

Learning English with Apps - Android



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 Google Play 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 (as much as possible) an updated list of recommended apps.

Help us!

All purpose apps for both Android and Apple

- **Busuu** (Ranking: 4.6) Pre-CLB to CLB 8. Teaches sentence patterns, and develops listening and pronunciation. Great for phrases and vocabulary. Provides repetition, especially good for difficult words.
- **Duolingo** (Ranking: 4.7) Pre-CLB to CLB 6. Includes ~30 languages. Learners can change the settings so the translations are in their native language. Very similar to Busuu.
- **Mango Languages** (Ranking 4.8) Downloadable lessons in several languages. Vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and culture. Interactive words and phrases, pronunciation pointers, and cultural insights. Connect with the local library for more resources.

	Ranking	Skill*	*See below for explanation of which skills the letters refer to
   Rank the websites https://forms.gle/ipgsgKowSKTAqS3r6	4.5	V	➤ AnkiApp Flashcards (Admimum Corp.) Pre-CLB to CLB 8. Seamless synch with phone, tablet, and desktop. Learners can study vocabulary using pre-made content or create their own. App will choose vocabulary based on learner's progress. Also for Apple.
	4.8	L,P	➤ English Conversations (AT Apps Studio) Can be used offline. Daily topics, real-life conversations, dictionary, listening, and pronunciation.
	4.5	G,L	➤ English Grammar in Use (Raymond Murphy – Cambridge University Press) Intermediate level. Grammar structures are explained, with examples and practice activities such as listening to short talks and answering multiple-choice questions. Provides good practice for accuracy with verb tenses.
	4.2	L,R,V	➤ ESL Fast Read (Ron Lee) Short reading passages (50 words) in the present tense with four to six word sentences for beginners, progressing to ~200-word readings for intermediate learners. Passages are recorded. Vocabulary lists, sentence dictation, and close activities. Useful for in-class activities as well.
	4.2	L,R,S	➤ ESL Fast Speak (Ron Lee) CLB 1-6. Easy conversations with transcripts. Daily life, school life, health, sports, transportation, and safety. Good starting point for listening, reading, and speaking.
	4.5	G,L,S	➤ IELTS Prep (British Council) Speaking, listening, grammar activities, videos of speaking interviews, practice tests, and assessment criteria explained. Also for Apple.
	4.6	L,P,V	➤ Learn English Phrases – English Translator (Bravolol) Pre-CLB to CLB 6. All purpose language-learning app for phrases and vocabulary. Similar to Duolingo and Busuu.
	4.7	G,L,P, Sp,W	➤ Oxford English Listening (English for Everyone) Created by ESL instructors. Dictionary, pronunciation, guidelines on writing in everyday situations, spelling tips, and grammar advice.
	4.6	L,R,S, V,W	➤ TED Talks (TED Conference LLC) CLB 5-8. Great talks by speakers from around the world on variety of topics. Talks range from six to 60 minutes. Transcripts available. Can be used for note taking, writing summaries, and speaking activities. Also for Apple.
	4.5	P,V	➤ Word Reference Dictionaries (WordReference.com) Pre-CLB to CLB 8. Translates between many languages. Connects learners to native speakers. Also for Apple.

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