

Virtual Resources for English Educators & Learners



February 2021

For English Educators:

American English for Educators Facebook Page

Description: The [American English for Educators Facebook Page](#) is an interactive platform aimed toward engaging English language teachers around the world with opportunities to reflect on their practice; we also aim to provide access to useful resources, creative teaching ideas, and professional development opportunities.

February's Theme: **Motivating Students in the Online English Language classroom**

Link to group: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishforEducators/>

Access Teachers' Corner Facebook Group



Description: The newly launched [Access Teachers' Corner](#) Facebook group is a dynamic space that aims primarily to support teachers who work with English Access Microscholarship Students, i.e., adolescents aged 13-20, although most of our themes will be relevant for teachers of all ages and programs. All Access teachers (and other educators) are welcome!

February's Topic: **Project Based Learning**

Our new expert, Lottie Baker will explore what project-based learning is and some characteristics of effective PBL. All Access teachers and other educators are welcome!

Link to group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AccessTeachersCorner/>

American English YouTube Channel

Our [American English YouTube](#) channel is an outstanding resource for English language teaching and learning. The channel has a total of 6776 videos, divided into sections aimed at English language learners and English language teachers.

Featured Section: [For English Language Teachers: Deep Dives into Professional Development by Topic](#)

This newly added section features **15 thematic playlists**. Twelve playlists consist of our full-length professional development webinars organized by topic; three consist of short video clips that highlight teaching tips by topic.

Link: <https://state-low.box.com/v/YouTube-Playlists-for-Teachers>



Featured AE Animated Video: Adjectives to Describe People Part 3

Description: How do you handle stress? Listen to this conversation between two teachers to learn new adjectives used to describe people. Definitions for each adjective are provided.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/XYvUBtwm5Gg>

American English Live Series 10



American English Live: Teacher Development Series 10 begins on January 27, 2021! Follow American English for Educators on Facebook to stay updated on each event in the series! [facebook.com/AmericanEnglishforEducators](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishforEducators)
You can check the local start time in your region here: bit.ly/ChecktheTime

Certificate

To learn about viewing group sessions and a chance to earn an e-certificate when you attend 4 out of 6 sessions, contact your Regional English Language Office or local

U.S. Embassy: <https://americanenglish.state.gov/support-near-you-regional-english-language-officer-relo>

Presentation Dates and Titles: 16:00 & 21:00 Turkey-time

February 10, 2021 - 8 am and 1 pm ET

Presentation: Creating Community Online

Presenter: Heather Gaddis

February 24, 2021 - 8 am and 1 pm ET

Presentation: Tips and Activities for Creating a Communicative EFL Classroom Using Online Meeting Software

Presenters: Lea Gabay and Kelly Vassar

March 10, 2021 - 8 am and 1 pm ET

Presentation: Increasing Student Talk Time in the Online Classroom

Presenter: Christine Esche

March 24, 2021 - 8 am and 1 pm ET

Presentation: Differentiating Instruction (Online!) for Equity in Learning

Presenter: Chloe Bellows

April 7, 2021 - 8 am and 1 pm ET

Presentation: Effective Assessment Practices for Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning in an Online Environment

Presenter: Kendra Staley

OPEN MOOCs: TESOL Methodology, and English for Business & Entrepreneurship

MOOC: English for Business and Entrepreneurship – Course extended!

Due to high demand, English for Business and Entrepreneurship OPEN MOOC for learners, has been extended until **March 21, 2021**. The MOOC is designed for non-native English speakers who are interested in improving their language skills and knowledge of business and entrepreneurship at the same time. Participants will receive step-by-step guidance on the basic elements of starting up a new business. This is a self-paced course. Self-paced MOOCs offer participants the opportunity to complete courses on their own schedule.

Participants can enroll in this course until **March 21, 2021**. Participants may log in and complete coursework at any time during the course. However, all coursework must be completed by **March 26, 2021** to pass.

Enrollment Link: <https://www.canvas.net/browse/fhi/courses/english-business-entrepreneurship>

Dates to remember

Enrollment close date: March 21, 2021 (ET)

Course end date: March 26, 2021 (ET)

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English for Journalism- ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!

