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**Introduction to Online Learning**

**Online Learning** is a flexible way to learn anything you want, whenever and wherever you want.

**All you need is:**

* Access to a computer/tablet/smart phone
* Internet access
* Speakers or headphones may be necessary
* Your VPL card and PIN (to access online learning resources offered by VPL)

**Is it free?**

* Many of the eLearning resources are absolutely free!
* Some eLearning providers give you *partial* free access, but charge a fee for full functionality
* Each eLearning provider is different, so make sure you look through each resource to find the free content.

**How to get started:**

* Visit the VPL guide on eLearning to discover the many resources you can use to get started with eLearning at <http://guides.vpl.ca/eLearning>.

**Resources offered by VPL:**

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| <http://www.vpl.ca/news/details/lynda_com> \*Must be accessed through the VPL website | **Lynda.com** is an e-learning platform paid for by VPL that allows you to access hundreds of online tutorials using their library card.  |
| <http://www.vpl.ca/electronic_databases/cat/C205> | **Learning Express Library** provides skill building for all levels from Grade 4 Elementary to Adult. Covers many standard courses, basic education, and general subjects: math, reading, writing, vocabulary, computer skills, and more. \*You need to create a login and password. Some titles are now available as downloadable ebooks in PDF format. |
| <http://www.vpl.ca/electronic_databases/alpha/p> | **Pronunciator** provides access to learning materials for 80 languages, with the interface available in 50 different languages for ESL and other language learning.  |

**Resources that offer free, or partially free, access to university-level online courses:**

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| [www.coursera.org](file:///E%3A%5CElearning%20course%20dev%202014%5Cwww.coursera.org) | Coursera offers over 400 free courses available in a wide variety of languages. Topics span from the humanities & social sciences to medicine, biology, mathematics, business, computer science, and more. |
| [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)**edx.PNG** | Free courses provided by MIT, Harvard and Berkeley. Students who complete assignments and honour deadlines can receive a “Certificate of Mastery”, but everyone is also welcome to participate in classes without committing to assignments. |
| [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com) | FutureLearn is a U.K-based private company owned by the Open University featuring courses on topics that range from health to history, education and literature. |
| [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) | Khan Academy is a non-profit organization that hosts more than 4,000 free micro lectures on a variety of topics. Lectures are hosted by YouTube. Topics covered include chemistry, math, finance, art history, grammar, languages and more. |
| [www.udacity.com](http://www.udacity.com) | Udacity offers classes in computer science, programming languages like Python and Javascript, math, physics and business. Classes include supporting video lectures, quizzes and assignments. |

**Educational websites with lectures, videos, and tutorials you can access by browsing or searching for your topics of interest:**

* National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com)
* PBS (www.pbs.org)
* YouTube (youtube.com)
* TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com))
* The Canadian Encyclopedia (http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/)

**Need extra help?**

* Join us at Tech Café! Tuesdays and Thursdays at Central Library on Level 3 at 2:00 pm.
* Feel free to contact VPL during library hours at 604-331-3603, by email at [info@vpl.ca](https://xwww.vpl.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=ad1656d6f3274414af4eea0d46d4d776&URL=mailto%3ainfo%40vpl.ca), or drop by your VPL branch.