
Supporting remote English teaching

April 2020

Online resources

The British Council offers a wide range of online resources to help teachers in remote teaching. You can find ideas for your continuing professional development and a wealth of activities to help learners develop their language skills and raise their confidence.

TeachingEnglish

The Remote Teaching Tips

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/teachers/integrating-ict/guidance>

These series provide practical ideas and guidance for teachers supporting their learners using a variety of platforms and approaches, across different contexts.

How to motivate learners remotely? How to develop their language skills? How to teach via TV, YouTube, radio, Facebook, SMS and telephone calls? How to teach with limited technologies? You can find answers to these and many other questions relating to online teaching at the Remote Teaching Tips page.

Keeping your learners safe online

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/keeping-your-learners-safe-online>

This is a guidance on how to keep learners safe in an online context. If teachers are now using online channels to work with their learners, it's even more important than before to check you and your class and their parents/caregivers (for younger learners) are aware of online risks.

Teaching different age groups

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/resources>

You can find a wide range of practical resources to use in your classroom, whether you are teaching primary students, secondary students, or adults and business students. There are over 400 full lesson plans to choose from, covering different topics and themes, all organised according to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR).

Online training page

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training>

The collection of short courses on FutureLearn are free for anyone to sign up to. The courses are three or four weeks long and there are a range of topics, from assessing learners to planning a great lesson. Teachers can study at their own pace and communicate with other teachers from all over the world. British Council educators will answer questions on all of the courses.

Teacher blogs for the period April – June 2020

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/blog-topics-april-june-2020>

Blog topics for the period April – June 2020 look at the issue of teaching or managing a team of teachers remotely, or online while many schools are closed.

Publication *Innovations in Education: Remote Teaching*

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/innovations-education-remote-teaching>

The publication contains a collection of articles, research papers and case studies that offer practitioners and policymakers insight into live online language teaching and teacher training.

LearnEnglish

Word on the Street

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/word-street>

These are video series for intermediate (CEFR level B1) or upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) learners. Clips with Ashlie and Stephen look at exploring the UK. Teacher Rob explains the language they use.

Videos help improve learners' listening comprehension and develop their grammar and vocabulary. Each video has a transcript and interactive exercises to help understand and use the language.

Britain is Great

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/britain-is-great>

Britain is GREAT is a collection of videos for upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) and advanced (CEFR level C1) learners who can find out about many aspects of British life and culture, including art, history, sport and music.

Learners can improve their listening comprehension and develop their vocabulary. Each video has a transcript and interactive exercises to help understand and use the language.

Big City Small World

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/big-city-small-world>

Audio fiction series for intermediate (CEFR level B1) learners are about a group of people from around the world who are living in London.

Learners can improve their listening comprehension and develop their vocabulary. Each recording has a transcript and interactive exercises to help understand and use the language.

Shakespeare videos

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/shakespeare>

Special Shakespeare videos are for upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) learners. They can listen to actors talking about the modern relevance of Shakespeare and find out about some of his most famous characters and plays, as well as about Shakespeare himself.

They will improve their listening comprehension and learn some useful language from the video. Each video has interactive exercises and a transcript to help understand and use the language.

Developing skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening>

A collection of activities can help learners practise their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Improving their skills will help them use English more effectively and do well in their studies, get ahead at work and communicate in English in their free time.

The self-study lessons are written and organised according to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR). There are different types of texts, recordings and videos with interactive exercises and worksheets that practise the skills learners need.

Teachers can choose the skill they want to practise with their students.

Practicing grammar

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening>

This section can help learners practise their English grammar with clear grammar explanations and practice exercises to test their understanding. This guide helps to explain the verb tenses and grammar rules in a clear and simple way.

Teachers can choose which language level is appropriate to their learners.

Practicing vocabulary

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary>

Teachers can find activities to help their students learn the meaning, pronunciation and spelling of new words. The pages are organised by topic and include interactive exercises to help students learn and remember the new words.

Video zone

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/video-zone>

Students can watch YouTube videos on a wide range of topics, including science, psychology, entertainment, culture, nature and sport. The videos are specially selected for upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) and advanced (CEFR level C1) learners of English.

Each video has a transcript and interactive exercises to help them understand the language.

Audio zone

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/audio-zone>

Teachers can find audio recordings of people talking naturally about topics that interest them. The speakers are from all over the world, so learners will hear a wide range of accents. There are audios for upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) and advanced (CEFR level C1) learners. Each recording has a transcript and interactive exercises to help you understand and use the language.

Magazine articles

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/magazine>

This is a collection of articles about a wide variety of topics. The articles are written for intermediate (CEFR level B1) and upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) learners. Each article has interactive exercises to help learners understand and use the language.

Entertaining short stories

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/stories>

Teachers can select entertaining short stories specially written for intermediate (CEFR level B1) or upper intermediate (CEFR level B2) learners.

The stories can help improve learners' reading fluency and comprehension and develop their vocabulary. Each story has interactive exercises to help them understand and use the language.

Vocabulary, spelling and grammar games

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/games>

Teachers can find games to help their learners practise their vocabulary, spelling and grammar. They can have fun while learning!

How to ... section

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/how-to>

In this section, teachers can choose some fun videos for intermediate (CEFR level B1) learners about what to say in a variety of social situations.

Learners will improve their listening comprehension and learn useful words and phrases. Each video has a transcript and interactive exercises to help them understand and use the language.

Podcasts

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/podcasts>

This section contains series of podcasts for pre-intermediate (CEFR level A2) or intermediate (CEFR level B1) learners. The episodes are divided into different sections, from fictional drama and jokes to quizzes and language advice. Each recording has a transcript and interactive exercises to help you understand and use the language.