process, and growing vocabulary, even the most dedicated English Language Learners may want to throw their hands up in dismay at the thought of mastering such a difficult language.

But technology can greatly assist non-English speakers in learning the language. Here are some great resources to help them speak like a pro.

ESL Gold offers thousands of free resources for students and teachers, all organized by skill level.

Writing in a strange language is made easier with **TalkTyper**, a speech -to-text recognition website. Students simply speak into the microphone on their computer and the site turns their words into text. A variety of different languages other than English are included so that students may speak in their native tongue as they being the learning process.

The Annenberg Foundation has created 36 different videos in their **Connect with English website**, all free for use by students and teachers. Lesson plans and interactives are included with each video.

The free website **Quill** offers well-done interactive exercises to reinforce grammar. The real advantage is that the teacher can create a virtual classroom to track student progress. Free registration is required for both the teacher and the students.

You're probably already familiar with **Duolingo**, the amazing website and app that allows anyone to easily learn a foreign language. But you may not have thought about using this resource for your ESL/ELL students.

To help students hear how they sound when speaking English, use the free site **Online Voice Recorder**. Students can record themselves reading a passage or simply telling a story and then listen to it to see where improvements can be made. After recording, you may trim the sound and save it to your computer. Teachers can also use the tool to record vocabulary words for students to listen to.

If you're using the Chrome browser, add the extension **Announcify**. This free add-on will read any website to the student, allowing them to follow the words and hear how they should be pronounced.

Fluent U is a great website that offers an immersive experience using real videos. All of the videos are subtitled in English and include clickable vocabulary definitions. Free registration is required.