

ENGLISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES FOR ONLINE PRACTICE IN WRITING

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, English is widely thought of an essential means for communication across the world. It has advanced from centuries and gained its important place in every country on the globe. All the countries are constantly cooperating via business relations, necessitating the significance of communication. This is one of the main rationales for learning English to explore global opportunities.

People learn new languages for many different reasons, such as travel or work, and the benefits can be incredibly worthwhile. English is the language of science, aviation, computers, diplomacy, and tourism. By understanding English, you are unlocking the door to a whole world of new information and knowledge¹.

English is the world's common language. English has come of age as a global language. It is spoken by a quarter of the world's population. It belongs to the world and increasingly to non-native speakers – who today far outnumber native speakers. English drives growth and international development².

Most people learn a foreign language with the main goal of using it for speaking internationally, and rarely consider writing as it does not help to hold conversations. However, if you really want to be fluent in a foreign language you are trying to learn, you should definitely aim to speak, listen, read and write in it as well.

The great significance of distinct and appropriate written English skills should not be disregarded. Today's students and experts are frequently communicating in writing – from simple emails to numerous texts, various presentations, etc. Whatever your objectives in English language fluency may be, expressing yourself efficiently in writing is an irreplaceable expertise in modern world.

From primary to academic students, and beyond, writing is a skill that everyone can work on to improve communication skills and understanding of

¹ Why it's important to learn English. URL: <https://www.studiocambridge.co.uk/why-it-is-important-to-learn-english/>

² Importance of English Language. URL: <https://www.oxfordschoolofenglish.in/importance-of-english-language.php>

how language works³. However, surprisingly few people can write well; it is difficult to write clearly and convincingly, especially in a second language⁴. Writing is often the most difficult skill for English learners to improve; learning to write well requires great control of language, and also extreme attention to detail⁵.

The key to acquire and master a foreign language is to practice it as much and as often as possible. Practice makes perfect, meaning if you want to improve a certain skill you have to practice it. Working through practice activities and regularly reviewing the new language you learn can help you accelerate your knowledge and understanding of English⁶.

In recent times, along with the constant advance in the field of information technology, learning English online at home is appreciated by many people all over the world and tends to grow in popularity. Online learning not only helps you save money but also can be very convenient and flexible in terms of time. Nowadays there are lots of free online activities to help teenagers and adults practise their English by choosing the appropriate level and the skill to be practised at their own pace and convenience.

Notwithstanding the great attention that has long been paid to different issues of online resources for language learning^{7, 8, 9, 10}, there is still a necessity of a more detailed focus on the concern of online English practice in writing. Consequently, the purpose of the study is to examine and analyse the key features of online resources for writing practice in English.

³ Developing writing skills in learners of all ages. URL: <https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2020/06/24/developing-writing-skills-learners-all-ages/>

⁴ Three simple ways to improve your Business English writing skills. URL: <https://www.britishcouncil.sg/blog/three-simple-ways-improve-your-business-english-writing-skills>

⁵ Improve English Writing. URL: <https://www.oxfordonlineenglish.com/improve-english-writing>

⁶ Skills. Learn English. URL: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills>

⁷ Yurko N., Vorobel M. Learning English grammar online: the main resources. *Publishing House "European Scientific Platform"*. 2021. Pp. 115–123. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36074/rodmrfssn.ed-1.11>

⁸ Styfanyshyn I., Kalymon Y. Online practice for speaking English. *Publishing House "European Scientific Platform"*. 2021. P. 124–132. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36074/rodmrfssn.ed-1.12>

⁹ Yurko N., Romanchuk O., Protsenko U., Kalymon Y., Vorobel M. English speaking: the resources for dealing with a foreign accent. *International Science Group*. 2022. P. 209–216. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46299/ISG.2022.MONO.PED.1.6.1>

¹⁰ Yurko N., Romanchuk O., Protsenko U., Kalymon Y., Vorobel M. Audio tools for English practice. *International Science Group*. 2023. P. 88–97. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46299/ISG.2023.MONO.PED.1.2.6>

According to monitoring and comparative analysis of the internet sources^{11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24}, the main English language resources for online practice in writing appear to be categorised as follows.