English for Journalism is an OPEN MOOC opening on **January 11, 2021**. It is designed for non-native English speakers who are interested in developing the skills needed for a career in modern journalism. Participants will learn about the history of journalism, how to research, pitch, and interview, writing for newspapers and magazines, and the basics of broadcasting news. This is a self-paced course, which will be open for 12 weeks. Self-paced MOOCs offer participants the opportunity to complete courses on their own schedule.

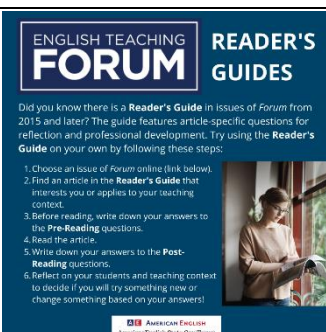
Participants can enroll in this course until **March 26, 2021**. Participants may log in and complete coursework at any time during the course. However, all coursework must be completed by **April 5, 2021** to pass.

Dates to remember

Enrollment open date: January 11, 2021

Enrollment close date: March 26, 2021

Course end date: April 5, 2021



The image shows the cover of the 'English Teaching Forum Reader's Guides'. It features a blue header with the text 'ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM' and 'READER'S GUIDES'. Below the header, there is a list of six steps for using the guide, followed by a photograph of a woman reading a book. The American English logo is at the bottom.

ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM
READER'S GUIDES

Did you know there is a **Reader's Guide** in issues of *Forum* from 2015 and later? The guide features article-specific questions for reflection and professional development. Try using the **Reader's Guide** on your own by following these steps:

1. Choose an issue of *Forum* online (link below).
2. Find an article in the **Reader's Guide** that interests you or applies to your teaching context.
3. Before reading, write down your answers to the **Pre-Reading** questions.
4. Read the article.
5. Write down your answers to the **Post-Reading** questions.
6. Reflect on your students and teaching context to decide if you will try something new or change something based on your answers!

American English
American English State Department

English Teaching Forum

Latest Issue: *English Teaching Forum* (Volume 58, Number 3) is available on the American English website. Download it for ideas about teaching using simple English Wikipedia and to learn a new game called Mingle Bingo and much more. **58/4 coming soon!**

Link: <https://americanenglish.state.gov/resources/english-teaching-forum-2020-volume-58-number-3>

For English Learners:

American English at State Facebook Page



Description: The [American English at State Facebook Page](#) is an interactive platform aimed toward engaging English language learners with content and opportunities for language practice that support the English language acquisition process. Please share it as appropriate with relevant audiences in your area.

Synonyms for: **DIFFICULT**
(adjective) /ˈdɪfəkəlt/

February's Theme: **Online Etiquette/ Netiquette**

February's Language Point: **Synonyms**
New and Continuing Content: *Faces and Places across the United States* is a series of live casual conversations with Americans across the country. Our next interview will go live on **Tuesday, February 2nd, at 11 a.m. DC time** and our guest, Hansley from New Jersey, will discuss his teaching career.

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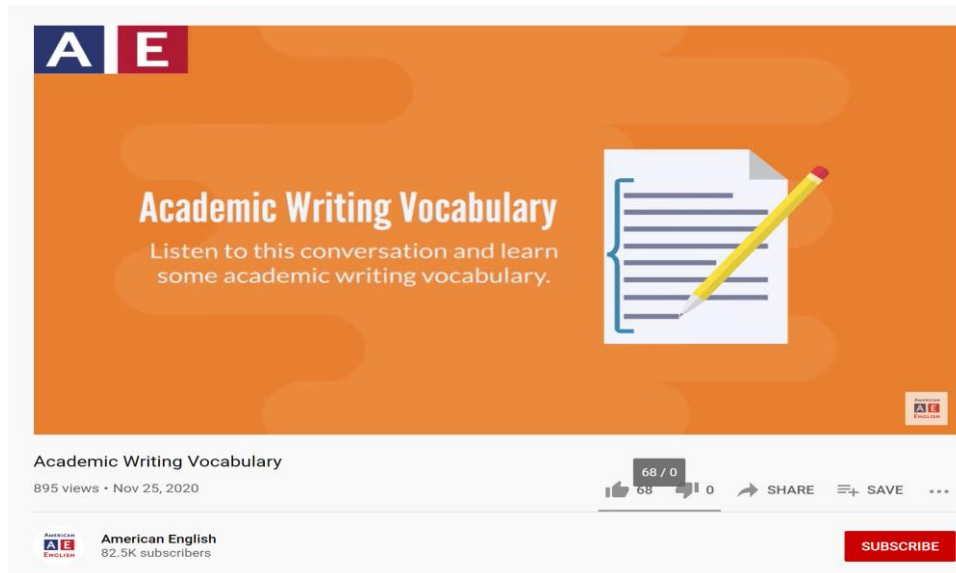
americanenglish.state.gov

A E AMERICAN ENGLISH

Dear students!

