English Language Learning Resources for the Refugee Population

Literacy education and second language learning for adults (LESLLA) learners are defined as adults who are learning to read and write for the first time in their lives in a new language. For more information on LESLLA learners, please see the LESLLA website.

Resource Index:

Click on the following links to navigate to the different sections of this resource.

- Orientation to Learning with a Smartphone: Resources to support those who are assisting refugees with downloading and navigating English language learning applications on a mobile or tablet device as well as a list of common English language learning applications that the refugee population can use to study English independently.

- First English Lessons: Resources, including print and online, that can be used to present refugees with introductory English language lessons.

- Teaching English to the Refugee Population: Resources that can be used to train English language tutors to work with emerging English language learners as well as classroom materials and websites that can be used for English language instruction.

Orientation to Learning with a Smartphone:

Refugees will need assistance with downloading applications to their phones and with learning how to navigate through the learning application that they are using. Most applications will require login credentials, so refugees will need support in creating and documenting their login information and potentially will need support in creating email accounts if the application they are using requires an email address. The following resources provide best practices for onboarding and orienting learners to mobile learning.

- Tips for Onboarding Remote Learners

- [Video: Strategies for Onboarding Learners](#)

- Translation Services

  - [Talking Points](#)
  - [Google Translate](#)

It is helpful to create onboarding guides (offering these guides in video is also an effective practice) for refugees to follow to support the downloading and navigation of the mobile applications for learning. To see models of these guides, see [this resource from Literacy Minnesota](#). This resource shows guides for using Zoom, Google Meet, and WhatsApp; however, these can be used as models for creating guides for English language learning mobile applications. In addition, there are several YouTube videos available that can be used to help onboard refugees.

Information to include in the orientation and onboarding for independent digital learning:

- Steps for downloading the application
- Keyboard literacy
- How to log into the application and save login information
- How to navigate the sections of the application
- How to set up notifications for the application
- How to use closed captions
- How to set up language preferences in the applications when applicable
- How to use translation services if necessary

Mobile Applications for LESLLA Learners:

The links in this section direct you to the website for the application; however, all of these are available for free download for mobile or tablet devices.

- [USA Learns Homepage](#)

- [Duolingo](#)

- [Hello English](#)

- [Busuu](#)

- [Language Drops](#)

Digital Literacy Skill Development Resources:

While the language used in the resources will most likely be above level for a majority of the refugee population, these resources also have visuals and videos that can be used to help model and scaffold how to use digital devices, tools, and common applications.

- [GCF Learn Free](#)

- [Digital Learn](#)

- [Northstar Digital Literacy](#)

First English Lessons:

These resources can be a good place to start when providing learners with introductory English language lessons. Most of these resources can be printed out and distributed to refugees. Refugees will most likely need someone to read written words out loud and to work with a translation service, like Google Translate, in order to understand new vocabulary.

- [Free English Lessons for Pashto Speakers](#)

- [ESL Resources – English Language Resources for Teachers](#)

- [Beginner English Student Workbook](#)

- [Beginning Alphabetics Tests and Tools](#)

- [Read and Write Booklet](#)

- [Literacy Minnesota Pre-Beginning ESL Curriculum](#)

- [The Literacy Kit](#)

- [Reading Skills for Today's Adults Southwest Adult Basic Education Marshall](#)

- [Beginning Alphabetics Tests and Tools](#)

- [ESL Literacy Readers](#)

- [Health Literacy for Literacy Learners](#)

- [Teaching English](#) (A list of additional resources)

Teaching English to the Refugee Population:

These resources can be used to train English language tutors and to locate adult education programs in your area.

Tutor Training & Support:

- [Learning for LIFE: An ESL Literacy Handbook](#): This is a resource published by Bow Valley College in Alberta, Canada. On pages 108-115, it focuses on reading instruction for ESL literacy. It also has a toolkit of classroom materials.

- [Adult Literacy Education: The International Journal of Literacy, Language and Numeracy (Volume 1)](#): In this issue of the ProLiteracy Journal, there are several articles that cover teaching reading to adult learners.

- [Activities to Promote Reading Development (pgs.II_57-75)](#): This toolkit was published in 2008, and this specific section provides classroom activities that can be used to promote reading development.

- [Portland Literacy Council: For Tutors](#): This is a list of resources that was put together to support literacy tutors.

- [Identifying, assessing, and instructing adult learners of English Functioning Levels (EFL) 1 and 2](#): This webinar reviews how to use Read Ready (formerly SARA) to **identify** and **assess** learners at ALL levels, but goes into some specific strategies to **instruct** learners at the beginning levels.

- [Making It Real: Teaching pre-literate adult refugee stories (pp.86-99)](#): This section of *Making It Real* outlines skills that students should learn and practice during literacy instruction and includes sample lessons and activities.

- [Handbook for Working with Literacy Learners](#): This resource was developed as a tool to train literacy tutors, but it also provides sample lesson plans and activities.

- [Working with Low Level ESL Learners](#): This handout, developed by Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle, summarizes best practices for working with low level ESL learners.

- 🗏 Resources for Virtual English Language Instruction

- [New American Horizons Training Video, Building Literacy with Adult Emergent Readers](#): This training video demonstrates instructional practices that are effective in the literacy classroom.

- [Low-Literacy Instruction Classroom Videos](#): These videos, developed by Literacy Minnesota, provide classroom demonstrations of effective literacy instructional practices.

Classroom Materials:

These resources are already developed and free resources that tutors or instructors can use for English language instruction. These resources include digital and print options.

- [Types of Literacy Activities](#)

- [Alphabet Chant](#)

- [Samples of Letter/Word Bingo](#)

- [Top 100 Most Used Verbs in American English](#)

- [Pronunciation Instruction Videos](#)

- [Picture Stories for Adult ESL Health Literacy](#)

- [Adult Literacy League: Resources](#)

- [Resources for Teaching ESL Literacy](#)

Websites:

- [Reading Skills for Today's Adults Southwest Adult Basic Education Marshall](#)

- [Newsela](#)

- [Learning Chocolate](#)

- [USAHello | A free website to help refugees and immigrants](#)

- [We Speak NYC](#)

Adult Education Resources

- **Connecting refugees to adult education:** Connect refugees or community liaisons with adult education providers in the resettlement community. Adult education providers offer English language classes; civics, digital literacy, and workforce preparation instruction; and integrated education and training to earn in-demand industry-recognized credentials. Providers also connect learners to other community workforce development services.

    - [VDOE :: Adult Education Regional Programs](#)

- **The Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center:** This resource was curated by the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center (VALRC) which provides technical assistance,

resources, and professional development for adult education programs in Virginia. For more information on adult education resources in Virginia, please see [the VALRC website](#) as well as some of the following links.

- ○ [VALRC | Our Partners Homepage](#)

- ○ [VALRC | Staff Contact Information Homepage](#)

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