

Guide to Web-Based OERs Suitable for Second Language Learners



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What is this guide?

This guide is a list of the most information and useful open educational resources on the internet, for second language learners. Each resource is available online.

Who is this guide for?

This guide is aimed at all potential second language learners and supporters, either of whom can draw educational resources from any of the sites listed.

Creation of this guide

This guide was created using input and ratings from teachers and students of second language learning.

English language teachers and English language students were asked to give their most popular and commonly used English language learning sites and resources. The resources were given to different teachers and students to rate. A minimum of 3 users rated each resource. User ratings were collated and divided by the number of users to ascertain an average rating for each aspect of each site.

Acronyms

OER – Open Educational Resources

CEFR – Common European Framework of Reference (relating to languages)

WCAG - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

About this guide

This guide is one part of the Erasmus project: e-Coaching et Apprentissage des Langues (e-Cal), and is to be used in tandem with the e-courses and the guide on self-supporting learners of a second language.

Terminology

Content Rating – rated by the users and is a rating of the language learning content and material available on the site for users.

Level Suitability – is a rating of the suitability of the content for different levels of language learners available on the site. A high-level suitability rating means that the OER is suitable for learners of different levels (for example, CEFR A1 to CEFR C1). A low-level suitability rating means that the OER is suitable for learners of a narrower language level (for example, CEFR A2/B1).

Specific Purpose – if the OER has been identified by users as being targeted towards a specific set of learners (for example, marginalized communities, elderly people, people with a specific native tongue).

WCAG2.0 Rating – rates the following aspects of the OERs usability and “user-friendliness”, using the following criteria:

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

The criteria outlined in the WCAG2.0 rating is standardised and is a widely used set of criteria which allows people to rate all types of websites based on how well they meet the criteria.

Means of Access – how readily available and compatible each website is on different devices (desktop PC, smartphone, tablet).

Free/Paid Content – whether the OER is free, paid or “freemium”.





- Free – Completely free content.
- Freemium – Freemium is an OER which is free to access but contains paid with additional content. Some parts of the resource require either a payment or subscription to access them.
- Paid – Content is not accessible without either a one-time payment or paid subscription to the resource.

Description of Site – short description of the pros and cons of the site, as well as an overview of the content.

Registration – whether registration is required to access the content of the OER.

- No – Registration is not required to access the content of the OER.
- Yes – Registration is required to access the content of the OER.

Learning Styles – this guide is linked to the e-course for L2 learners and the e-course for L2 learning supporters, and each resource is tagged with the materials included within the OER, in relation to the learning styles listed below.

Learner Type	Definition	Materials favouring learning process
Visual 	Visual learners learn best by seeing	Pictures, handouts, charts, graphs, maps, time lines, visual aids (e.g. PowerPoint, white-board), colour-coding (like this), reading etc.
Auditory 	Auditory learners learn best by listening.	Online lectures, recordings (e.g. mp3, podcasts), discussions, debates, repeating words etc.
Reading 	Auditory learners learn best by reading and writing.	Articles, books, texts, essays.
Kinaesthetic: 	Kinaesthetic learners learn best by moving, touching and doing.	physical movement, projects, experiments, field trips, frequent breaks

British Council English



<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>

Content Rating: 10

Level Suitability: 10

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration Required: No

Overview: The British Council website has a wide variety of exercises and resources for students of all levels and ages. The focus is on the exams and qualifications devised by the British council, but the quality and content of the resources stand above the rest of the OERs on the internet due to the level of experience and knowledge provided.

			
	✓	✓	

Duolingo



<https://www.duolingo.com/courses>

Content Rating: 9

Level Suitability: 9

Specific Purpose: No

WCAG2.0 Rating: 9





Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration Required: Yes

Overview:

Each lesson within Duolingo includes several types of exercises, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, in both directions. This is great. It covers a wide range of contexts in which you absorb or produce sentences in whichever foreign language you're learning.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Talk English



<http://www.talkenglish.com/>

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 7

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: Talk English focuses on Learning English speaking. Its goal is to help you with Learning English speaking so you can speak English fluently and improve your spoken English free. But, this website is not only for learning speaking but also learning Listening and Reading. At, the TalkEnglish.com, the lessons are structured to give you practice in all three areas at the same time. So, you'll become a fluent English speaker by mastering those three skills.

			
✓	✓	✓	

BBC Language Learning



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/>

Content Rating: 9

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 5

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(apps), tablet(apps)

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: A completely free website with “quick-fix” learning bites, covering the most useful and commonly used phrases in a multitude of languages, including English. The content is developed to be interactive and has a variety of different types of learning methodology to keep students engaged.