Check out these videos on American English

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy9QEgdasZA&feature=youtu.be>



22.33 - A Podcast of Exchange Stories



Listen to the RELO Podcasts: [#KellePaçaAndEnglish](https://www.relo.org/podcasts/kelle-paca-and-english)



Listen on:

- Spreaker:** <https://www.spreaker.com/show/kelle-paca-and-english>
- Spotify:** <https://open.spotify.com/show/5xYMQwCFgVMEjg0K9I6HVh?si=hKJRYQmBT0iHrIbWAQggWw>
- Apple Podcasts:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kelle-pa%C3%A7a-english/id1521468356?uo=4>



Google

Podcasts: <https://www.google.com/podcasts?feed=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3BzZWFrZXluY29tL3Nob3cvNDQ4Mjc0OS9lcGlzb2Rlcy9mZWVvk>

Kelle Paça & English podcast series by U.S. Embassy Turkey

Kelle Paça and English is a podcast for English language enthusiasts - both teachers and learners. On each episode, U.S. Embassy Turkey former Regional English Language Officer David Fay invites an English Language Fellow in Turkey to talk about English language, teaching in Turkey and Kelle Paça - the soup that is as complex and nuanced as the English language. You can watch all the series in the links above.

ECA Podcasts:



ECA's podcast can serve as a teaching tool to help English language learners develop their language and critical thinking through stories. From native speakers from the United States to foreigners from around the world, students will have access to the diverse sounds of global English. Audio and transcripts for each episode can be downloaded directly from the website eca.state.gov/2233.

Currently the podcast is featuring a series called "**Trekkig in India**." If you're developing creative ways to make use of the 22.33 podcast in the classroom or virtually, please reach out to share your experience with the ECA podcast team at ecacollaboratory@state.gov.

Other open education resources (OERs):

Learn

- American English Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs)
<http://bit.ly/AmEnMOOCs>
- Scholastic has posted daily online activities for students and teachers
<https://bit.ly/SchlStcLrn>
- Free online courses from the top U.S. Ivy League universities
<https://bit.ly/IvyLgCrs>

- 1500 Free online courses from top universities - <https://bit.ly/UnivMOOCS>
- NASA's STEM at-home activities - <https://go.nasa.gov/2QUDVV5>
- United States Agency for Global Media videos of news from all over the world in multiple languages - <https://www.usagmdirect.com/en-US>
- NASA has put together an excellent toolkit with resources, videos, lesson plans, and posters. <http://bit.ly/NASAApr22>

Explore

- Hidden Worlds of U.S. National Parks 360 tours - <https://bit.ly/NtnlPrksHdnWrlds>
- U.S. National Parks virtual tours - <http://bit.ly/NtnlPrkVT>
- NASA's Explore Mars - <https://accessmars.withgoogle.com/>
- National Women's History Museum exhibit - <https://bit.ly/WmHstrExhbt>
- National Museum of Art virtual exhibit - <http://bit.ly/NtnlMoArt>
- National Museum of Natural History exhibit - <http://bit.ly/VRNtrlHstry>
- JSTOR digital library is now open to the public - <https://about.jstor.org/oa-andfree/>

Enjoy

- New York's Metropolitan Opera streams free concerts <https://www.metopera.org/>
- Watch animals live at the Monterey Bay Aquarium - <https://bit.ly/MontBayAquar>
- NASA's media library is now accessible and copyright free <https://bit.ly/NASAMediaLbry>
- Take a virtual Disney ride - <https://bit.ly/DsnyRides>
- Watch celebrities reading children's books - <https://bit.ly/StarsReading>
- iCivics games, which teach about U.S. politics, history, and democracy, can be downloaded and played without the internet. <https://bit.ly/iCvcsNoIntrnt>

