

Recommended Websites & Books

for English Language & Study Skills

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Websites

in the on-line version of this document; simply point at each link and press CONTROL + click

Preparing to Study in Britain

- *Prepare for Success*, a complete introduction to study in the UK for international students
<http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/>,
- *University of Glasgow, College of Social Science, Preparing for Study*: student & staff views, quizzes, video diaries, discussions & other resources
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/students/international/preparingforstudy/>

General Recommendations

Highly recommended materials on a range of skills and language:

- *Using English for Academic Purposes: A Guide for International Students*, by Andy Gillett: a complete course on Accuracy, Listening, Reading, Speaking, Vocabulary & Writing.
<http://www.uefap.net/>
- *Hong Kong Polytechnic University's Centre for Independent Language Learning*,
<http://www2.elc.polyu.edu.hk/CILL>, a wide range of tasks across the different skills; select EAP to start with (for a complete list of all exercises, go to: <http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/exercises/>).

Writing

Highly recommended for all aspects of academic assignment writing:

- *Learning Lab at the Learning Skills Unit, RMIT University in Melbourne*,
<http://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lisu/index.htm>, on-line tutorials and printable summaries; excellent detailed material and practice activities for:
 - o summarising, plagiarism, referencing & quotation—see under *Study Skills* and *Writing Skills*.
 - o specific *Assessment Tasks* including reports, case studies & literature reviews.
- *Hong Kong University's English Centre* contains very useful material particularly for writing:
 - o *Academic Grammar*, <http://ec.hku.hk/acadgrammar>, detailed guidance and exercises on writing academic essays.
 - o *Plagiarism and How to Avoid It*: the title speaks for itself!
<http://www4.caes.hku.hk/plagiarism/introduction.htm>

Specifically on using sources:

- *Indiana University's 'Understanding Plagiarism' site*,
<http://education.indiana.edu/%7Efrick/plagiarism/> includes a short quiz, examples, famous cases, links and a final test which you can take.
- *plagiarism.org*, <http://plagiarism.org/> is a companion site for the plagiarism checking software Turnitin which is used throughout the University.

- *University of Auckland Student Learning Centre's 'ReferenCite'*, <http://www.cite.auckland.ac.nz/>, is a very user-friendly introduction to the conventions, methods and software for referencing.

Writing in specific subjects (e.g. Engineering, History etc.)

- *Monash University Writing website*, <http://www.monash.edu.au/lis/lonline/writing/>
- *University of Glasgow Moodle resources for the Advanced Academic Writing programme*, <http://khios.dcs.gla.ac.uk/writing/>, this is only available to matriculated students

For actual language to use:

- *University of Manchester's Academic Phrasebank*, <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>, ready-to-use phrases for various functions ('Referring to Literature', 'Reporting Results' etc.); **WARNING these may help you but are no substitute for learning to write!**

Listening

There are many sites with audio/video recordings of talks, lectures & interviews, but you ideally want supporting material such as transcripts, PowerPoint slides, and even better, exercises to go with them.

- *Using English for Academic Purposes, A Guide for International Students: Listening*, (recommended above): a range of speeches, lectures and other listening texts with tasks: <http://www.uefap.net/listening>
- *University of Reading Self-Access Centre for Language Learning site*, <http://www.sacll.co.uk/>, has very accessible lectures with both transcripts and tasks (select Lectures in the left hand menu).

University lectures: you will need to search these archives to find topics which interest you.

- *Open Spires*, <http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>, allows you to access Oxford university lectures and podcasts (the credit crunch series also provides transcripts and vocabulary pages <http://openspires.oucs.ox.ac.uk/crunch/>).
- *Lecturefox: free university lectures*, <http://www.lecturefox.com>, a range of lectures from North American universities, largely on science subjects, most with video/audio recordings, and related slides or notes.
- *iTunes U*, <http://www.apple.com/uk/education/itunes-u/>, also provides an app which then allows you to access a wide range of lectures.
- *Freevideolectures.com*, <http://freevideolectures.com>, university & college lectures on many subjects (often from North American sources); may contain pictures of PowerPoint slides but no transcripts

Talks, lectures & interviews: again, you will need to search for what's useful.

- *Scientific American Podcasts*, <http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/>, '60-Second Science' with scripts & longer, more advanced talks as well (mainly North American English)
- *Ted Talks*, <http://www.ted.com>, talks on a wide range of subjects, often by non-academic public figures (e.g. Bono from U2); they include transcripts.
- *Conversations with History, at the University of California Berkeley's Institute of International Studies*, <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/conversations/>, recordings of interviews and lectures from famous politicians and writers etc., as well as scholars, from around the world (i.e. a range of different accents); includes transcripts.

More general listening practice (see also 'Other Sites' below):

- *BBC Learning English*, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/> has a range of listening activities in general & business topics (including 'words in the news'), plus an on-going drama called 'The Flatmates'.

Speaking & Pronunciation

- *BBC Learning English Better Speaking*, http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/webcast/tae_beterspeaking_archive.shtml, a series of 12 radio programmes on how to become a fluent, confident speaker.
- *BBC Learning English Pronunciation Tips*: exercises and recordings of radio programmes on problem sounds and more general pronunciation features: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation>
- *EnglishClub.com English Pronunciation*: <http://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/index.htm>, tutorials with audio recordings & exercises on general pronunciation features e.g. word stress and linking.
- *Splendid Speaking*, <http://www.splendid-speaking.com/>, exercises in speaking skills using recordings (with transcripts) of native speakers and other learners.
- *Sounds of English*, <http://www.soundsofenglish.org/>, clear presentation and exercises on the individual sounds of English.

