

English as a Second Language Resource Guide

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Online Dictionaries & English Language Textbooks

[Oxford Reference Online: Bilingual Dictionaries](#)

Several bilingual dictionaries from Oxford University Press are available electronically. Languages include French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Latin. Bilingual dictionaries of business terms are also available for French and Spanish.

[Credo Reference \(xreferplus\): Bilingual Dictionaries](#)

In addition to dictionaries for French, German, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Spanish, and Polish, Credo Reference also includes specialized dictionaries for business (French, German, Spanish) and law (Spanish and French).

[Oxford English Dictionary \(OED\)](#)

The ultimate source for definitions and word histories for the English language.

[Oxford Reference Online: English Dictionaries & Thesauruses](#)

Items of note in this category for ESL students studying in the U.S. are:

- [The New Oxford American Dictionary.](#)
- [The Oxford American Dictionary of Current English.](#)

- [The Oxford American Thesaurus of Current English.](#)
- [Visual English Dictionary.](#) This visual / picture dictionary contains 6,000 illustrations, which cover a wide range of topics such as sports, architecture, and computing. A useful way of explaining terms without relying on other hard-to-understand terms.

Sawyer Library Book Catalog: [Subject search for "English Language Textbooks For Foreign Speakers"](#)

This search in the Sawyer Library online catalog brings a lengthy list of results, many of which are available electronically. Users may limit this list just to: ["Material type: E-books."](#)

Sawyer Library Book Catalog: [Keyword search for "TOEFL"](#)

Note: several of the results in this list are located at the Madrid campus.

English Usage

[Oxford Reference Online: English Language Reference.](#)

Amongst the 18 items in Oxford's English Language Reference section, users will find:

- [The Oxford Dictionary of American Usage and Style.](#)
- [Pocket Fowler's Modern English Usage.](#)
- [The Oxford Dictionary of Abbreviations.](#)
- [Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms.](#)
- [The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang.](#)

[Credo Reference](#)

Credo Reference contains nearly 500 dictionaries, encyclopedias, and handbooks, covering a wide range of subjects. The language category includes the following:

- [The American Heritage Guide to Contemporary Usage and Style.](#)
- [Good Word Guide.](#)

[Elephants of Style: A Trunkload of Tips on the Big Issues and Gray Areas of Contemporary American English.](#) (Online book available through Ebrary.)

Although the attempts at humor in this book (for example the title) may not appeal to everyone, there are some sections here that everyone should read, native and non-native speakers alike.

Especially useful is chapter 5, "Which One is Right Again?" which explain the difference between frequently confused words, such as *affect* and *effect*, and *that* and *which*.

ESL websites

[OWL: Online Writing Lab](#)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/index.html>

The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University has created this page to assist ESL students. The site includes grammar "handouts" (spelling, verb tenses, sentence fragments), online practice exercises, links to other online resources for ESL, and tips on [Writing in North American Higher Education: A Primer for International Students](#) and [Writing for a North American Business Audience](#).

[English as a Second Language \(Dartmouth College Writing Program\)](#)

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/special/esl.shtml>

Karen Gocsik and Julie Kalish of Dartmouth College have put together this very clear and concise guide to the structure of American academic essays. Users may also wish to consult other [subject specific writing guides](#) from the Dartmouth College Composition Center.

[Dave's ESL Cafe](#)

<http://www.eslcafe.com/>

Created in 1995 by Dave Sperling, "Dave's ESL Cafe" is intended for both ESL teachers and students. The website features an online [Help Center](#), where ESL students "can receive help from ESL/EFL teachers from around the world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week" on topics such as grammar, writing, TOEFL, vocabulary, idioms, and slang. There are also multiple discussion forums, both for teachers and students, on ESL and popular interest topics.

[Activities for ESL Students](#)

<http://a4esl.org/>

A project of the [Internet TESL Journal](#), (a monthly journal for Teachers of English as a Second Language). Students will find quizzes for grammar and vocabulary grouped by difficulty, and bilingual quizzes offered in 35 languages.

[TOEFL](#)

<http://www.ets.org/toefl/>

"The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand North American English as it is spoken, written and heard in college and university settings. Most people who take the TOEFL test are planning to study at colleges and universities where instruction is in English." Users will find test dates and locations, and a [limited number of free sample questions](#).

[Language Dictionaries](#)

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/languages.html>

This list of links to dictionaries for more than 290 languages is provided by yourDictionary.com, "a language products and services company," that maintains a "comprehensive and authoritative language portal... with more than 2500 dictionaries and grammars."

[BBC World Service: Learning English](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/index.shtml>

The world renown BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) has produced this site to help English language students. In addition to "short courses, quizzes, grammar, vocabulary, audio and video," users will also find separate sections for [News English](#) and [Business English](#). Of course, users should expect to hear British pronunciation and see word usage and spelling common to Britain and the United Kingdom.

[ESL BLUES: Pre-intermediate to high-intermediate level English](#)

<http://ww2.college-em.qc.ca/prof/epritchard/trouindx.htm>

The ESL Blues site covers a wide range of specific points of grammar and includes a section on "Common Errors Explained." The site also provides diagnostic quizzes to pinpoint errors and take students to the appropriate pages.

[Selected Links for ESL & EFL Students](#)

<http://iteslj.org/ESL.html>

An up-to-date list of resources maintained by The Internet TESL Journal (Teachers of English as a Second Language). "The purpose of this page is to introduce students to a select list of links that they will find immediately interesting and useful. These may not be all of the very best sites, but these are definitely some of the best."

[ESL: Bilingual](#)

<http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Bilingual/>

This section of the Internet TESL Journal's Links for ESL students refers users to websites in two languages, including Chinese, French, German, Russian, and Turkish.

Selected Print Resources

In addition to the expected French-English, German-English, Spanish-English, and Italian-English dictionaries, the following is a selection of some of the other language dictionaries to be found in the

Sawyer Library Reference section. Further ESL materials may be identified through the online catalog by searching for [English Language Textbooks For Foreign Speakers](#) as a subject.

[Albanian-English, English-Albanian Standard Dictionary](#)

REF PG9591 .H957 2003

[al-Mawrid al-Quareeb: A Pocket Arabic-English Dictionary](#)

REF PJ6640 .B33 2005

[Pocket Oxford Chinese Dictionary : English-Chinese, Chinese-English = Ying-Han, Han-Ying](#)

REF PL1423 .P63 2003

[Hausa-English/English-Hausa Dictionary](#)

REF PL8233 .A94 1996

[Icelandic-English English-Icelandic Dictionary](#)

REF PD2437 .T39 1990

[Random House Japanese-English English-Japanese Dictionary](#)

REF PL678 .N35 1997

[Langenscheidt Pocket Dictionary Polish : Polish-English, English-Polish](#)

REF PG6640 .L36 2003

[The Oxford Russian dictionary : Russian-English, English-Russian](#)

REF PG2640 .O94 1997

[Langenscheidt Pocket Turkish Dictionary: English-Turkish, Turkish-English](#)

REF PL191 .A43 2006

[NTC's Vietnamese-English Dictionary](#)

REF PL4376 .N345 1995

[English-Yoruba, Yoruba-English Modern Practical Dictionary](#)

REF PL8823 .F34 2003

ESL Learner Dictionaries:

[The Oxford ESL Dictionary](#)

REF PE1628 .O8685 2004