			
✓	✓		

Memrise



www.memrise.com

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Memrise is a partially gamified language learning site that allows content to be uploaded by users and learners. It has a variety of different topics, covering vocabulary, grammar and different skills in similar model of learning. The interactive delivery of the material is engaging and varied which keeps learners interested. Some of the content, uploaded by users may contain minor discrepancies, which learners should cross-check and verify, but overall it is an excellent free language learning tool.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Learn English Feel Good



<http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 8

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 9

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: All of the exercises on Learn English Feel Good (the English grammar and vocabulary exercises, as well as the media-based exercises) were developed by a group of teachers, based on their own personal approaches to teaching English. Exercises and activities for all levels from Beginner to Advanced are covered, and mainly aim to improve learners' reading, writing and speaking skills.

			
		✓	

5 Minute English



<http://www.5minuteenglish.com/>

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: 5 Minute English has been designed to give learners short, precise exercises which can be completed in 5 minutes, allowing learners to break up their learning into manageable chunks. It breaks the English language down into Grammar, Vocabulary, Reading, Listening, Pronunciation and Idioms.

			
		✓	

Englisch Hilfen

Overall Rating:



<http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/>

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: Englisch Hilfen consolidates a number of different aspects of language learning and includes grammar, vocabulary, exercises, tests and games. It is a comprehensive online resource which also has specific exam preparation tools and exercises for students. It also provides ready-made lessons for teachers, as well as worksheets for different levels.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Babbel



<https://uk.babbel.com/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Babbel focuses on everyday speaking and pronunciation, with less focus on grammar and language structure. It allows learners to choose topics and areas of learning that are the most interesting to them and to focus on these. The lessons are around 15 minutes long each.

			
✓	✓		

Busuu



<https://www.busuu.com/en/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Busuu is available offline through its downloadable apps on desktop, smartphone and tablet. It offers short concise lessons on different topics, which add together to make a course of 22 hours. Busuu offers certification at the end of the course, and provides 10 minute lessons, with regular review sessions.

			
	✓	✓	

Learn English



<http://www.learnenglish.de/>

Content Rating: 9

Level Suitability: 8

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 6

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: Yes

Overview: Learn English is a community and network of teachers and learners, which allows for new content regularly. There is also a forum and a chat function so that learners and teachers can communicate instantly and discuss language learning points and specific language issues. It also has a comprehensive range of exercises covering all aspects of the English language.

			
		✓	

English Club

English Club

<https://www.englishclub.com/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 6

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: English Club provides two separate sections for teachers and learners, and each section has material tailored to the needs of the learner and teacher. The learner section includes full lessons, exercises and worksheets for self-study. The teacher section provides full lessons and additional resources for taught courses and for providing support to learners, as well as extra homework and study tasks.

			
		✓	

Seagull Tandem



<http://seagull-tandem.eu/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 6

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: Yes

Overview: Seagull Tandem is a unique website which was created through an Erasmus funded project, which pairs learners with teachers. The site provides material for learning and teaching and allows the learner and teacher to communicate and interact remotely, allowing a high degree of support and flexibility to the study process. The content is structured, and allows the learner to do some work independently, but relies on the support of the teacher to give input and direction.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Rosetta Stone



<http://www.rosettastone.co.uk/>

Content Rating: 10

Level Suitability: 10

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 10

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Paid

Registration: Yes

Overview: Rosetta Stone is the most famous language learning site, and the only limitation is that it is a paid site. The content is excellent, and gradually introduces the learner to grammar, vocabulary and structure of the language through a series of interactive exercises that focus on pronunciation. The programme consistently tests the learners' speaking ability, ability to recollect vocabulary and structure.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Speak English with Mister Duncan



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8pPDhxSn1nee70LRKJOp3g>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 7

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: Yes

Overview: Mister Duncan became an internet sensation through his highly informative, interactive videos, and has gained a large internet following around the world. The approach is on speaking and repetition of words and vocabulary, as well as colloquial phrases and words.

			
✓	✓		

Speak Languages



<https://www.speaklanguages.com/>

Content Rating: 6

Level Suitability: 6

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 7

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Speak Languages covers all of the basic activities and exercises, with information about most language learning points. It also boasts a community of 100,000 registered users which offers teachers and learners the opportunity to share ideas, ask for help and discuss language learning points.

			
		✓	

Naboomboo



<https://www.naboomboo.com/>

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 8

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 7

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Naboomboo is a site which pairs learners with teachers in real time situations, which allows the two users to follow a lesson through together, based on their available times and dates. Users are matched based on interests and learning needs. The teachers follow the plan and give guidance and support to the learner through a video stream. The range of lessons are simple and clear and cover a wide variety of language learning skills through interactive, games and videos. Each course includes an independent learning plan for each learner.

			
	✓	✓	✓

Alison



<https://alison.com/>

Content Rating: 9

Level Suitability: 9

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration: Yes

Overview: Alison provides full courses on a variety of topics through engaging videos, including language. Each course comprises between 3 and up to 20 videos and is delivered in a lecture-style way, without any interaction from the learner. The topics covered are structure, grammar and vocabulary. The site requires the learner to self-study alongside and outside of the online course to gain the full benefit.

