Starting an ESL Classroom

> ## HELP! Where Do I Begin?

Some tutors can have more than one learner, in which case refer to Tip Sheet #3 – Lesson Planning for Small Group Instruction. However, once you have too many learners for small group sessions, it's time to start an ESL class. This can occur if you have a sudden influx of immigrants into your area, or you simply have far more ESL learners than tutors available.

Lower your stress and frustrations by taking advantage of the wealth of planning materials available for free. Many resources are available to download, and some are available in hard copy for free as well. Remember, you are not alone! Rural Routes Advisors are also available for workshops, mentoring, and ideas.

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB)
Begin with these free resources to ensure that you are able to understand your learners' needs and assess your learners effectively. Copies are available to download or hard copies can be ordered through: https://www.language.ca/publications/

➢ **CLB: ESL for Adults**
A **MUST HAVE** for all ESL programs, it describes the learners' knowledge, skills, and abilities at each CLB level from 1 to 12.

➢ **CLB: ESL for ALL (Adult Literacy Learners)**
A **MUST HAVE** if you have learners who have very little literacy skills in their own language; who have had little, or interrupted, education; who are learning the Roman alphabet; who have suffered trauma; or who have a learning disability, this resource describes the benchmarks to begin with.

➢ **CLB: ESL for ALL Support Kit**
A companion guide to the CLB: ESL for ALL resource.

➢ **CLB 2000: Additional Sample Task Ideas**
If you are creating or locating your own activities, this resource is full of inspiring ideas. The only complaint is that there are almost too many ideas!

➢ **CLB Support Kit**
An excellent resource that offers examples of what reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills look like across the benchmarks, as well as sample tasks and planning

Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL)
The ATESL website's resource page has a wealth of helpful documents. The resources on this website are available to freely download from:
https://www.atesl.ca/resources/resource-library/

➢ **ATESL Best Practices – Full Document**
A comprehensive document of 67 statements identifying the indicators of best practices for effective ESL programming.

What resources are available for teaching?

The Internet has a plethora of resources available, many for free, including ready-made lesson plans on a wide variety of themes, for a wide variety of levels, and that include a wide variety of activities. **NOTE:** If the links won't open when you click on them, then copy and paste the link into your web browser.

Frontier College: A Toolbox for ESL Tutors: An Instructional Guide for Teachers of English as a Second Language to Newcomers,
http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/linc/toolbox.pdf

➤ Pre-made printable lessons for lower benchmark learners.

Interactive English, https://ie.norquest.ca/

➤ Recommended for CLB 2 to 4. Vocabulary and comprehension questions are included.
➤ Learners can read, write, listen, and speak about the activities and stories.

Interactive Open Educational Resources (OER):

In the Community, https://globalaccess.bowvalleycollege.ca/products-services/community-intermediate-integrated-skills-textbook

In the Workplace, https://globalaccess.bowvalleycollege.ca/products-services/workplace-intermediate-integrated-skills-textbook

➤ Recommended for CLB 5 to 6.
➤ Textbooks are interactive; integrate reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills; and include relevant, cultural, Canadian context.
Can be used online or downloaded and printed or saved as PDFs.

Learning English with CBC, https://www.cbc.ca/learning-english

➤ Designed for CLB 4 and 6. Great for discussing and teaching current affairs.
➤ Videos and audios related to the weekly news stories from Alberta and Canada.
➤ Online quizzes help to show learners' comprehension of the newscasts.

Online Workplace Language Resources (OWLS), https://www.norquest.ca/research-innovation/colbourne-institute-for-inclusive-leadership/projects/completed-projects/online-workplace-integration-language-resources-(owls).aspx

➤ Recommended for CLB 5+.
➤ Videos, suggested discussion points, and a facilitator guide are available.
➤ Addresses workplace conflicts caused by cultural misunderstandings.

Pragmatic Patterns for Business: Apologies, https://www.norquest.ca/research-innovation/colbourne-institute-for-inclusive-leadership/projects/completed-projects/pragmatic-patterns-for-business-professional-language-competencies.aspx

➤ Recommended for CLB 5+.
➤ Includes audios, lesson plans, and learner handouts.

Rural Routes Resources
Rural Routes offers many resources and services, all for free. Start by reviewing the tip sheets available for viewing or downloading from:
https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources/content/rural-routes-tip-sheets.aspx

➤ #4 – Lesson Planning for One-on-One Instruction (resources listed on page 2)
➤ #14 – EAP, ESP, and EWP (resources listed on page 2)
➤ #16 – Working with ESL Literacy Learners (resources listed on page 2)

Contact your regional Advisor for training or mentoring services:
https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/about-us/staff.aspx