1. The resources for spelling and grammar checking

Whether you are writing in a foreign language, your grammar and spelling are critical. Luckily, there are spelling and grammar resources that will check your work, improving clarity and fixing any mistakes. Spelling and grammar checkers are a great way to make sure that your writing is clear, grammatically correct and accurate. These websites would be best suited to an advanced writer who writes large amounts or writes frequently. The reason they are not recommended for a beginning learner is that it is important to develop the skill of checking and editing your own writing first. However, they are fantastic sources of information regarding English writing. You can find helpful tips and general information regarding spelling and grammar.

Grammarly. This free website and app fixes your writing. You have the option of typing directly into the platform or copying large blocks of text, such as an essay, for correction. It is like having a personal editor read your English writing. The corrections are always offered as suggestions, instead of auto-corrections, so you will have a chance to review your mistakes before changing them. The resource tools augment your skills at every step, including refining complicated sentences and turning rough ideas into polished communication with accurate spelling, punctuation, and grammar. This is one of the best tools for grammar and spelling checking. You can use it on practically any type of writing, including emails, social media posts, blogs and more. It scans your writing for 250 different types of grammar issues as well as spelling mistakes. In addition, it will suggest synonyms as you write to help

¹¹ Grammarly. URL: <https://www.grammarly.com/>

¹² Grammar Girl. URL: <https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

¹³ GrammarBook.com. URL: <https://www.grammarbook.com/>

¹⁴ The Purdue OWL. URL: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>

¹⁵ Ginger's online checker. URL: <https://www.gingersoftware.com>

¹⁶ Macmillan online dictionary. URL: <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>

¹⁷ Merriam-Webster online dictionary. URL: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

¹⁸ Reverse dictionary. URL: <https://reversedictionary.org/>

¹⁹ App Store. URL: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/>

²⁰ Writing Forward. URL: <https://www.writingforward.com/>

²¹ Write & Improve with Cambridge. URL: <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/free-resources/write-and-improve/>

²² Hemingway App. URL: <https://hemingwayapp.com/>

²³ Coursera. URL: <https://www.coursera.org/>

²⁴ Udemy. URL: <https://www.udemy.com/courses/search/?q=english%20writing&src>

you expand your vocabulary. The website has a very useful and frequently updated blog that covers various topics related to writing and grammar.

Grammar Girl. This comprehensive grammar resource is available as a podcast and website. Here you will find brief and accessible tips to improve your writing. This is a very popular site where almost any grammar or word use question has an answer. It makes complex grammar questions simple. You will often learn memory tricks to help you recall and apply those troublesome grammar rules. The podcast is free to access and an excellent way to boost your English writing skills. There are two ways that you can make the most of this resource as an English learner. The first is to search for a specific answer to a question that you have in mind. If you have a question about how to use a word or how to apply a grammar rule, there is a good chance it has been covered on the website. The second is to simply scroll through the website, diving deep into all the interesting and funny articles. You will learn the interesting history of some words, incredible tips and plenty of writing-related advice. The webpage is full of useful information on grammar advice and writing tips for native and non-native speakers.

GrammarBook.com. This online learning resource offers a great searchable and easy-to-navigate website that you can access anytime when there is a necessity. The online resource is a rather concise and entertaining workbook, as well as a very helpful guide to grammar, punctuation, and usage of English language. Not only will you find the explanations of English grammar rules, there are also quizzes to test your writing skills and a grammar blog for the generalized learning. In case you are struggling with some particular topic, there is a good chance it has been covered on this website. For visual learners, there are even grammar usage videos discussing everything from subjects and verbs to correct capitalization.

The Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab). This globally renowned resource provides great assistance with English language to students, teachers, professionals, and organizations across the world. The goal is to assist clients in their development as writers – no matter their skill level. There are practice sheets and linguistic primers for students of all levels, plus a dedicated space for ESL students and instructors. English learners can find many exercises to practice grammatical rules, sentence crafting and style, as well as resources for professional or academic writing. There is a separate section for ESL exercises. The online writing lab offers global support through online reference materials and services for creating citations, cover letters, major-specific writing help, and general writing advice.