Additional Resources from UNESCO:

Digital learning management systems

- CenturyTech – Personal learning pathways with micro -lessons to address gaps in knowledge, challenge students and promote long-term memory retention.
- Paper Airplanes – Matches individuals with personal tutors for 12-16 week sessions conducted via video conferencing platforms, available in English and Turkish.
- ClassDojo – Connects teachers with students and parents to build classroom communities.
- Edmodo – Tools and resources to manage classrooms and engage students remotely.
- Google Classroom – Helps classes connect remotely, communicate and stay-organized.
- Moodle – Community-driven and globally-supported open learning platform.

- Schoology – Tools to support instruction, learning, grading, collaboration and assessment.
- Seesaw – Enables the creation of collaborative and sharable digital learning portfolios and learning resources.
- Skooler – Tools to turn Microsoft Office software into an education platform.

Systems purpose-built for mobile phones

- Cell-Ed – Learner-centered, skills-based learning platform with offline options.
- Eneza Education - Revision and learning materials for basic feature phones.
- Funzi – Mobile learning service that supports teaching and training for large groups.
- Ustad Mobile – Access and share educational content offline.
- KaiOS – Software that gives smartphone capabilities to inexpensive mobile phones and helps open portals to learning opportunities.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Platforms

- Alison – Online courses from experts.
- Coursera – Online courses taught by instructors from well-recognized universities and companies.
- EdX – Online courses from leading educational institutions.
- University of the People - Online university with open access to higher education.
- Canvas – Lifelong learning and professional development for educators.
- Future Learn – Online courses to help learners study, build professional skills and connect with experts.
- TED-Ed Earth School – Online lessons about nature made available continuously during a 5-week period between Earth Day (April 22nd) and World Environment Day (June 5th)

Self-directed learning content

- Discovery Education – Free educational resources and lessons about viruses and outbreaks for different grade levels.
- Facebook Get Digital - Lesson plans, conversation starters, activities, videos and other resources for students to stay connected.
- Khan Academy – Free online courses, lessons and practice.
- LabXchange – Curated and user-created digital learning content delivered on an online platform that enables educational and research experiences.
- OneCourse – Child -focused application to deliver reading, writing and numeracy education.
- Quizlet – Learning flashcards and games to support learning in multiple subjects.
- Code Week – List of online resources to teach and learn computer coding, available in all EU languages.
- Discovery Education – Free educational resources and lessons about viruses and outbreaks for different grade levels.

- Duolingo – Application to support language learning. Supports numerous base and target languages.

Mobile reading applications

- Global Digital Library – Digital storybooks and other reading materials easily accessible from mobile phones or computers.
- StoryWeaver – Digital repository of multilingual stories for children.
- Worldreader – Digital books and stories accessible from mobile devices and functionality to support reading instruction.

Collaboration platforms that support live-video communication

- Dingtalk – Communication platform that supports video conferencing, task and calendar management, attendance tracking and instant messaging.
- Lark – Collaboration suite of interconnected tools, including chat, calendar, creation and cloud storage.
- Hangouts Meet – Video calls integrated with other Google's G-Suite tools.
- Teams – Chat, meet, call and collaboration features integrated with Microsoft Office software.
- Skype – Video and audio calls with talk, chat and collaboration features.
- Zoom – Cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, collaboration, chat and webinars.
- ClassDojo – Connects teachers with students and parents to build classroom communities.

Tools to create of digital learning content

- Thinglink(link is external) – Tools to create interactive images, videos and other multimedia resources.
- Buncee – Supports the creation and sharing visual representations of learning content, including media-rich lessons, reports, newsletters and presentations.
- EdPuzzle – Video lesson creation software.
- Kaltura – Video management and creation tools with integration options for various learning management systems.
- Nearpod – Software to create lessons with informative and interactive assessment activities.
- Pear Deck – Facilitates the design of engaging instructional content with various integration features.
- Squigl – Content creation platform that transforms speech or text into animated videos.
- Trello -A visual collaboration tool used by teachers and professors for easier coursework planning, faculty collaboration, and classroom organization.

** Updated on February 1, 2021 with info from:

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-emergencies/coronavirus-school-closures/solutions>