



GCFLearnFree.org Curriculum Guide

Reading and ESL



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How to Use Our Programs

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This guide was created to give teachers and service providers a starting point for using our Reading and ESL programs. You may already refer the people you serve to our site for self-paced, independent learning. This guide will help you use our content to supplement your own programs, tutorials, and courses.

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How you use our content will depend largely on your organization's capabilities and the needs of the population you serve. We've found that there are as many ways to use our content as there are organizations using it. Some organizations take a largely hands-off approach; others choose to integrate our content into their own instructor-led classes. Here are some examples of ways a group could use our content to provide instruction:

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- **The Textbook Method:** Instructor-led classes that include original curriculum but use our site as a textbook for both the teacher and students.
- **Self-Paced Group Study Method:** Students follow a particular course of study at their own pace. At class meetings, the instructor checks assignments and offers help to students who need it.
- **Independent Study with Assignments:** Independent study classes or meetings where the students read our tutorials and complete original assignments, all on their own. At an instructor-led "lab time," students ask questions and get help starting new topics.

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These are just a few examples, but the possibilities are nearly endless. Let us know how you use our site by contacting us at www.gcflearnfree.org/educators/share.

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Still have questions?

Check out our Educators' FAQ!

www.gcflearnfree.org/educators/faq

How to Use this Guide

This guide explains how you and your students can use multiple activities to become better English readers. The guide includes 2 distinct **learning plans** that you can follow and adapt for instruction in a classroom, with a small group, or with individuals. Each plan focuses on a specific set of literacy needs.

The plans are:

- **Adult Literacy:** The reading program is designed to help English-speaking adults develop stronger reading skills. The Reading program introduces literacy students to 1,000 commonly used words in the English language. The content features a conversational tone and includes entertaining and relatable examples.
- **ESL:** The ESL reading program is an English Language Learning program meant to help non-native English speakers practice vocabulary and improve reading comprehension. The program is built around 1,000 common English words, grouped into themed categories. Each category includes resources students can use to learn new vocabulary and improve their English.

Each plan has three components:

1. **Objectives:** The goals learners have entering this course of study. The objectives can help you identify the best plan for your class.
2. **Outcomes:** The end skills the learners should have gained after successfully completing the plan.
3. **Learning plan:** A potential sequence of our activities. You can find summaries and links for each activity on page 7 of this guide.

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Using the Learning Plans

To get started, choose the learning plan that best suits your students' needs. Once you've found a plan, you can customize it to make it more relevant to and appropriate for your learners. This could include:

- **Adding your own content.** To get the most out of our site, we strongly encourage you to develop assignments and assessments that are suitable for your students.
- **Removing redundant or unnecessary content.** Not every activity will be useful for every learner. Review the activities, and then assess your students' knowledge and needs. You can then omit any content that is obvious, irrelevant, or unnecessary for your learners.
- **Selecting additional activities.** You may also choose to integrate activities from our Everyday Life program, or from the site as a whole. You can learn more about our Everyday Life program here: www.gcflearnfree.org/everydaylife

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Adult Literacy

www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/play

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Objectives

- To become a better reader

General Outcomes

- Learner will have improved phonemic awareness and sight word recognition.
- Learner will have practiced reading and evaluating short texts.

Build Phonemic Awareness

Letter Explorer

Read and Recognize Words

Word Explorer

Video Dictionary

Activities:
Word Sounds
Fill Ins
Sound Match
Blast Off

Practice Reading

Text Explorer

Reading
Comprehension

ESL

www.gcflearnfree.org/learnenglish

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Objectives

- To improve understanding of English
- To learn English vocabulary
- To become a better reader of English

General Outcomes

- Learner will be familiar with 1,000 of the most common English words.
- Learner will have improved ability to identify the meaning of words using context and visual cues.
- Learner will have improved English reading comprehension.

Learn Vocabulary

Word Explorer

Video Dictionary

Use Vocabulary in Context

Fill in the Blank

Practice Reading

Text Explorer

Reading
Comprehension

Activity Descriptions

Below are the links to of all the activities mentioned in this guide.
The activities can be accessed within the Adult Literacy and ESL interfaces, or you can see a complete list of them here: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading

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Letter Explorer



The Letter Explorer is for learners who are just beginning to learn to read and need extra practice recognizing letter sounds. It allows the learner to see every letter in the alphabet. When learners select a letter or letter group, they'll see examples of words that include that letter. They can then click on each word and hear it spoken.

Helps Practice: Phonemic awareness, sight words
URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/letterexplorer

Word Explorer



The Word Explorer is great for giving your learners exposure to a variety of words. It shows learners a word cloud of all the words in the category. When the learner selects a word, he or she can hear the word spoken and used in context, view an image of the word, and watch a video that defines the word. This can be a good way to introduce students to a new group of words, or have them review words they already know.

Helps Practice: vocabulary, sight words
URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/wordexplorer

Text Explorer



The Text Explorer includes a variety of simple, engaging texts. These include short stories, advertisements, articles, letters, and more. Students can read on their own, or follow along while listening to the texts. They may even choose to read out loud and compare their pronunciation. Vocabulary words are highlighted to help students review new terms.

Helps practice: reading, listening, vocabulary, pronunciation
URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/textexplorer

Word Videos



This activity features short, entertaining video clips that explore and define the words in each category. Learners see and hear words used in a variety of situations, from very serious to laugh-out-loud funny.

Helps Practice: vocabulary, sight words
URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/wordvideos

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Word Fill-Ins



This is a Cloze Activity. Learners must complete a sentence using the appropriate vocabulary word.

URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/wordfills

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Sound Match



In this activity, learners match a written word with a spoken one.

URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/soundmatch

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Word Sounds



In this activity, learners hear a word pronounced and have to select the correct answer from a list of words.

URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/wordsounds

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Blast Off!



In this game, learners hear and see a sentence, and must find the missing word. A fun way to practice word recognition.

URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/blastoff

Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension tests students' ability to understand what they read. Students read or listen to texts, then answer questions. This activity will be added in July 2012.

URL: www.gcflearnfree.org/reading/readingcomprehension