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ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

U.S.A. Learns: Web Portal for Adult Learners

Recently, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education at the US Department of Education launched a free website for immigrants and other adult learners to improve their English language skills online. There are two complete English courses for Beginning (EFLs 2-3) and Low-Intermediate (EFLs 4-5). The courses are based on the series *Putting English to Work* and *English for All* that you may be familiar with. There is also a third section for reading practice, which consists of news stories from the California Distance Learning Project. The site is fairly simple to navigate and only requires you to register your name and a password. The best part is that it's free and learners can work at their own speed on their own time. Visit www.usalearns.org to get started.



Course Menu

Think about your English skills. Click a course to help you improve your listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

1st English Course



Beginning
English skills

2nd English Course



Low-intermediate
English skills

Practice English & Reading



Intermediate
reading skills

Citizenship Resources

- Study questions for the new citizenship test have been translated into 11 languages. Visit the CLINIC website at: <http://www.cliniclegal.org/Refugee/test.html>.
 - New USCIS Civics Flash Cards now in the Bodega! The cards are larger (4x7) and students can write on them with dry erase markers. They are also available for download at: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=bb93667706f7d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=bb93667706f7d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD>
- Visit www.neable.org to order cards or call 800.361.7076.



BEST Plus Test Orders

A reminder when ordering BEST Plus tests - the Center for Applied Linguistics prefers that you place orders for even amounts because you can only activate tests onto your computer in quantities of 20, 50, 100, 300 and 500. Another tip if you are a large program, it's easier on your finance department and the Resource Center's to order enough tests for the entire year.

Alternative Delivery Professional Development

Looking for something to do over winter break? Still need to fulfill your PD requirements for FY09? It's a good time to take advantage of the alternative delivery offerings on the [Calendar of Events](#). There are 47 to choose from. If that's not enough, there are oodles more books in the "Design Your Own PD" activity. For this activity, you select a book to read, write a reaction paper and submit for a certificate (and stipend). Keep in mind, you can do as many professional development activities as you like, but you may only receive payment for one or two depending on the number of hours you work.

To help ease your search, some of the ESOL titles are:

- *Discovering the Human Language: Parts 1, 2 and 3*
- *Gender and English language learners*
- *Learners' Stories: Difference and Diversity in Language Learning*
- *New Ways in Teaching (Adults, Culture, Listening, Vocabulary) Series*
- *Practical English Language Teaching*
- *Reflective Teaching in Second Language Classroom*
- *Teach Like Your Hair is on Fire*
- *Teaching Content to English Language Learners: Strategies for Secondary School Success*
- *The Practice of English Language Teaching (with DVD)*
- *The Study of Language*

To read one of the above books for PD credit, simply register for the "Design Your Own PD" activity on the [Calendar of Events](#) and the Northeast ABE Resource Center will send you the book and materials to complete the activity. To learn more about the titles visit www.neablelibrary.org. If you have questions, please call 800.361.7076 or email info@neable.org.