

Learning English with Apps - Apple



What are apps?

- Apps are applications (small pieces of software) that run on a mobile phone, computer, or other electronic devices.
- They can be downloaded from the App Store onto a cellphone or tablet.
- Many of them are free of charge.

- Apps help learners control their own learning and allow them to have a language resource with them at all times.
- Most learners have mobile phones, even if they don't have reliable Internet at home or don't have a home computer.
- Phones have a 24/7 connection to the Internet that allows learners to access the World Wide Web.
- With groups of learners, apps can be used to create a language lab in any meeting room that has an Internet connection. Teachers can allot time for individual practice with the app, then circulate to observe or use the time to work one-on-one with learners.

Why use apps?

How do learners find apps?

- Learners can search using key words such as "ESL," "learn English," or "English pronunciation (writing, reading, etc.)."
- They can screen the apps, try them out, and find the ones that best fit their learning needs.
- As learners' language needs change, they can search for new apps.
- New apps are constantly being developed; therefore, the apps listed on this tip sheet may change. As you (and your learners) discover new apps, let your Rural Routes Advisor know so the tip sheet can be updated.


Here are some free apps to explore. Many free apps contain ads; paid upgrades are often available.

Ranking is included, if available. A form is provided for your input on the usefulness of the app (see page 2). This will help Rural Routes to keep an (as much as possible) updated list of recommended apps.

Help us!

More apps listed on Tip Sheet #18

- Many apps are available for both Apple and Android.
- Tip Sheet #18 (for Android) also includes apps that are available for Apple (that are not included on this tip sheet).
- Check that tip sheet out for more apps for Apple, including information about the all-purpose apps: Busuu, Duolingo, and Mango Languages.

	Ranking	Skill*	*See below for explanation of which skills the letters refer to
 Rank the websites https://forms.gle/ipgsqKowSKTAqS3r6	4.8	L,P,R	➤ American Accent Training (An Tran) CLB 5-8. Good for practicing fluency in reading, using thought groups, and reducing accents. Short 100-word recordings, with transcripts and speech reductions marked. Learner records their speech, then listens and compares.
	No rating	V	➤ English Idioms Illustrated (Aiden Potts) CLB 5-8. Thirty common illustrated idioms with explanations about their origins. More idioms can be purchased.
	4.5	L,P	➤ English Pronunciation (Ottercall Inc.) CLB 1-8. For pronunciation practice. Learner hears short sentences, watches the sound waves made by the speaker. Then records their own voice and compares sound waves. The app evaluates the learner's pronunciation and timing.
	No rating	G,R	➤ English Reading Test (Pham Lam) Multi-paragraph essays at an academic level, with comprehension questions. Grammar reference section with lessons and explanations, including tenses, modals, conditionals, clauses, and passive text.
	4.6	L,P,V	➤ Learn English: Phrases & Words (Bravolol) Pre-CLB to CLB 6. All purpose language-learning app for phrases and vocabulary. Similar to Duolingo and Busuu
	4.4	L,R,V	➤ Speak & Translate - Translator (Apolon Apps) Pre-CLB to CLB 4. Free version has limitations subject to change. Learner speaks or writes using native language. The app translates into English. WARNING: Learners need explicit information about plagiarism when using this app.
	4.5	G,P,V	➤ Tandem (Tripod Technology) Conversation exchange. Several languages available, including American Sign Language. App matches learner with someone at similar level. Can use voice, video chat, or messages to practice pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.
	4.6	L,R,S	➤ TOEFL Prep & Practice (Magoosh) CLB 5-8+. Can be used offline. Listening, reading, and speaking activities, as well as video tutorials. Passages and questions are good for in-class activities as well.
	4.4	G,P,V	➤ Word of the Day - Flashcards (Coefficient Software Systems) CLB 6-12. Can be used offline. Daily new word includes pronunciation, definition in simple terms, and example sentences. Quiz games and grammar tips included. Useful for high-level learners preparing for academic work or for tests such as IETLS or TOEFL.

***(G) Grammar, (L) Listening, (P) Pronunciation, (R) Reading, (S) Speaking, (Sp) Spelling, (V) Vocabulary, (W) Writing**