RESOURCES FOR TEACHING ENGLISH IN COMMUNITIES

A guide to teaching resources for community ESOL classes
Introduction

This guide has been written for any organisation running ESOL courses. It will help them find teaching and learning materials, either for use in the classroom or as online self-access materials, to supplement their courses.

The guide has been organised thematically around the 11 units of the English My Way course.

1. All about me
2. Daily life
3. Out and about
4. Shopping
5. Where I live
6. Accessing local services
7. Healthcare
8. Technology in our lives
9. Me and My Child’s school
10. Things I want to do
11. Employability

English My Way provides classroom and online content aimed at learners who have very little spoken or written English. The resources selected in the main section of this guide range from this level to Entry 1/Beginner.

You may have learners who are working at a higher level than this and so each topic also has a section labelled ‘Higher levels’ which contains resources up to E2/Elementary level.

For learners working above this level, you will be able to find a large number of resources online; we have included links in the next section to help you with this. You may also find suitable resources in commercially published ELT textbooks, however you should bear in mind that these resources are not usually written with learners based in the UK in mind, and so you should consider the suitability of each resource carefully.
Useful resource sites

**English My Way** has classroom resources for teaching beginner learners of English. All the resources are freely available once you register at [http://www.englishmyway.co.uk/](http://www.englishmyway.co.uk/).

**ESOL Nexus** from the British Council is divided into 3 sections, one for research, one with lesson plans, activities and CPD resources for teachers and one with self-access online resources for learners. Resources range from below E1 to L2 [http://esol.britishcouncil.org](http://esol.britishcouncil.org).

**Skills Workshop** is a bank of lesson plans and resources aimed at teachers in further and community education. All resources have been submitted by users of the site and reviewed before publication. There are ESOL resources from below E1 to L2, as well as Functional Skills English and Maths resources. [http://www.skillsworkshop.org/](http://www.skillsworkshop.org/)

**Excellence Gateway** is a website that provides resources for teachers in further and community education. Of particular relevance to ESOL teachers are the Skills for Life teaching and learning resources which can be found by following links on the About page and the TALENT resource bank whose resources can be found by searching for ‘Talent website’ in the site’s search box. [http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/)

**Onestopenglish** is a commercial website from Macmillan, some content is available free, while other resources require a paid subscription. It contains a wide range of classroom resources and CPD content. The beginner ESOL resources are all available free. [http://www.onestopenglish.com/](http://www.onestopenglish.com/)

**BBC Skillswise** has online games and resources aimed at literacy and ESOL learners. There are also similar resources for maths. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/)

**ESOL Scotland** is a website from the Scottish Government, which includes links to classroom resources in its Providers and Practitioners section. [http://www.esolscotland.com/](http://www.esolscotland.com/)

**SQA** also offers classroom and online learning resources mapped to Scottish ESOL levels (Access 2 is roughly equivalent to Entry 1 in England and Wales). [http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/5398.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/5398.html)

**ESOL Resources** is a website with a number of video & audio resources and flashcard images for use in the classroom. [http://www.esolresources.co.uk/](http://www.esolresources.co.uk/)

**ESOL courses** has online self-access resources for ESOL learners from beginner level and up. [http://www.esolcourses.com/](http://www.esolcourses.com/)

**Learning Unlimited** has a number of ESOL resource packs and toolkits for teachers and centres running ESOL projects available in the Resources section of their website. [http://www.learningunlimited.co/](http://www.learningunlimited.co/)
All about me

This unit from English My Way contains lessons on saying, reading and writing addresses, writing short texts about yourself and your family as well as developing language for greetings, making offers and talking about likes and dislikes. The classroom materials can all be found here All about me.

Classroom resources

Reading personal information is a lesson plan and set of resources for beginner readers from ESOL Nexus. Lesson plan: Reading personal information

Me and My Culture is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus aimed at 1-1 tutors, however many of the resources would be appropriate for use with groups. When using this, consider how you can get learners to speak to each other. Teachers’ pack: Me and my culture.

Talking about the weather develops learners’ small talk by giving them language to talk about the weather. This is available both as a lesson plan (Lesson plan: Talking about the weather) and an online resource (Online resource: Talking about the weather). Note that the video for classroom use can be found in the online resource.

