

# Visual Aids

**TITLE:** **Web-Based Visual Aids**

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**INTRODUCTION:** The following Web sites include photos and other graphics that instructors can download for use with students or that students can interact with online. All content is free and users do not need to log in. Some of the sites were designed specifically for English-as-a-second-language students, but most can also be used with English-speaking literacy students.

## **Educational Software and Maps (Owl & Mouse)**

**What you will find:**

Printable and interactive colorful online maps of continents, countries, and U.S. states. Map puzzles with outlines or without outlines to study countries, states, and capitals in a progressive manner. Megamaps create printouts from one page to seven feet wide of countries or continents. Some resources to be used online and some to print.

**How to find it:** <http://www.yourchildlearns.com/owlmouse.htm>

Click to choose a continent or country in either printable or online format and follow the instructions.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

This site offers tools to incorporate geography and map literacy skills into lessons. Maps almost always stimulate engaging discussions among learners. They can familiarize each other with their countries and improve their knowledge of U.S. states. In one activity, students see how fast they can drag individual states into the proper place on an outline map of the U.S.

**Technical requirements:** The free Flash plug-in is needed for the online maps.

**Use restrictions:** None listed on the site.

## **Google Images**

**What you will find:**

An extensive collection of photos and other graphics that can be downloaded to enhance almost any kind of instruction.

**How to find it:** <http://images.google.com>

Enter into the search box a brief description of what you are looking for. Then click on Advanced Image Search. In the drop-down box under Usage Rights, you can choose to view images for reuse, for commercial reuse, for reuse with modifications, or for commercial reuse with modifications. When you find an image you want, click on it and look for information about any specific usage restrictions. In most cases, you will at least need to credit the creator of the image. If there are no restrictions related to how you want to use the image, right click on the image, select Save Image As, and save it to your computer.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

You can rapidly find graphics to use in many different ways:

- to illustrate specific vocabulary words (*rose*) or provide several pictures to illustrate a category of words (*flowers*)
- as story-starters for writing assignments or group discussions
- to help teach culture
- to help teach basic and advanced search skills

Students can also learn to access the graphics directly:

- for video editing practice
- to help share information about their native country
- to help learn new vocabulary (For example, enter the Spanish words *un oso* in the search box. That will retrieve pictures of a bear. An English speaker can look at the pictures and give the English word for the animal.)

**Technical requirements:**

None unless you want to edit the graphics (and are permitted to do so).

**Use restrictions:**

See <http://www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/answer.py?answer=29508> for more in-depth information.

**Picture Stories for Adult ESL Health Literacy** (Center for Adult English Language Acquisition)

**What you will find:**

Drawings of situations based on eight common health topics with guides for discussions, Language Experience Approach writing activities, and extensions for each. There are also links to Web sites related to each health topic where the teacher/student can find more information. For print.

**How to find it:** [http://www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/Health/healthindex.html](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/Health/healthindex.html)

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

Because the lesson focus is on the situations in the drawings, these lessons may help students feel comfortable talking about health issues they face and ways to address them in U.S. culture.

**Technical requirements:**

The free Adobe Reader is needed to print the pictures.

**Use restrictions:** None listed on the site.

**Real English (The Marzio School)**

**What you will find:**

This site contains 43 videos of brief “person on the street” interviews with accompanying lessons and quizzes on listening, vocabulary, and grammar. To be used online.

**How to find it:** <http://www.real-english.com/>

Click on the word lessons in this statement above the pictures: “Click on a picture or choose one of the new lessons.” Then click on a lesson at the correct level. There are three versions of the video: video with no captions, video with captions, and video that first plays with no captions and then repeats with captions. There are also numerous supplementary exercises.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

It provides a way for learners to acclimate themselves to understanding English as it is

normally spoken, starting with basic greetings and introductions and moving on to giving and following directions and basic conversation. Learners can do some of the exercises for homework and check their answers.

**Technical requirements:**

Speakers are required. A microphone is needed for the optional recording portion of the exercises.

**Use restrictions:** None. The lessons are free and free-access. (See home page.)

**REEPWorld** (Arlington Education & Employment Program)

**What you will find:**

Student stories and lessons related to various health, work, and family topics. The site uses lots of pictures and audio, and it includes exercises with answers. There are instructions (with audio) for how to use the Web site. For online use.

**How to find it:** <http://reepworld.org/englishpractice/index.htm>

Click on the first picture for a tour, including how to use a mouse. Click on a topic to begin, and then follow the instructions.

**How it is useful:** Learners can draw on the stories as models for producing their own. The stories can also be used as jumping-off points for lessons on making choices and handling issues related to the topics. Audio provides useful listening practice. Students can see the story and click on any sentence they want to hear read.

**Technical requirements:**

The free Flash plug-in is needed. Speakers are required.

**Use restrictions:** None listed on the site.

**The Internet Picture Dictionary** (No site owner cited)

**What you will find:**

Online pictures and vocabulary organized into 15 categories and also by letter, along with five types of quizzes including answers. To be used online.

**How to find it:** <http://pdictionary.com/>

Click a letter for words and pictures starting with that letter or click a category. On the left, click an activity for a quiz. Be sure to use the drop-down menu to reselect the letter or category, and then click More flashcards! to begin the quiz.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:** Because of the breadth of vocabulary, ease of navigation, and self-checking quizzes, this site is useful for learners at various levels of language and computer skill. They can use this on their own but will need assistance with pronunciation because there is no audio.

**Technical requirements:** None.

**Use restrictions:** Do not download images. (On home page, click About this dictionary.)

**The Learning Edge** (Wellington County Learning Centre in Arthur, Ontario)

**What you will find:**

Ten issues of an online interactive multimedia newspaper covering various topics such as health, work, and math, and include learning activities. To be used online.

**How to find it:** <http://www.thewcl.ca/edge/>

Click to choose an issue, and then click on an article. See Issue 2 for a guided tour.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

The variety of topics, self-guided learning activities, and ease of navigation make this site useful for learners. Once they are familiar with the features, they can use it on their own.

**Technical requirements:**

The free Flash plug-in is needed. Speakers are required.

**Use restrictions:** None listed on the site.

**Tools for Educators** (Tools for Educators and Mighty Education Systems)

**What you will find:**

Templates you can customize to make 11 types of color printable games and practice worksheets, such as dice, bingo, and spelling and tracing. Choose any of 45 categories such as body parts, feelings, and shapes and colors. Be aware that the site is primarily for teachers of children and the graphics reflect that. For print.

**How to find it:** <http://www.toolsforeducators.com/>

Click to select a game or worksheet and follow the instructions.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

This is an easy way to create materials that learners can have fun using while practicing vocabulary, reading, and spelling.

**Technical requirements:**

The free Adobe Reader is required for the printouts.

**Use restrictions:**

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**Wikimedia Commons** (Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.)

**What you will find:**

Over four million images, sound, and video clips. Some resources to be used online and some to print.

**How to find it:** [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Click in the search box and type a brief description of the image you are looking for. To save an image, right click on it. To save a video, click the arrow to play it. Click More, then click Download file. To save an audio file, click File, click to play it, click More, then click Download file.

**How it is useful for work with your learners:**

You or your learners can search for images to fit with lesson or project topics.

**Technical requirements:** None.

**Use restrictions:**

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