



# Learning English at the Library

Photo story

Activities

Teacher notes

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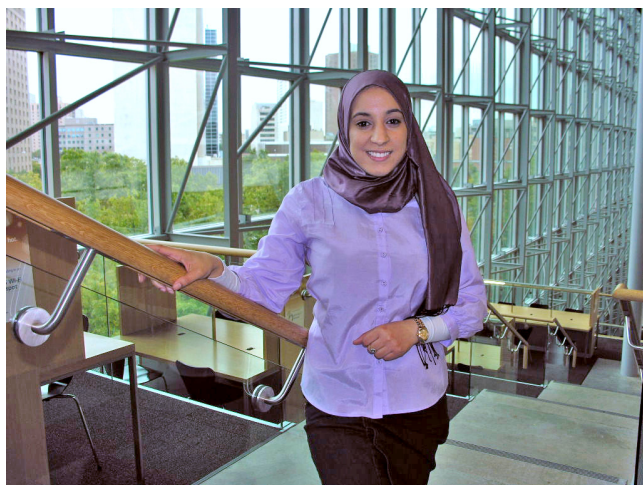
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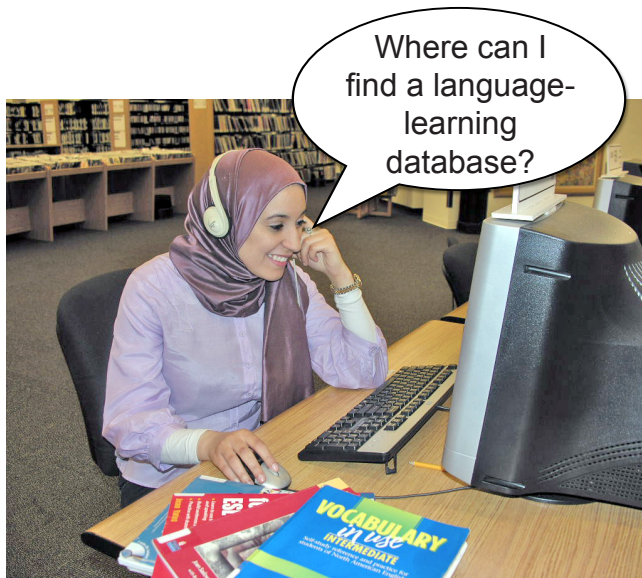
Winnipeg Public Library, 2010



This is Alla. She has come to the Millennium Library to find some material to help her learn English.









## A. What do you know about EAL resources at the library?

Answer the following question with T (true) or F (false).

1. \_\_\_\_ Every library branch has a collection of material for EAL learners.
2. \_\_\_\_ There are books that you can read and listen to at the same time.
3. \_\_\_\_ You can only look at picture dictionaries in the library. You cannot check them out.
4. \_\_\_\_ You must use your library card to log in to the computers in the library.
5. \_\_\_\_ There are databases where you can read books with your children.
6. \_\_\_\_ Some books in the library are written in two languages.
7. \_\_\_\_ You can get books at the library in French and English only.

## B. Brainstorming

What kinds of material do you want at the library to help you learn English? Give your ideas to your teacher. If you want, you can send your ideas to the library!

## C. Exercise with photos

Look at the pictures and put the following words in the correct blanks.

ABE / database / dictionary / directory / dual language / ESL / JDL / log in / non-fiction / read-along

1. Alla is looking at the \_\_\_\_\_ on the second floor of the Millennium Library. She wants to find the \_\_\_\_\_ section of the library.
2. She finds a picture \_\_\_\_\_ that has words in both English and her language.
3. The librarian shows her some \_\_\_\_\_ books that she can read and listen to at the same time.
4. She finds more books in the \_\_\_\_\_ section.
5. She uses her library card to \_\_\_\_\_ to a computer.
6. She is looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ with information about language-learning material.
7. The librarian shows her some \_\_\_\_\_ databases that she can read at home with her son.
8. The librarian takes her to the \_\_\_\_\_ section, where there are children's books.
9. Alla finds some \_\_\_\_\_ books that she can read to her son. They are written in English and in her language.

## D. Dialogue

Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow it. Make complete sentences.

**Diego:** I need to get some books to help me learn English, but I don't have enough money to buy them!

**Amandeep:** You should go to the library. They have books for people who are learning English. You can borrow them for free if you have a library card.

