


# Language skills self-development resources









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The goal of this document is to provide you with a number of online resources that you can use to further develop your English language skills. However, keep in mind that this is intended for self-development, meaning that your advances are linked to how much time you spend using these resources. The document indicates which skills the resources are suited to develop (e.g. listening skill), however, many are applicable to other skills as well. You will find a short description of the given website along with some hints in the recommended use section. Every resource listed in this document is either free of charge or has a free usage option. The resources are hyperlinked and you only need to click on 'website' to access them. Most of the resources also have mobile applications on *Android* and *iOS* platforms as well so be sure to search for them if you prefer mobile learning.

The following abbreviations and color codes are used to indicate the skill/ language development potential of 20 resources in the document:

 listening     speaking     reading     writing     grammar     vocabulary

## List of resources

Resource	Access	Development	Recommended use
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, V	listening to <b>BBC podcasts</b> is especially suited to develop your comprehension of British English <b>hint:</b> take a look at the <a href="#">6 Minute English podcast</a>
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, V	listening to <b>National Public Radio</b> programs is especially suited to develop your comprehension of American English <b>hint:</b> read the transcripts while listening
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, V	<b>TED</b> offers a selection of high quality presentation from experts around the world <b>hint:</b> use subtitles if needed and create own playlists
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, V	<b>TED Ed</b> offers a selection of short presentations and lessons based on a number of topics <b>hint:</b> take a look at the questions and discussion section at the end of the videos
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, S, R, W, G, V	<b>Coursera</b> offers a high number of MOOCs (massive open online courses) from leading universities that either take place in a limited time window or are self-paced <b>hint:</b> check the catalogue for your interests <b>suggested course:</b> <a href="#">English composition I</a>
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, S, R, W, G, V	<b>edX</b> offers a high number of MOOCs (massive open online courses) from leading universities that either take place in a limited time window or are self-paced <b>hint:</b> check the catalogue for your interests <b>suggested courses:</b> <a href="#">Introduction to Public Speaking</a> <a href="#">How to Write an Essay</a>
	<a href="#">website</a>	L, S, V	<b>Lyrics Training</b> is a website where you can search for music videos and develop your listening skills by typing in the lyrics in slowed down intervals in various levels <b>hint:</b> search for your new and old favorite songs
	<a href="#">website</a>	W, G, V	you can find a number of writing and composition tips on <b>Daily Writing Tips</b> to perfect your writing <b>hint:</b> search for keywords like 'the writing process'

Resource	Access	Development	Recommended use
	<a href="#">website</a>	R, V	<b>The Feature</b> website offers a selection on online articles that you can access for developing your reading skills <b>hint:</b> browse the ‘Editor’s Picks’
	<a href="#">website</a>	R, W, G, V	<b>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Writing Center</b> is a great source for writing guides <b>hint:</b> take a look at the ‘writing the paper’ section
	<a href="#">website</a>	G, V	<b>Khan Academy</b> offers thematically organized mini video lessons on various topics <b>hint:</b> take a look at the grammar section
	<a href="#">website</a>	V	<b>Quizlet</b> is all about vocabulary development with flashcards; you can search for sets, create your own and have a number of printing options if you prefer that <b>hint:</b> try the various practice features
	<a href="#">website</a>	G, V	<b>Oxford Learner’s Dictionary</b> will give you not only the definition of words but also examples for usage <b>hint:</b> take a look at the Oxford 3,000 list of words
	<a href="#">website</a>	W, V	the <b>Merriam-Webster Dictionary</b> is a great source for looking up words <b>hint:</b> try the thesaurus function
	<a href="#">website</a>	G, V	the <b>Cambridge Dictionary</b> will give you a list of related words to the one your looked up <b>hint:</b> take a look at the grammar section
	<a href="#">website</a>	V	<b>Thesaurus.com</b> is website that will give you a list of synonyms and antonyms to your searched word and will provide a ranking of how closely they are connected <b>hint:</b> take a look at the word of the day from time to time
	<a href="#">website</a>	V	a corpus is a collection of naturally occurring language and using the <b>COCA corpus</b> (Corpus of Contemporary American English) you can check words and expressions in their original contexts to make sure you use them in the appropriate way <b>hint:</b> search for your favorite words
	<a href="#">website</a>	V	<b>The New General Service List</b> and <b>New Academic Word List</b> are corpus-based word sets of the most frequent general and academic English words <b>hint:</b> take a look at the <i>Quizlet</i> sets in the ‘tools’ menu
	<a href="#">website</a>	S, W	the <b>Persuasion Map</b> that you can find on the readwritethink.com website can be used to structure your essays and also your various oral presentations with the basic structure of introduction, main points and their supports and conclusion <b>hint:</b> the persuasion map can be used for prewriting
	<a href="#">website</a>	S, R, W, V	the <b>MindMup</b> website offers a platform where you can create your own mind maps and save them in your <i>Google Drive</i> <b>hint:</b> try mind maps as a brainstorming strategy

This list of resources is only a starting point for your self-development. Also, remember that the university library offers a high number of books, journals and magazines in English that can aid your language development. If you have a website or application that you use but it is not on the list, please let me know (see header for email adress) so I can add it for other learners to profit from it as well. I wish you a good exploration of these resources and good luck in your studies.