RESOURCES at the University of Toronto
for LEARNING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

INSTRUCTION

U of T does not require you to fulfil specific requirements after you are admitted, but it does offer you resources to help you keep developing your academic English skills along with studies in your chosen discipline. You can find a few specialized courses and many other types of instruction. Choose carefully from these resources to match your needs—and sign up early, because space is always limited.

- **Writing Centres** in the undergraduate colleges, the School of Graduate Studies, Architecture, Engineering and the Health Sciences provide **group workshops** on general issues of writing and study skills, including some sessions aimed especially at second-language learners. All writing centres offer **individual instruction** by appointment where you can work intensively with a writing instructor to learn how to improve your course assignments. All writing instructors are familiar with expectations at U of T, and some have specialized training in teaching ESL. For information about group programming and about making appointments for the individual consultations, check at the college or faculty where you are registered. Find more information at **www.utoronto.ca/writing/centres.html**.
- **U of T at Scarborough** offers four **credit** courses in English as a Second Language through the Languages unit: they are listed with LGGA course numbers in the Scarborough Calendar: see **www.utsc.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/Languages_and_Linguistics.html.** The **English Language Development** office at UTSC also offers the ELD Summer Learning Institute (2-day, **non-credit)** to help incoming students get a head start on academic communication skills. The ongoing **Communication Café** offers opportunities to learn vocabulary and develop better communication skills through games and guided practice. For more information and guidance, follow the links at **www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~tlsweb/ELD/default.htm.**
- For students enrolled in the **School of Graduate Studies**, the **Office of English Language and Writing Support** offers a number of short **non-credit** courses for non-native speakers of English. Topics include Academic Conversation Skills and Presentation Skills as well as Academic Writing. All courses are free of charge, but registration is required. Places are limited, so choose carefully to secure a space in the appropriate course. Check at **www.sgs.utoronto.ca/english** for information about these courses, and for descriptions of the single-session **workshops** and **individual instruction** also available.
- The **School of Continuing Studies** offers an intensive English Language Programme of 3, 8, or 15 weeks, with costs ranging from $1600 to $5100. Students who successfully complete the 15-week **Academic Preparation** program are exempted from further testing for admission to undergraduate programs. Some part-time courses are also available. All are at a pre-TOEFL level. Courses start at various times through the year. For detailed information, see **learn.utoronto.ca/Page60.aspx.**
- The **English Program** at the **International Student Centre** offers free classes in **conversation, pronunciation**, and other relevant topics. Classes are open to all U of T students. For further information on times and signup procedures, see **www.isc.utoronto.ca/iscservices/english.html.** The **cross-cultural counsellor** at ISC, Jian Su (416 978-8774), also offers workshops and individual consultations.

BOOKS

See over for a list of relevant websites and specialized handbooks available in U of T libraries and bookstores.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Try out online resources as another way to gain experience in using English. Many encourage you to use e-mail to join written discussions with other students. The links on the Web page at **www.utoronto.ca/writing/other4.html** will take you quickly to resources like these:
- online handouts at **www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html#esl** (see especially the new file on using **articles)**
- definition games and pronunciation exercises
- Dave's ESL Café in California, a place for students to write to each other about their interests
- schMOOze University (Hunter College, CUNY) for "talking" with other students in real time.

IMMERSION IN ENGLISH

To develop your English skills fully, you need to speak and hear English outside the classroom. Consider joining groups at U of T or in the local community, such as sports teams, outing clubs, and choirs. Volunteer activities such as hospital assistance or entertaining at seniors' homes also provide human contact and language experience. Listening to "quality" radio (e.g. CBC1 at 99.1 FM, CBC2 at 94.1 FM) will help familiarize you with voice patterns. Even watching talk or news shows on TV can give models for cultural expectations of turn-taking and interruption.

A Selection of Useful Books and Websites for Learning English as a Second Language

ONLINE DICTIONARIES

The Newbury House Dictionary of American English
This dictionary doesn't have grammar notes, but it does provide an illustrative sentence for each meaning and has some line drawings. Go to **nhd.heinle.com** for exercises and an online lookup.

DICTIONARIES ON CD-ROM

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English
This paperback dictionary includes guides to pronunciation and to current usage. Even better, it comes with CD-ROMs that allows you to hear specific words yourself and compare what you say with the way a British and an American speaker would say the same word. The CD-ROMs also provide examples of usage and the option to hear sample sentences read out to you. The program can also be installed to provide "popup" onscreen definitions when you are reading webpages, PDF files, or Word files. Save all that page-flipping!

GRAMMAR TEXTS

Collins Cobuild English Grammar
Organized by function ("combining messages," "expressing time") rather than by parts of speech (verbs, adjective clauses etc.)

Modern English: A Practical Reference Guide (Marcella Frank)
A very thorough traditional grammar, organized by parts of speech.

BOOKS ON WRITING

Academic Writing (Janet Giltrow)
Focuses on the social sciences. The chapters on academic style and the politics of knowledge could be very useful for advanced learners.

Academic Writing for Graduate Students (John Swales and Christine Feak)
Designed as a text for a genre-based writing course, this has useful information on how a research paper is structured. See also **English in Today's Research World** by the same authors.

WEBSITES ON WRITING

Writing at the University of Toronto, **www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html**
U of T's writing website includes useful advice files and links to many ESL sites. Look at the complete list at **www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html#esl,** noting the files on such matters as Reading Critically and Paraphrasing. See also the section "Some Answers for Writers of English as a Second Language" at **www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html#5** to access specialized files answering questions on ESL issues.

English Language Development, **www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~tlsweb/ELD**
This area of the UTSC Teaching and Learning Services Centre website is full of practical online resources, along with explanations of *why* and *how* the recommended strategies work. See especially **www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~tlsweb/ELD/ELDvocabularydevelopment.html** for files on vocabulary building.

Hypergrammar, **www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/grammar.html**
A thorough review of traditional English grammar from the bilingual University of Ottawa.