Skills for Life E1 Unit 1 and Unit 9 These sets of resources focus on giving personal information and talking about friends and family, and are available here: Teachers’ pack: SfL E1 Unit 1; Teachers’ pack: SfL E1 Unit 9

Onestopenglish: Absolute beginners units 1-4 are a set of lesson plans for helping beginner learners give personal information and talk about their likes and dislikes. They are available from the Onestopenglish website here: Lesson plans: Absolute beginners.

Online learner resources

Giving personal information is a self-access online resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners practice the language used for asking for and giving personal details. Online resource: Giving personal information

Writing about yourself is an online self-access resource from ESOL Nexus which gives learners practise making simple sentences about themselves. Online resource: Writing about yourself

Reading about family is an interactive self-access resources for learners to practise reading a text about a family. Online resource: Reading about family
Higher levels

For learners who are too advanced for an English My Way course, you might like to try the following resources:

**We live in the UK** is a video-based resource which gives learners language to talk about other people; it also teaches learners some simple details about the UK. It is available both as a classroom resource ([lesson plan: We live in the UK](#)) and an online resource ([online resource: We live in the UK](#)).

**Getting to know your neighbours** is an interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus. This gives learners language to talk about their friends and neighbours. It is available as a [speaking activity](#), or a [listening activity](#).
Daily Life

This unit from English My Way contains lessons on talking about times, days and months as well as routine activities and festivals. The lessons are all available here: Daily Life.

Classroom resources

**My favourite season** This listening lesson from ESOL Nexus helps learners talk about different times of year. It is available both as a classroom resource ([Lesson plan: my favourite season](#)) and an interactive self-access resource ([Online resource: my favourite season](#)).

**Skills for Life E1 Unit 2** This set of resources focuses on everyday activities and is available here: [Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 2](#).

**Onestopenglish: Absolute beginners units 7-8** are a set of lesson plans for helping beginner learners talk about times and dates. They are available from the Onestopenglish website here: [Lesson plans: Absolute beginners](#).

Online learner resources

**My Sundays** This listening activity from ESOL Nexus helps learners develop their listening skills and learn language to talk about weekend activities. [Online activity: My Sundays](#)

Higher levels

**My Routine** In this activity from ESOL Nexus, learners develop their listening skills and learn vocabulary for describing everyday activities. [Online activity: My routine](#)

**Every day** This video resource from ESOL Nexus shows a taxi driver talking about his daily routine. It is available as a classroom resource ([Lesson plan: Every day](#)) or as an interactive resource ([Online resource: Every day](#)).

**New year’s resolutions** This listening lesson from ESOL Nexus helps learners understand an important New Year tradition in British culture. [Online resource: New year’s resolutions](#)

**Adverbs of frequency** This is a self-access grammar resource from ESOL Nexus. [Online resource: adverbs of frequency](#)
Out and About

This unit from the English My Way programme contains lessons on greeting people, finding information about local transport, reading timetables and asking for tickets. Out and About

Classroom resources

Skills for Life E1 Unit 2 This set of resources focuses on local transport and is available here: Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 4

How we travel This lesson plan from ESOL Nexus teaches learners transport vocabulary and helps them talk about how they get around. It is available as a classroom resource [Lesson plan: How we travel] and an interactive self-access resource [Online resource: How we travel].

Onestopenglish: Absolute beginners units 10 is a lesson plan from Onestopenglish about transport. It is available here: Lesson plan: Absolute beginner: Unit 10

Online learner resources

Types of transport This interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus teaches learners transport vocabulary. Online resource: types of transport

Transport This interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus help learners develop their spelling knowledge of transport vocabulary. Online resource: transport

Higher levels

My journey to work This lesson plan from ESOL Nexus develops learners listening skills and provides a model for learners to talk about how they use public transport. Lesson plan: my journey to work

Taking a train This interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus gives learners practice at reading train timetables. Online resource: taking a train

Driving in the UK – documents This lesson plan from ESOL Nexus helps learners to understand what documents they need to drive in the UK. Lesson plan: Driving in the UK - documents

UK roadsigns This interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus teaches learners what roadsigns mean. Online resource: UK roadsigns
Shopping

This unit from the English My Way programme teaches learners vocabulary for food and other items that they may buy. It also provides support for learners with typical conversations in shops. Shopping

Classroom resources

Skills for Life E1 Units 2 & 9 This set of resources focuses on shopping. Unit 3 looks at food shopping, while unit 9 looks at shopping for clothes and other items. They are available here: Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 3 & Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 9.