Ginger's online checker. It is more than a grammar checker, spell checker, and punctuation checker. This is an all-in-one writing tool that includes rephrase to empower you to write your best in ways that traditional online

grammar checkers cannot. Just enter your sentence and it will provide reliable and useful alternatives. It automatically detects mistakes and provides suggestions. Paraphrase your sentences and find alternative synonyms to make your writing stand out even more. Mix and match sentence suggestions to make it yours. Customize your writing by choosing a tone and style from our list of multiple alternatives that best suits you. Fine-tune your ideas with free synonyms and definitions. Double click on any word for an array of synonyms to add clarity and inspiration to your writing. Avoid plagiarism, repetition, and grammar errors by rewording your sentences to produce clear and original work.

2. The resources for vocabulary build-up

In order to make your writing better, it is also necessary to improve your vocabulary, and there are plenty of options to choose from online. While correct grammar will make your writing strong, an enriched vocabulary makes your text shine. You can think of grammar rules as the backbone of your writing and vocabulary as the flesh. English vocabulary is essential to the learners' success, not only when it comes to doing well on tests, but also if they wish to improve their overall English fluency. To really acquire new vocabulary, the language learners must constantly practice and use new words while practicing any language skills, including the efficient writing skills. The following are resources to help you expand your vocabulary so that you can flesh out concepts, ideas, stories or any imaginary worlds you want.

Macmillan online dictionary. Online dictionaries are becoming more and more popular as a vocabulary learning tool, since they may give users the meaning of a word in a split second. Aside from looking up specific words, you should also use the thesauruses and quizzes on their websites. Macmillan even has themed quizzes that you can use to show off your vocabulary, or discover gaps in your knowledge. Since its launch, the dictionary has grown substantially and now includes dedicated section for English language resources, language quizzes, as well as videos, offering a one-stop reference for English language enthusiasts around the world.

Merriam-Webster online dictionary. For more than 180 years, Merriam-Webster has been one of the leading providers of language information in the world. In case you are looking for additional useful online dictionary tools, Merriam-Wester has weekly quizzes to test your vocabulary – simply go to the word games section to find the latest ones, they are indeed very challenging. In addition, each month, its award-winning websites, apps, and social media channels offer dictionaries and other guidance to tens of millions of English-language learners.

Reverse dictionary. This is a great tool for any learner who has a definition but does not remember the specific word. If you are writing and do not know a word, but know its definition or some keywords related to it, just write what you know and the dictionary will give you a list of words that match what you are looking for. Once you have all the different word suggestions, click on any of them and you will be given its complete definition. The way the dictionary works is pretty simple, it looks through tonnes of dictionary definitions and grabs the ones that most closely match your search query. It acts a lot like a thesaurus except that it allows you to search with a definition, rather than a single word.

Terminology dictionary. This is a great browser for the English language – part dictionary, part thesaurus and part research tool. It makes easier to explore words and phrases, diving down to more and less specific terms – accessing the web and other apps for more detail and sharing. Use the dictionary offline and find simple definitions, synonyms, antonyms, collocations, etc. Being more than a dictionary, it can be extended with custom actions to search the internet and other reference apps – making it a great place to start all your searches. This is a great tool for those language learners who really aspire to improve their English vocabulary.

English Idioms Illustrated. This application is a beautiful and fun way of learning English idioms. It is greatly enjoyed by English students, teachers and enthusiasts alike. An idiom is an expression that is unique to a language, whose meaning cannot be understood by reading the words. The origins of these unusual phrases are astonishing, poetic, bizarre and sometime mysterious. The origin and meaning of each idiom is masterfully illustrated and explained here. You not only get what the idioms mean but also where they come from. The amazing illustrations will help you remember the idioms much faster. It is best for learners of English who want to improve their use of idioms in order to write more naturally.

3. The resources for creativity enhancement

While writing practice can be intimidating for many people, creative writing does not have to be. It is a form of self-expression, which allows the writer to create stories, characters, and unique settings. This type of writing allows authors to draw on their imagination when creating stories and characters and play with language and structure. Creative writing is definitely among some of the most exciting and excellent ways to practice new vocabulary units and different writing styles. However, it can rather be more fun than a kind of academic writing. The learning resources that provide the useful tips and prompts on creative writing can be a great source of inspiration

for those language learners who love a writing challenge and creative writing in general.

