



www.USALearns.org

A Free Web Site for Immigrants and Other Adults Wanting to Improve Their English Skills

What is the “Web-based portal” www.USALearns.org?

The Online English Portal, known as *USALearns*, is an easily accessible Internet learning tool that contains instructional materials, developed primarily with public funds, to teach basic English skills and help adults improve their English proficiency. The Web site is designed to allow learners with low-level literacy skills to use the tool independently, but it can also be used with a teacher or tutor. *USALearns* contains easy-to-understand directions and free instructional materials for independent study by these adults, and it can be used inside or outside the traditional classroom environment.

Who should use *USALearns*?

Immigrants and other adults seeking to learn basic English or improve their English proficiency can benefit from *USALearns*. The target audience is adults with no or limited English language skills who are not inclined to attend traditional classroom programs or use other materials or classes available for a fee; it will target those adults with limited means and those who cannot attend classes because of difficulty with schedules, transportation, or other barriers. While the site is designed for independent use, teachers and tutors can also find instructional materials that can be used in classroom and individual instructional settings. The Web site has an online management system available for teacher and tutor use.

Why *USALearns* Now?

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy has documented that as many as 11 million adults who are at the lowest levels of English proficiency could benefit from easily accessible English language training. Currently, local providers are only able to serve slightly more than one million of these English language learners annually. Thus, the need and demand for English language acquisition and basic skills training in the United States clearly exceeds the ability to deliver. Technology can help our Nation meet this important need for services.

How can learners access *USALearns*?

Learners can access *USALearns*, a free resource, anytime and anywhere. All that is required is a computer and a broadband connection to the Internet. The address is www.USALearns.org. Many community centers and libraries provide free Internet access.

Can *USALearns* be used with other instructional materials? Are other materials available?

There are other commercial and non-commercial products and resources available that may be helpful to the adult learner. *USALearns* may be a useful tool alone or in conjunction with those other commercial and non-commercial products and resources. While the Department cannot endorse or sanction those products and resources, the adult learner may wish to get more information about the benefits and costs (if any) of other commercial and non-commercial products and resources available.

Log on to www.USALearns.org today

USALearns was an outgrowth of a project that was conceived by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), Division of Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL). Core funding for *USALearns* was provided by ED. In making the Portal available, the U.S. Department of Education does not mandate its use by individuals or teachers or tutors, and does not guarantee that *USALearns* will be successful in individual situations. For further information about the overall project, contact U.S. Department of Education - OVAE, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-7100. Email: ovae@ed.gov. Telephone: (202) 245-7700