Money and shopping is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus aimed at 1-1 tutors, however many of the resources would be appropriate for use with groups. When using this, consider how you can get learners to speak to each other. Teachers’ pack: Money and shopping.

Out and about is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus aimed at 1-1 tutors, however many of the resources would be appropriate for use with groups. This unit includes a section looking at language to use at markets and supermarkets. Teachers’ pack: Out and about.

ESOL and Numeracy is a teacher’s pack from ESOL Nexus, which addresses numeracy both in the context of prices in shopping, and measurement in recipes. Teachers’ pack: ESOL and Numeracy.

Shopping is a video resource from ESOL Nexus which helps develop learners’ shopping vocabulary. It is available as a classroom resource (Lesson plan: Shopping) and an interactive resource (Online resource: Shopping).

At the department store There are two lesson plans from ESOL Nexus which help learners develop the language they need to ask for things in a department store. Lesson plan: At the department store 1; Lesson plan: At the department store 2.

Going shopping is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps develop learners’ vocabulary for asking for things in shops. Lesson plan: Going shopping.

Onestopenglish: Absolute beginners units 5 & 6 are lesson plans from Onestopenglish about shopping. They are available here: Lesson plan: Absolute beginners: Unit 5; Lesson plan: Absolute beginner: Unit 6.
Online learner resources

Talking about money is an online numeracy resource from ESOL Nexus which helps to develop learners’ ability to talk about prices. Online resource: talking about money

Food this online resource from ESOL Nexus helps learners build up their food vocabulary. Online resource: Food

Meals and cooking is an online resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners to build their cooking vocabulary. Online resource: Meals and cooking

Higher levels

Favourite British Foods shows ESOL learners talking about their favourite British food. This is available as a classroom resource (Lesson plan: Favourite British food) and an interactive resource (Online resource: Favourite British food).

Supermarkets is a vocabulary exercise from ESOL Nexus which helps learners build their supermarket vocabulary. Online resource: Supermarkets

Describing a picture: market stall is a resource which helps learners build up their speaking skills related to shopping. Online resource: Describing a picture: market stall

Know your consumer rights is a video lesson plan from ESOL Nexus. It helps learners understand their consumer rights and practise their listening skills. It also helps to build up relevant vocabulary. Lesson plan: Know your consumer rights
Where I live

This unit from the English My Way programme teaches learners vocabulary for different places in a neighbourhood as well as giving language for asking directions. Where I live

Classroom resources

Skills for Life E1 Unit 6 This set of resources focuses on the local neighbourhood. It is available here: Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 6.

Prepositions on the high street this is a lesson plan which helps learners use prepositions of place accurately when talking about where they live. Lesson plans: Prepositions on the high street

Places in the town is a lesson aimed at beginner learners and aims to develop learners’ ability to talk about their local area. Lesson plan: places in the town

What’s happening in the town is a lesson plan, designed to help beginner learners carry out role plays appropriate for different places in the town. Lesson plan: what’s happening in the town

Out and about is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus aimed at 1-1 tutors, however many of the resources would be appropriate for use with groups. This unit includes a section talking about places to visit and asking for directions. Teachers’ pack: Out and about

Online learner resources

Destination impossible is a game from BBC Skillswise where learners have to follow directions accurately. Online resource: Destination Impossible

Places in a town is an interactive resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners build their vocabulary for places in the local neighbourhood. Online resource: Places in a town
Higher levels

My town: articles is an online resource from ESOL Nexus where learners listen to a description of a town and practice using articles correctly. Online resource: My town: articles

Reading directions aloud is an online resource from ESOL Nexus, where learners can practice their listening skills when being given directions. Online resource: Reading directions aloud
Accessing Local Services

This unit from the English My Way programme gives learners language that they can use when using job centres, housing services or children’s centres. Accessing local services

Classroom resources

Accommodation is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus which contains a series of lessons about housing issues. Teachers’ pack: Accommodation

Skills for Life E1 Unit 7 This set of resources focuses on homes and services for the home. It is available here: Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 7.