Writing Forward. This website provides useful materials not only for improving your writing skills, but also for developing ideas on what to write about. The creative writing blog is packed with great tips and ideas that will inspire and inform your writing projects. You will also find some posts on grammar, good writing habits and practices, plus tons of helpful writing prompts and exercises to keep your pen moving. The resource shares useful and inspiring creative writing tips to benefit the greater writing community. Here you will find blog posts on grammar rules, guidance on a specific topic and tons of writing prompts for creative writing.

Brainsparker. The application includes a deck of prompt cards to make you think and inspire your brain to write on many different topics. Tap into card decks with thousands of coaching questions, images, words and quotes, and use the power of associative thinking. Enhance your ability to solve problems with creative solutions with micro-learning courses on creative thinking, coaching skills and innovation techniques. Make every day an opportunity to create something new and interesting. Set up daily spark notification to get inspired. It is best for intermediate and advanced learners of English who need ideas for creative writing assignments.

Creative Writer. This is powerful tool with writing ideas and millions of sentence segments analysed. The application includes different texts from the multiple genres such as poetry, prose, dialogues, lyrics, romance and cooking, among others. Here you can recycle already written texts to create your own. In case you do not feel like typing, which you can also do, just choose the tapping option. You will not have to type a word: just tap on the stream of suggested words, picking words until the sentences come out, or you may combine normal typing with predictive writing. The application includes a cute robot that talks and types by itself and a beautifully designed notepad. Some features can even be used offline. The app is great for advanced users of English who want to become even better at writing.

Writing Roulette. This is a great application for people who need more writing practice as well as inspiration. Here you may take a random image and writing task instruction to inspire your writing. Just let your imagination fly with plenty of different ways for practicing your writing. You can also create your own tasks and complete them in the application notepad. Unfortunately, there is no saving option in the app, so if you do not want to lose what you write, just use the application to get the inspiration and do the exercises somewhere else. The application is rather useful for language learners who are in need of practicing their writing skills.

Brainstormer. This application is a really useful idea and story generator for people who love a challenge. It is a helpful tactile tool to randomly combine a plot, a subject and a setting or style provides a moment of inspiration for any creative mind. Combat creative block, spark new ideas and summon up quick subjects for doodling, sketching or journaling. Three wheels will spin to give you a conflict, a setting and a subject. The words in each wheel have been carefully selected to maximize creative thinking. You can create and edit your own wheels. The application is perfect for those intermediate and advanced users of English language who already have a good set of their writing skills but want to practice creative writing.

4. The resources for writing style improvement

There are many online learning services, which focus on helping you reach a certain writing goal of a particular number of words or a streak of days. Sometimes simply sitting down and doing the writing practice itself can be a rather difficult challenge. There are many special applications, websites and other resources that can help maintain your motivation. They can also keep you on track and show you important information regarding your work rate. This might be a good option in case you are a new learner or are looking to focus on a particular area of writing. You can also go deeper on a particular topic and get a general introduction to English writing.

British Council. The writing section is a great mix of English writing resources and activities. These would suit any type of learner since they are clearly arranged by difficulty and are designed for self-study. This means you can set your own schedule and focus on areas of interest that are relevant to you. The self-study lessons in this section are written and organised by English level. To begin, choose your appropriate level. To really make the most of the resource, you should be completing all the activities as well as interacting in the comments section. Here you can find activities to practise your writing skills. You can improve your writing by understanding model texts and how they are structured. There are different types of model texts, with writing tips and interactive exercises that practise the writing skills you need to do well in your studies, to get ahead at work and to communicate in English in your free time. Take the free online English test to find out which level to choose. Select your level, and improve your writing skills at your own speed, whenever it is convenient for you.

Write & Improve with Cambridge. The resources that they produce are highly professional and educational. Here, you can start writing either in a free writing style or with a given topic. Once you have completed your writing, it is assessed and levelled. This is a great resource to give you an idea of what level your current writing skills are, as well as to discover some areas for

improvement. The free online tool helps you to practise your writing and get valuable feedback instantly. It is simple to use: just choose a task, write or upload a written response and use the feedback to quickly improve. There is no limit on how many times you can use the tool – keep practising as much as you need to and build your confidence. It encourages you to think about what to improve, just keep improving and see your progress.