Dictionaries & Vocabulary

- *MacMillan Dictionary*, <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/>, includes pronunciation, British & American English, and an excellent Thesaurus
- *Cambridge Dictionaries*, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>, searches in the dictionaries for Learners, British & American, Business English, and bilingual versions for Spanish & Turkish (the Visual Thesaurus is only available without subscription for a limited trial)
- *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>, includes British and American English.
- *iTools*, <http://www.itools.com/lang/>, a collection of dictionaries and other language tools.
- *Academic Phrasebank*, <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>, by John Morley, University of Manchester: phrases for various functions in an academic text (e.g. describing methods).
- *FLAX*, <http://flax.nzdl.org/greenstone3/flax?a=fp&sa=library>, allows you to search for words and collocations in collections of English texts (corpora).

Guides to Other Web Resources for Academic Study

- *Intute Virtual Training Suite*, <http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/>, tutorials guiding you through resources for a wide range of academic subjects.

Other Sites

- *BBC Learning English*, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>, has a range of activities based around the BBC broadcasts. (The home BBC site at www.bbc.co.uk is also a huge source of information.)
- *Internet Grammar of English*, <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/>, detailed explanations and exercises.
- *General activities on Grammar, Vocabulary etc.*
 - o E.L.Easton's English On-line: <http://eleaston.com/materials.html>.
 - o Flo-Joe practice exercises for the Cambridge Exams: <http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/>.
- *IELTS Exam*: <http://www.ielts.org/>.

Books

All the following items (books and associated audiotapes or discs) are in the Language Resource Library:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/mlc/languageresource/library/>

They may also be in the Main Library itself (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/library/>).

You should check the library's catalogue for the catalogue number and availability. If you cannot find these on the shelves, they may already be on loan. *Remember: these are only recommendations; try other material as well.* You may also want to buy your own copies of some of the most useful items. You can buy or order these from John Smiths, the University bookshop, on the lower level or the Fraser Building (opposite the main library, E2 on the campus map), or even order new or used copies via the on-line bookshop Amazon (new & used; see www.amazon.co.uk), Abe Books (used only; see www.abebooks.co.uk/) or similar site.

The Student Representative Council (SRC), based in the John McIntyre Building, has a bookshop for secondhand textbooks, while you can buy new books in John Smith's Book Shop in the Fraser Building.

Writing

- Ideal introductory books for self-study:
 - *Academic Writing*, Stephen Bailey (Routledge, 2015). Catalogue number: ENG H500700
 - *50 Steps to Improving your Academic Writing*, Chris Sowton (Garnet, 2012). Catalogue number: ENG H400900
- Complete introduction to organising and writing different types of essays, plus detailed explanations and exercises on sentence structure and linking: *Writing Academic English*, Alice Oshima & Ann Hogue (Pearson Longman, 2007; ENG H400600) plus additional Answer Book (ENG H400601)

For detailed guidance on the structure and language of research writing:

- *Writing up Research*, Robert Weissberg & Suzanne Buker (Prentice Hall, 1990) plus additional Answer Book (ENGLISH D478 WEI)
- Similar in scope but more advanced: *Academic Writing for Graduate Students, Third Edition: Essential Tasks and Skills*, John Swales & Christine Feak (University of Michigan Press, 2012) plus additional *Commentary* book (= answers) (ENG H400400 and GEN LIT C110 SWA4)

Listening

- For general practice you can listen to the radio or watch British TV (see information on the Language Resource Library above). Watching the news, especially local news bulletins, is a good way of hearing a variety of different accents. You can get English subtitles for nearly all programmes (including live news) on any digital TV. Similarly, DVDs will also have subtitles.
- Listening to lectures: *Study Listening*, Tony Lynch (CUP; 2nd edition, 2004; ENG J3012-00/01 and ENGLISH D113.U8 LYN3), and *Academic Listening Encounters: life in society*, Kim Sanabria (CUP, 2012; ENG J300700/01)

Other Skills

There are many books you can use for further practice in grammar, vocabulary, reading, speaking & pronunciation. General coursebooks and specifically those for the IELTS exam may also have useful exercises.

Grammar: for sentence structure and linking, *Writing Academic English*, Alice Oshima & Hogue (see above); for other aspects of grammar, there are many grammar reference & practice books.

Pronunciation

- general practice: *English Pronunciation in Use*, Mark Hancock (CUP, 2003; ENG L300500/01) plus others in the same series, and the *New Headway Pronunciation* series (ENG L3000/L4000)

- individual sounds: *Ship or Sheep?* Ann Baker (CUP, 2006; ENG L200200/01/02)
- connected speech, stress and intonation: *Speaking Clearly*, Pamela Rogerson, Judy B. Gilbert (CUP, 1990; ENG L300900/01)
- spelling & pronunciation: *Spelling and Pronunciation for English Language Readers*, Susan Boyer (Boyer Educational Resources, 2003; ENG L300600)

Presentations: for presentation language and pronunciation, *Presenting in English*, Mark Powell (Engage Learning, 2011; ENG N400300/01).

Reading

- for academic study: *Study Reading*, Eric H. Glendinning, Beverly Holmström (CUP, 2004; EDUCATION J95 2004-G or ENG G3007-00).
- reading for personal interest: 'Graded Readers'. Research has shown that extensive reading of subjects that you are interested in has significant long-term benefits for your language learning. To help you with this, the Language Resource Library has 'graded readers': versions of famous or popular books whose language is appropriate to students at different levels. The librarians will gladly advise you on these.

Vocabulary

- *Academic Vocabulary in Use*, Michael McCarthy & Felicity O'Dell (CUP, 2008; ENG D500500) plus others in the same series including subject-specific books in Law, Business etc.
- *English for Academic Study: Vocabulary (course book)*, C. Campbell (Garnet Publishing, 2012; ENG D400700)