Online learner resources

This online resource from ESOL Nexus helps learners to fill in a short form with their personal details. Online resource: Filling in a short form

Higher levels

The Post Office Learners can practise their listening skills with this interactive resource from ESOL Nexus. Online resource: The Post Office

At the Post Office Learners can practice vocabulary related to the post office with this interactive resource from ESOL Nexus. Online resource: At the Post Office

An emergency is a resource from ESOL Nexus which gives learners the language they need to address urgent problems in their home. It is available as a lesson plan [Lesson plan: An emergency] and an interactive self-access resource [Online resource: An emergency].

Getting a plumber is a resource from ESOL Nexus which helps develop the language needed for getting a plumber to come and fix problems in the house. It is available as a lesson plan [Lesson plan: Getting a plumber] and an interactive self-access resource [Online resource: Getting a plumber].
Healthcare

This unit from the English My Way programme gives learners the language they need to register for and use different health services. Healthcare

Classroom resources

Skills for Life E1 Unit 5 This set of resources focuses on health. It is available here: Teachers pack SfL E1 Unit 5.

Going in to hospital is a set of lessons from ESOL Nexus. It is available as a teachers pack [Teachers pack: Going in to Hospital] and as the following interactive self-access resources:
- Online activity: Reading a letter from hospital
- Online activity: finding your way around a hospital
- Online activity: A hospital visit

Doctors and patients is a speaking activity from ESOL Nexus. Lesson activity: Doctors and patients speaking practice

Reading medicine labels is a reading lesson plan from ESOL Nexus. Lesson plan: Reading medicine labels

Reading a letter from hospital is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus. Lesson plan: Reading a letter from hospital

Parts of the body is a vocabulary lesson from ESOL Nexus. It is available both as a lesson plan [Lesson plan: Parts of the body] and an interactive self-access resource [Online activity: parts of the body].

Online learner resources

Healthy eating is an online listening activity from ESOL Nexus. Learners listen to a conversation between a school nurse and a parent. Online resource: Healthy eating

Higher levels

A first aid kit: what does it contain? This is an online vocabulary activity from ESOL Nexus. Online resource: A first aid kit: what does it contain?

At the hospital is an online vocabulary activity from ESOL Nexus. Online activity: At the hospital
Technology

This unit from the English My Way programme teaches learners the vocabulary to talk about the technology they use everyday. It also seeks to teach them how to carry out everyday online tasks. [Technology](#)

Classroom resources

[Money and shopping](#) is a teachers’ pack from ESOL Nexus aimed at 1-1 tutors, however many of the resources would be appropriate for use with groups. The pack features lesson plans on choosing mobile phones and problems with online shopping. [Teachers’ pack: Money and shopping](#)

Online learner resources

[Online payments](#) is an online vocabulary activity from ESOL Nexus. [Online resource: Online payments](#)

Higher levels

[Internet Safety](#) is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps support learners to talk about internet safety issues. [Lesson plan: Internet safety](#)

[Learning to drive](#) is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus for learners who want to learn to drive. It helps develop skills in finding information on a webpage. [Lesson plan: learning to drive](#)

[Wrong number](#) is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which helps learners understand what to do if they get a call from a wrong number. It is available as a lesson plan ([Lesson plan: Wrong number](#)) and an interactive self-access resource ([Online resource: Wrong number](#)).

[Writing on social networks](#) is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which helps develop learners’ skills in writing in threaded common (such as those in social media). [Lesson plan: Writing on social networks](#)
Me and My Child’s School

This unit from the English My Way programme gives learners the language that they need to describe schools and what their child does at school. It also helps develop learners’ ability to communicate with the school over the phone and in writing. Me and my child’s school

Classroom resources

Things my child needs for school is a vocabulary lesson from ESOL Nexus, which builds learners’ vocabulary for the items that their children will need for school. Lesson plan: Things my child needs for school

Li’s story is a beginner lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps develop learners reading skills through a story about a child being ill at school. Lesson plan: Li’s story

Online learner resources

Reading texts from school is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which helps learners understand text messages they receive from their child’s school. It is available as a lesson plan (Lesson plan: Reading texts from school) and an interactive self-access resource (Online resource: Reading texts from school).

Filling in school forms is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which help learners understand and practice filling in forms similar to those that they may get from their child’s school. It is available as a lesson plan (Lesson plan: Filling in school forms) and an interactive self-access resource (Online resource: Filling in school forms).