			
✓	✓		

Learn English Today



<http://www.learn-english-today.com/>

Content Rating: 6

Level Suitability: 5

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: Learn English Today is a functional and well-structured website with general English topics as well as business English activities and exercises. It has a breakdown of areas of English language, with clear explanations of structure and short consolidation exercises to reinforce the learning aims.

			
		✓	

RISE Project



<http://rise-project.eu/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: Refugees and migrants





WCAG2.0 Rating: 6

Means of Access: Desktop Only

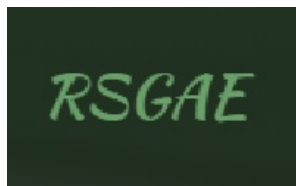
Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: Yes

Overview: Rise Project is a unique and highly interactive language learning tool, which uses a high level of gamification to teach learners the most important points. The language learning journey plays as a first-person game in which the learner must make choices specific to them and interact with other NPCs in the game. It is highly targeted towards refugees and migrants learning English. It requires a good computer and medium level graphics hardware to make the most of the game.

			
✓	✓		✓

Ready Study Go Around Europe



<http://www.rsgo.eu/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 6

Specific Purpose: People working abroad





WCAG2.0 Rating: 6

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: Yes

Overview: Ready Study Go Around Europe consists of a number of language learning packages aimed at people (and students) that are going to work in a foreign country. It is a comprehensive and specifically targeted guide aimed at increasing the language of students in work based environments.

			
	✓	✓	

Digital Dialects



<http://www.digitaldialects.com/>

Content Rating: 5

Level Suitability: 5

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: Digital Dialects is a simple site which makes the most of basic level gamification of language learning. It has a very low functionality rating, but provides good exercises and interactive games for students to practice with. It covers many languages and duplicates the exercises in these languages, which is helpful for low level learners.

			
✓	✓	✓	

Flo Joe



<http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/>

Content Rating: 8

Level Suitability: 4

Specific Purpose: Exam Preparation





WCAG2.0 Rating: 5

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: Flo Joe is a highly regarded site for exam preparation exercises, and covers Cambridge English examinations, as well as IELTS exam. The content is regularly updated and the new topics and practice exercises and papers mean it is a valuable resource for learners and tutors.

			
	✓	✓	

Learn English Online



<http://www.learn-english-online.org/>

Content Rating: 6

Level Suitability: 6

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 6

Means of Access: Desktop only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: LEO Network provides a full course which learners can follow through and complete through self-study. Individual lessons can be accessed independently by learners or teachers, and can be useful to focus on a specific topic. The website also has a comprehensive area on learning skills and styles, as well as a forum and 'network' in which students and learners can learn about various areas of the language structure and vocabulary.

			
	✓	✓	

Udemy



<https://www.udemy.com/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop, Smartphone(app), tablet(app)

Free/Paid Content: Paid

Registration: Yes

Overview: Udemy provides fully prepared and managed courses online, at a price. The prices range from £19 (€22) to £100 (€117). It offers a small number of free courses in language learning. Most of the courses are video based and offer limited interactive learning opportunities for learners, but the lessons are comprehensive and are structured like a classroom course, with separate downloadable checking exercises.

			
✓	✓		

Breaking News English

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>

Content Rating: 9

Level Suitability: 9

Specific Purpose: Current affairs





WCAG2.0 Rating: 4

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Free

Registration: No

Overview: This unique website offers exercises and activities relating to global current affairs and gives learners and teachers a chance to incorporate day-to-day news issues in their learning. The site offers each “lesson” based on a news story, and provides activities at different levels depending on the story. Each story contains an interactive listening component, as well as reading, writing and listening. All “lessons” are in the same format. Learners can download and complete activities independently, and the site provides a full, downloadable lesson plan for teachers.

			
	✓	✓	

Lingoda



<https://www.lingoda.com/>

Content Rating: 7

Level Suitability: 7

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 8

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Paid

Registration: Yes

Overview: Lingoda is an excellent site, which offers online classes to students through either a group or individual basis. It functions like an online language school. The site is fully paid, and there are no free options. The pricing structure ranges from €99, €149 or €249 per month, depending on the number of classes. Depending on the subscription of the student, it also offers a certificate and Individual Learning Plan. The class levels available are CEFR: A1 – CEFR: C1.

			
✓	✓	✓	✓

Future Learn



<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Content Rating: 5

Level Suitability: 5

Specific Purpose: No





WCAG2.0 Rating: 5

Means of Access: Desktop Only

Free/Paid Content: Freemium

Registration Required: Yes

Overview: Future Learn is a website which provides both free and paid online courses. The site offers very high level courses for self-study learners, and does not provide any scope for teachers delivering the material. Course material is produced by universities globally. The courses are highly interactive and are delivered through videos and interactive self-testing methods. Certification is available at the end of each course, for a fee £60 (€71).

			
✓	✓	✓	✓