

## Starting a Classroom

If you're suddenly faced with an eager group of learners but have no resources for teaching, here are a few suggestions to get you started. If your Internet connection is unreliable, or you don't have access to computers, most of these resources have a print version that you can either order or download. Some, like the CBC's resources, can be downloaded ahead of time when you do have a good connection.

### Tools for Planning

#### Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks

Begin with these free, downloadable resources. Copies are available online, or hard copies can be purchased at the same page.

[http://www.language.ca/index.cfm?Voir=sections&Id=19200&M=4038&Repertoire\\_No=2137991327](http://www.language.ca/index.cfm?Voir=sections&Id=19200&M=4038&Repertoire_No=2137991327)

- Canadian Language Benchmarks: ESL for Adults manual
  - ♦ This manual describes learners' knowledge, skills, and abilities on a scale from Level 1 to Level 12. It is helpful for setting goals, planning activities and measuring learners' progress.
- CLB Support Kit
  - ♦ Full of ideas for long- and short-term planning ideas for different groups of learners, the Support Kit also offers examples of reading, writing, listening, and speaking across the benchmarks. Sample tasks are also useful examples for comparing and judging the difficulty of in-class activities.
- CLB 2000: Additional Sample Task Ideas book
  - ♦ If you are locating or creating your own activities, the Sample Task Ideas book is full of inspiration.
- ESL for Adult Literacy Learners
  - ♦ If you have learners who are learning to read and write in any language for the first time, had little, or interrupted education, are learning the Roman alphabet, have a learning disability, or have suffered trauma, this may be the most helpful set of benchmarks to begin learning with.

#### Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL)

Visit the ATESL website's resource page. Here are a few especially helpful documents.

- ATESL Best Practices for Adult ESL and LINC Programming in Alberta: Summary Document  
[http://www.atesl.ca/sites/default/files/resources/ATESL\\_Best\\_Practices.pdf](http://www.atesl.ca/sites/default/files/resources/ATESL_Best_Practices.pdf)
  - ♦ The sections on the benchmarks, instruction, and learner assessment are relevant for tutors.

### Pre-Made Lesson Materials

Once you have an idea of your learners' needs and abilities, and you have seen some of the sample tasks, it's easier to plan activities for learners.

### Online

- Frontier College: A Toolbox for ESL Tutors: An Instructional Guide for Teaching English as a Second Language to Newcomers at <http://atwork.settlement.org/downloads/linc/toolbox.pdf>
  - ♦ Pre-made, printable lessons for lower benchmark learners.

### Online or DVD (with printable material)

- Interactive English 2 <http://ie.norquest.ca/>
  - ♦ Learners can read, write, listen, and speak about activities on this website. Recommended for CLB 2–4, it includes a teacher resource and stories with vocabulary, listening, and comprehension questions.

### Online or print

- ERPAC (ESO Resource Package for Alberta Communities) [https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources/content/erpac-\(esl-resource-pkg-for-ab-communities\).aspx](https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources/content/erpac-(esl-resource-pkg-for-ab-communities).aspx)
  - ♦ Created for rural communities, in addition to suggestions for finding materials, this package offers guidance in deciding what to teach and how to teach and assess it.
- Learning English with CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/learning-english>
  - ♦ Weekly newscasts include warmups, reading, vocabulary, and listening activities, plus transcripts and answers. Each lesson comes with recordings or videos plus printable activities. Generally geared for CLB 4/5.
  - ♦ Monthly newscasts are designed for CBL 6 and above and include a variety of activities and learning strategies for reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Each lesson comes with answer keys and printable materials.
- LINC 5–7 Classroom Activities: Volumes 1 & 2. Available along with sound files at [http://wiki.settlementatwork.org/index.php/LINC\\_5-7\\_Classroom\\_Activities:\\_Volumes\\_1\\_&\\_2](http://wiki.settlementatwork.org/index.php/LINC_5-7_Classroom_Activities:_Volumes_1_&_2)
  - ♦ Print versions can also be ordered through this website.
  - ♦ These two volumes have hundreds of pages of listening, speaking, reading, and writing lessons in social, academic, and work contexts. They include teaching notes and answer keys plus all of the sound files you need for each lesson.
- Additional electronic resources for the LINC 5–7 classroom activities (Vol. 1 and 2) <http://www.settlementatwork.org/lincdocs/linc5-7/>
  - ♦ These additional online-only activities complement the two volumes above.

### Interactive Texts

- In the Community: An Intermediate Integrated Skills Textbook
- In the Workplace: An Intermediate Integrated Skills Textbook
  - ♦ Available at <https://centre.bowvalleycollege.ca/publications>
  - ♦ Both of these texts are designed with activities to support learners at the CLB 5–6 levels. In addition to the usual skills, the texts incorporate relevant, interesting cultural content. They can be used online, downloaded and saved to a computer, or printed from pdf files.

## Tools, Texts, and Reference Books

The following resources fill in gaps with skills or information not addressed by the materials above.

### Dictionaries

- The Oxford Picture Dictionary: Canadian Edition by Marjorie Fuchs is a great picture dictionary in full colour with well-labelled illustrations that you can even use for speaking or writing prompts.
- The Longman Active Study Dictionary 5<sup>th</sup> edition is a good, basic dictionary for intermediate learners. The online version at <http://www.ldoceonline.com/> is also very readable.

### Pronunciation Text

- Clear Speech: Pronunciation and Listening Comprehension in North American English 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by Judy B. Gilbert is a good all-round text for pronunciation instruction.

### Cell phones

- Even more basic phones have tools like cameras, sound recorders, and browsers now. You may not need computers or laptops for your class.
  - ♦ Use phones as voice and video recorders, watch YouTube clips, use the CBC EAL website, access a class wiki, access online practice websites, and use ESL apps and dictionaries.