A birthday party is a lesson from ESOL Nexus, which presents vocabulary from a typical children’s birthday party in the UK. It is available as a lesson plan (Lesson plan: A birthday party) or an interactive self-access resource (Online resource: A birthday party).
Higher levels

School nurse is an online activity from ESOL Nexus which helps learners develop their listening skills and learn vocabulary related to school. [Online activity: School nurse]

The teachers’ visit is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which helps learners practise the language needed for teacher home visits. It is available as a lesson plan ([Lesson plan: The teacher’s visit]) or as an interactive self-access resource ([Online resource: The teacher’s visit]).

The teacher’s phone call is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which helps learners practise the language they might hear in a phone call from their child’s teacher. It is available as a lesson plan ([Lesson plan: The teachers’ phone call]) or as an interactive self-access resource ([Online resource: The teachers’ phone call]).

Parents’ evening. There are two resources from ESOL Nexus about school parents’ evenings. The first is a self-access listening activity ([Online activity: Parent’s evening]) and the second is a reading-based lesson plan ([Lesson plan: Parents’ evening]).

Arranging a playdate is an online listening resource from ESOL Nexus, which helps learners develop language to use when speaking to other parents. [Online resource: Arranging a playdate]

Application for free school meals is an interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners practise completing forms for applying for school meals. [Application for free school meals]

At school is an online vocabulary activity from ESOL Nexus which helps learners build-up their vocabulary of school-related words. [Online activity: At school]
Things I want to do

This unit from the English My Way programme helps learners develop language to talk about things that they want to do in the future, and to find out about and enrol on courses that could support them to do this. Things I want to do

Classroom resources

Reading a text message is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which gives learners practice in reading text messages with details about an ESOL course. It is available as a lesson plan [Lesson plan: Reading a text message] and as an interactive self-access resource [Online resource: Reading a text message]. Note that the slides for classroom use can be found in the online resource.

Writing a text message is a lesson from ESOL Nexus which gives learners practise in writing to reply to text messages about an ESOL course. It is available as a lesson plan [Lesson plan: Writing a text message] or as an interactive self-access resource [Online resource: Writing a text message]. Note that the slides for classroom use can be found in the online resource.

Online learner resources

This online resource from ESOL Nexus helps learners to fill in a short college application form with their personal details. Online resource: Filling in a short form

Higher levels

Our dog is lost is an online resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners practise reading information from posters. Online resource: Our dog is lost
Employability

The tenth unit in English My Way contains 12 lessons on aspects of language for talking about work, finding work and speaking to people at work. Employability

Classroom resources

Going to work is a set of lessons from ESOL Nexus. It is available as a teacher’s pack [Teacher’s pack: Going to work] and as a set of interactive self-access resources:

- Talking about work
- Reading job adverts
- My first day at work

Skills for Life E1 Unit 10 This set of resources focuses on employment. It is available here:
Teachers pack Sfl E1 Unit 10

Online learner resources

Talk about your job is a listening resource from ESOL Nexus which will help learners develop their listening skills and build up their vocabulary for talking about their job. Online resource: Talk about your job

Jobs is an interactive self-access vocabulary exercise from ESOL Nexus. Online resource: jobs
Higher levels

Listening to instructions is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps learners understand typical work instructions. Lesson plan: Listening to instructions

Write about past events in your life is an interactive self-access resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners write about things in the past. Online resource: Write about past events in your life

Writing personal information from a job application is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps learners write about their work history. Lesson plan: Writing personal information from a job application

Talking about jobs is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps learners talk about how happy people are at work. Lesson plan: Talking about jobs

Job roles and responsibilities is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps learners understand job descriptions and talk about them. Lesson plan: Job roles and responsibilities

Looking for a job is an interactive self-access learner resource from ESOL Nexus which helps learners understand job adverts. Online resource: Looking for a job

Writing a CV is a lesson plan from ESOL Nexus which helps learners write their CV. Lesson plan: Writing a CV

English for Work is a set of lesson plans and self-access resources from ESOL Nexus which have content specifically designed for learners working in the follow sectors.

- Domestic workers
- Cleaning
- Catering
- Care work
- Self employed
- Voluntary
- Retail

The teachers’ packs can be found here: Teachers’ packs: English for work; the self access resources are available here: Online resources: English for work.