**Diego:** I do have a library card. What kind of books can I borrow?

**Amandeep:** I have found picture dictionaries, simple readers, and books online that I can read and listen to at the same time. These are called read-along books. They can help you with reading and listening! There are even some books with your language on one page and English on the other.

**Diego:** That's great! Where can I find these books in the library?

**Amandeep:** Just ask someone to show you the ESL, the ABE, and the non-fiction sections. Everyone at the library is very helpful.

**Diego:** I understand what ESL means, but what does ABE mean?

**Amandeep:** It means Adult Basic English.

**Diego:** Thanks, Amandeep. I'm going to see what I can find at my library!

## Questions

1. What kind of books does Diego want?

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2. Does he have to buy these books?

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3. What kind of book can he find online?

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4. How can this kind of book help him learn English?

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5. What does ABE mean?

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## E. Making a Picture Dictionary for the Classroom

Your teacher will give you some nouns and verbs that you have learned this term.

Find or draw a picture to illustrate the words you are given. Label each picture clearly and write a sentence to show the meaning of each of the words.

Get together with your classmates to arrange the words alphabetically and make a picture dictionary to keep in your classroom.

## F. Using Penguin/Cambridge Readers

As a class, read or listen to a Penguin or Cambridge Reader (or read along as you listen).

You can find a Penguin/Cambridge Reader at your reading level at the public library. Borrow a Reader from the library and get extra reading practice. This is a great way to increase your vocabulary and reading skills.

## G. Talk to a partner in class about a book that you liked when you were a child. Explain the story to your partner and talk about the following things:

- Who read the book to you?
- When did they read to you?
- How often did they read to you?
- Why did you like the book?



## H. Reader Book Report

Write about the Penguin, Cambridge or other Reader that you chose from the library. You may want to choose a story that you already know in your own language. Give the following information.

- the title of the book and its author
- a brief summary of the book
- your favourite character in the book and what you liked about him/her
- what kind of person would enjoy reading this book

**OR**

## I. Children's Book Report

Take out a book from the JDL section of the library to read to your son or daughter. After you have read the book, ask them to tell you what they liked about the book. Write a report and give the following information:

- the title of the book and its author
- a brief summary of the book
- what your child enjoyed about the book
- why you think that this book is good for children

You can work on this exercise with your son or daughter.

## Learning English at the Library: activities for intermediate levels

### Teacher notes

These photo stories and activities were produced to introduce EAL/ESL and new learners to the wealth of programs, collections and services of Winnipeg Public Library. The photo stories help visually guide the learner through common experiences of the library. The activities help reinforce vocabulary and encourage familiarity with library resources.

Each module presents a new topic to expand library knowledge, vocabulary and reading, writing, and speaking skills. Supplementary handouts and guides are also available for classroom and individual use. All materials are available in .pdf at [winnipeg.ca/library](http://winnipeg.ca/library).

Note: Please note that library fines, fees and hours are subject to change. Content will be updated periodically to reflect changes to library hours, fees and collections. Visit the Library's website at [winnipeg.ca/library](http://winnipeg.ca/library) for up to date information on the library.

Feedback is always welcome. Contact the Administrative Coordinator of Outreach Services and Marketing, Winnipeg Public Library at 204.986.4255.

**The photo story and activities are suitable for Canadian Language Benchmarks 3-4.**

### Teacher Notes

The activities for this unit are arranged according to a suggested sequence for learning. The lessons target the following skill areas:

Reading (A) (C) (D) (F)

Writing (D) (E) (H) (I)

Speaking (B) (G)

### Teacher Instructions and Answer Keys

**A.** What do you know about EAL resources at the library?

Answer the following question with T (true) or F (false).

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. F

## Learning English at the Library: activities for intermediate levels

### Teacher notes

#### **C** Exercise with photos

1. directory / ESL
2. dictionary
3. ABE
4. non-fiction
5. log in
6. database
7. read-along
8. JDL
9. dual language

#### **D** Answers to Questions

1. Diego wants books that will help him learn English.
2. No, he doesn't have to buy these books.  
No, he can borrow these books from the library.
3. He can find read-along books online.
4. He can read the book and listen to it at the same time.
5. ABE means Adult Basic English.