

Resources for Non-Native Speakers of English

General Sources:

Web Sources:

An extensive list of resources for ELL students and instructors alike is hosted by Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL). Topics range from grammar and mechanics to workplace writing: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/678/01/>

The University of Richmond's Writer's Web offers resources for all phases of the writing process. Their numerous options are easily navigated through a menu of topics on the left side: <http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb.html>

Books:

The Elements of Style, by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White

This classic, originally published in 1920, remains one of the most widely regarded books of its kind. It provides clear advice on writing effective sentences and paragraphs, as well as appropriate tone, voice, form, and the writing process as a whole.

On Writing Well, by William Zinsser

Few books on writing provide such good advice in such an enviable, elegant style. Read this book once for its practical advice, and return to it again and again as a model of clear, straightforward, highly effective writing.

Interactive Websites:

These websites provide exercises and other activities to help you *actively work through* common writing problems, rather than just *reading about* how to fix or avoid them:

Norwalk Community College lists a tremendous array of resources arranged by level of proficiency (up to 191 levels) and across four areas of language learning: Listening, Reading, Grammar, and Writing. Many of the exercises are both useful and even enjoyable:

<http://www.ncc.commnet.edu/dept/esl/onlinepractice.asp>

For example, check out this very smart exercise for reducing wordiness in your sentences:

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/quizzes/wordy_quiz.htm

The following page, while not interactive, presents Richard Lanham's an excellent "Paramedic Method" for writing clear, concise, effective sentences:

<http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/concise.html>

For complicated questions on issues such as word choice, idiom, and verb phrases:

The website "The Free Dictionary" <http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com> allows you to search combinations of words. Results are presented in a few relevant contexts. For example, "looking up" could refer to raising one's eyes, engaging in admiration, or describing an improving situation in life.