

USEFUL INTERNET SITES

The English language section updates and adds material to the dispensa compiled by Prof. Silvia Monti. Two subject-specific sections, one in art and art history and another in history and philosophy, have been added to give you the opportunity to read original texts and work with original material in English in your subject area.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Sites for Practice and Self-study

Guide to Grammar and Writing (<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index2.htm>): grammar rules presented in an informal, chatty way; interactive activities on grammar and writing.

Irregular Verbs (<http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwesl/egw/jones.htm>): in addition to the usual list of the irregular verbs, contains a useful table of all verb tenses in English. Self-tests.

Activities for ESL Students (<http://a4esl.org/>): excellent assortment of interactive activities on grammar and vocabulary. The Podcast section is especially good for listening comprehension practice.

English Basics (<http://www.rhlschool.com/english.htm>): worksheets on English verbs, nouns, adjectives, synonyms, and antonyms.

English Club (<http://www.englishclub.com/>): The Learning Centre has many exercises in listening, speaking, reading, writing, English grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation through games and quizzes.

English lessons and tests (<http://www.englishlearner.com/tests/test.html>): easy to use, well-articulated site with free English lessons and exercises on grammar, vocabulary and reading for all levels.

English Page (<http://www.englishpage.com/>): vast collection of in-depth English tutorials with a grammar book, reference section and interactive exercises on grammar, vocabulary, verb tenses, modals, prepositions, phrasal verbs. Excellent reading section, with a choice of on-line newspapers and e-books, as well as a listening section with passages from National Public Radio and the BBC.

The Grammar Aquarium (<http://perso.wanadoo.es/autoenglish/freeexercises.htm>): well-organized site with exercises on basic grammar as well as specific problems in English language study. Exercises are in either on-line or printable versions, with explanatory notes.

John's ESL Community (<http://www.johnsesl.com/templates/students/>): apart from a large collection of exercises on vocabulary, grammar, listening, reading, writing and idioms along with interactive activities (many of which are challenging and amusing), the site also has guidelines and strategies for more developing effective language skills.

Listening

BBC World Service Learning English (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>)

Listen to English by Radio (<http://www.englishclub.com/listening/index.htm>) access to English language radio news programmes

Randall's ESL Cyber Listening Lab: <http://esl-lab.com/>, listening quizzes and exercises sorted by topic and level of difficulty, with audio and video files. Well-designed for self-study.

Reading

Almost all of the world's major English language newspapers have on-line editions. Two especially good ones are *The Guardian* (www.guardian.co.uk) and *The International Herald Tribune* (www.ihf.com). For a wide choice of newspapers at just one click, try the *English Page* (<http://www.englishpage.com/readingroom/readingroomintro.html>), which has other types of reading material in English as well (magazines, books, literature and reference works).

English Club (<http://www.englishclub.com/reading/index.htm>): Various texts, rated by level of difficulty.

Grammar, Usage and Style: Reference

Common Errors in English (<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/index.html>): alphabetical list of the most common errors of native speakers.

The Idiom Connection: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6720/>, alphabetical lists of English idioms and interactive quizzes on their use.

Word Spy (<http://www.wordspy.com/index.asp>): a site devoted to recently coined words and phrases, old words that are being used in new ways, new words and phrases that have appeared in newspapers, magazines, books, press releases, and Web sites.

Word Wizard (<http://www.wordwizard.com>): a word-lover's site dealing with more refined aspects of the English language (the origins of specific English words or phrases, English usage, Quotations, Slang, Insults, etc.).

Dictionaries and reference material

OneLook Dictionaries (<http://www.onelook.com/>): multi-purpose searching tool (translation, definition) that allows the consultation of many 100 dictionaries at the same time.

Roget's Thesaurus (<http://thesaurus.reference.com/>) online version of the English dictionary of synonyms.

Idioms and slang

Commonly used American Slang (<http://www.manythings.org/slang>): more than 280 American Slang expressions sorted alphabetically, with the indication of their exact meaning.

Dictionary of Slang and Colloquialisms - UK (<http://www.peevish.co.uk/slang>): reference guide to the many slang, informal expressions and colloquialisms heard in the United Kingdom.

Toon into Idioms: <http://www.elfs.com/2nInX-Title.html>, an amusing approach to learning idioms, with illustrations, sample dialogues and exercises.

LINKS

Linguistic Funland (<http://www.tesol.net/teslact.html>): links to more than 90 web sites devoted to interactive activities and exercise for ESL students

Taiwan Teacher: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/1979/grammar.html>, a growing list of grammar quizzes on articles, conjunctions, adjectives, verb forms, reading comprehension exercises

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Fundamental reference tools:

Groves Dictionary of Art the most authoritative resource for all aspects of western and non-western art, with articles written by authorities in the field, excellent overviews and bibliographical references, is on line at www.groveart.com. Although for subscribers, it gives a free demo.

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General survey texts

Written as textbooks for university art history survey courses, these volumes are excellent general reference tools. They contain concise, authoritative information on major developments in art history from prehistory to the present day, as well as bibliography and further references for more in-depth investigation (period surveys, monographs on schools, movements and individual artists, etc.)

H. W. Janson, *History of Art: The Western Tradition* (Prentice Hall, 2001)

Revised edition of the standard text, which is unfortunately out of print. Check this internet support site: <http://cwx.prenhall.com/bookbind/pubbooks/janson5/>. Click on any chapter, then 'Student Toolbox' for a list of general and art history reference books, as well as 'Audio Pronunciation' for a guide to the pronunciation of specialist terms.

Search Engines

General:

Google (www.google.com) is a good place to start for just about anything. The Images section is especially useful for locating reproductions of art works.

Universal art history:

The best online site is Chris Witcombe, Sweetbriar College, Art History Resources on the Web (<http://witcombe.sbc.edu>). Art is organized by periods; museums are organized by country. By clicking on a period, lists of sites on artists, works of art and monuments are called up.

Metropolitan Museum Time Line (www.metmuseum.org/toah/splash.htm). Spectacular interactive site providing general historical background. Excellent for comparative approach placing all periods in a global context.

Mother of all Art and Art History Links Page (<http://art-design.umich.edu/mother/>), a directory for research in art history and events in the art world.

Another popular site (www.artcyclopedia.com).

Theory and Criticism

Mark Harden's Artchive: critical review of recent developments in the world of art, plus an archive of theory and criticism (<http://www.artchive.com>).

Architecture

An excellent source for architecture, named after the ancient Roman architect Vitruvius: (www.vitruvio.ch).

Historical and religious background

A more general site is the *The Catholic Encyclopedia* www.newadvent.org/cathen/. It has no illustrations, but does have extensive articles on art and literature in relation to the Catholic Church.

PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY

Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind (<http://www.philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/>): excellent source with definitions of philosophical concepts, plus discussions and references for further reading.

Britannia History (<http://www.britannia.com/history/>): an American site, with information on all periods of British history, including documents and primary sources, timelines, British monarchs, and church history.

British History Online (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk>): a digital library containing essential printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles.