

# Teaching Adult ESOL Literacy Learners

## Annotated Bibliography of Resources

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### Downloadable Lesson Plans

<http://www.onestopenglish.com/esol/absolute-beginners/>

These units for absolute beginners include adaptations for learners who have no knowledge of the Roman alphabet.

<http://mnliteracy.org/tools/curriculum-lesson-plans/pre-beginning-esl>

These free downloadable units are targeted towards learners who are just beginning to learn English. Many of the plans do expect learners to read and write a little, so they may be more applicable for learners who are just beginning to read.

<http://clese.org/elder-programs/bright-ideas/esl-curriculum>

This ESL Civics Curriculum is based on oral language and specifically intended for senior immigrants and refugees with little English and limited education in their home countries.

<https://mnliteracy.org/tools/ESLKits>

These free downloadable kits include lessons and activities for phonemic awareness, speaking, and listening.

<https://mn.abedisabilities.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Multi-sensory-Strategies.pdf>

This document from Minnesota's Adult Basic Education Disability Specialists gives suggestions for working with adult learners with disabilities and including visual and tactile supports.

[www.emergentreaders.org](http://www.emergentreaders.org)

This site includes resources for teaching ESL literacy (including a free downloadable phonics assessment), presentations and articles, and free teaching resources to go alongside a text used to teach ESL beginning literacy, At the River and Other Stories for Adult Emergent Readers by Shelley Hale Lee.

### Early Reading Resources for Learners

<https://globalaccess.bowvalleycollege.ca/tools/esl-literacy-readers>

This is an excellent book series with very simple and applicable short books that are free to download and print. They are geared towards adult English learners who are just learning to

read.

<https://www.leslla.org/resources-in-mother-tongues>

For learners who might read a little in their first languages, or who might be interested in learning to read in a language that is already known, this website has connections to free online books in many languages.

<https://www.leslla.org/materials>

This website has a long list of materials available to work specifically with adult ESOL literacy learners.

## **Assessments**

<http://www.literacywork.com/readingdemonstration>

This 23-minute video shows how to carry out a one-on-one needs assessment of an ESOL literacy learner using everyday items that are familiar, such as sales flyers and food packaging.

<https://www.emergentreaders.org/resources.html>

Two free downloadable diagnostic assessments are available here, BATT (below) and a Phonics for ESL Diagnostic.

<https://www.englishcodecrackers.com/beginning-alphabetics-tests-and-tools.html>

“Beginning Alphabetics Tests and Tools (BATT) strives to provide a ‘principled’ system for ABE/ESL teachers who want and/or need to develop their students’ knowledge of Roman alphabet letters, English letter-sound patterns, sight or high frequency words, and transfer of those letter-sound-word skills to text fluency and comprehension. BATT includes (1) teacher-friendly tests for determining known and unknown skills, (2) evidence-based reading instructional practices, orders, approaches, and lesson plans for teaching unknown skills, (3) teacher-tested lists of other activities and materials, and (4) time-saving teacher resources.”

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/adult-edu/native-language-literacy-screening-too.stml>

Free downloadable native language screening assessments in 28 languages are available here. (Note: a bilingual person should score this assessment.)

## **Learning More**

[http://www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/collections/literacy.html](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/collections/literacy.html)

This collection of resources from the Center for Adult English Language Acquisition is geared towards teachers working with preliterate and nonliterate adults.

<https://www.leslla.org/research>

New and prior research on working with this population are available at this site.

<http://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Making-it-Real.pdf>

This comprehensive text explains not only theory, but dozens of practical tips on teaching literacy to pre-literate adult refugee students. In addition, pages 104-108 contain an annotated bibliography. This book (available for free download as a PDF in the link) is highly recommended for teachers who are looking for more ways to adapt their instruction.

[http://www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/bibliographies/literacy.html](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/bibliographies/literacy.html)

This annotated bibliography suggests other articles to read about working with this population. Many can be found through a simple google search.

<https://www.newamericanhorizons.org/training-videos>

These videos, produced by New American Horizons, are intended for training teachers of adult English learners. One video talks about working with emergent readers, who are just beginning to learn to read and write. Each video is high-quality and is available to watch for free online.

<https://atlasabe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Activities-for-Tutoring-a-Pre-Literate-Student.pdf>

Activities for tutoring a preliterate student are described.

<https://sites.google.com/site/margifelixlund/home/handbook>

A Handbook for Tutors Working with Adult ESOL Literacy Learners – this handbook describes these learners, gives effective strategies for planning and tutoring, and provides other resources. It is created to be usable for tutors without teaching backgrounds.

### **Textbooks That May Be Suitable for Preliterate Learners**

<https://intercambio.org/product/confidence-and-connections/>

The Intro level of Intercambio's Confidence and Connections series is more basic and can work for preliterate learners, although some lesson items might need to be modified or delayed.

<https://www.longmanhomeusa.com/catalog/products/longman-esl-literacy/>

Longman ESL Literacy, by Yvonne Wong Nishio, is designed for students who are not yet ready for a Level 1 Course and teaches the four areas of language (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) while teaching real-world communication and literacy skills.

<https://www.amazon.com/Literacy-Plus-Student-Book-Saslow/dp/0130996106>

Literacy Plus, Level A, by Joan Saslow (out of print) is for students who are preliterate in their own language and know no English. This is an excellent foundational text and includes practice in matching shapes and directionality.

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B06Y38QLRR/ref=dbs\\_a\\_def\\_rwt\\_bibl\\_vppi\\_i1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B06Y38QLRR/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i1)

Get Ready for the Code, Get Set for the Code, and Go for the Code, all by Nancy Hall: these books are created for children learning to read for the first time. Some pages might be useful for learners who are beginning to differentiate between letter shapes; however, be careful not to make it feel childish to adult learners. It's easy to create your own activities modeled off of these but without children's graphics. Many public school, private school, and homeschool teachers use these books for kindergarten and first grade readers.