Hemingway App. The central idea of the website is to explain complex ideas in a basic manner. It offers suggestions to help improve your writing. The website is best used for overall stylistic purposes. It helps your writing feel less complex and cluttered. It is also important to note that it does not correct spelling. To use the website, copy your text and paste it into the editor. The editor will then provide you with a score and suggestions on how to improve the clarity of the writing, active/passive voice, how hard or easy your writing is to read and more. Everything is color-coded so you can easily see what needs to be updated. You can make edits to your text right on the website and watch your readability score increase. The more you use this website, the more aware you will become of the clarity and simplicity of your writing. This is a good option if your writing is difficult for others to understand, more lengthy than you would like or if you just want to write in a simpler style.

Coursera. This is an online education platform that offers courses on specific topics. This means you will be able to find many courses offered on different styles of writing in English. Moreover, there is an extra benefit – the courses come from authorized universities and institutions. As a result, many of the courses are more academic. By taking one of these courses, you will be getting expert advice for much cheaper than the cost of a university class, or even for free. Coursera suits learners looking to achieve a professional level of writing. Many of the courses on English are business or professionally focused. You also have the option of paying to receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course. This makes Coursera an excellent option if you would like to put your English studies on your resume.

Udemy. This is a great online education platform, offering a full range of English writing courses for you to choose from, ranging in price, level of difficulty and area of specialty. This is the perfect online writing resource for the person who is new to writing in English or for a learner who wants to focus on a particular type of writing, like creative or business writing. Here you will be able to find something valuable to your particular writing goals at any level. Among the courses covered there are such as formal email writing. In order to make the most of this useful resource, it is very important that you carefully select the right course for your definite goals. This access enables new opportunities for people everywhere by connecting them to the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for.

CONCLUSIONS

On the grounds of the above findings, the following conclusions can be made. Writing is a very important skill that is often underestimated by English learners. We tend to think speaking and listening comprehension are the two most important parts of a language to learn. However, you need all the major language skills such as speaking, listening, reading and writing, along with vocabulary and grammar in order to achieve the language fluency.

Learning to write better will actually increase your understanding of English and improve your skills in other aspects of the language. Therefore, once you have chosen the appropriate resources, you can use them to actually improve your English writing skills. Start by practicing regularly, every day if you can.

Writing is a key when learning a language, and the more you practice, the more you will improve your other language skills, as well. Use the online resources as a starting point. Choose the ones you like the most and try to use them on a daily basis. Starting to write may be challenging for some learners, but with patience and practice, everyone can become a master.

Choosing the right resources is the most important step. However, to do this, you need to consider what exactly you need help with. To make the most of these writing resources, there are a couple of things you can do. First, you should be consistent with your writing and do it regularly. This means that you should be writing every day. You can also plan out your schedule to include writing as part of your daily tasks.

You should also be using resources that actually help you develop your English writing skills. This is a very important step. You need to think of online writing websites as a way to improve your writing quality and your skill. Looking at your writing for mistakes and correcting errors is another critical step in the writing process. Learning how to edit your writing is one of the best steps you can take towards improving your writing proficiency.

Using the right resources makes learning a second language easier. If you want to improve your writing skills, these online resources for English writing will be of a great help. Also, do not forget to keep practicing, as practice makes perfect.

SUMMARY

Today, English language is widely thought of an essential means for communication across the world. Understanding English helps you open the door to the fascinating world of new information and knowledge. The significance of written English skills should not be underestimated. Expressing yourself efficiently in writing is an irreplaceable expertise in modern world. Practice as often as possible is an essential aspect of mastering

any language skill. Modern online resources for learning practice can be very convenient and flexible in terms of time-saving.

Notwithstanding the great attention that has long been paid to different issues of online resources for language learning, there is still a necessity of a more detailed focus on the concern of online English practice in writing. Consequently, the purpose of the study was to examine and analyse the key features of online resources for writing practice in English. The monitoring and comparative analysis of the internet sources revealed the main categories of the English language resources for online practice in writing. To make the most of these writing resources, it is essential to choose the most appropriate and be consistent with using them on a daily basis.

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