ESL Software Buyer’s Guide

Hannah Zeiler takes a look at some of the latest software for English Language Learners

Command Performance Learning

**Live Action English INTERACTIVE**

This is a Total Physical Response (TPR) computer program — which means that the user actually interacts with people and objects on the computer screen. Humor and light-hearted fun engage the learner in activities for listening, teaching, reading, writing, vocabulary, verb forms, and spelling. Using casual, natural, and practical language, each unit presents basic vocabulary through a logical sequence of imperatives describing a familiar activity. Live Action English Interactive was produced by five experienced ESL teachers with more than 120 years of language teaching experience that joined forces to produce such a dynamic, productive, and captivating ESL software program.

Digital Education Productions

**EASY, English Academic Success for You**

EASY, English Academic Success for You is a video-based ESL series on interactive CD and network. It is for the newcomer or lower level student and is a great supplement in Middle and High Schools to textbooks. The subject matter is all American based life skills presented in full interactive video and highly correlated to the BEST and CASAS assessments and most states’ standards. EASY is ideal in the classroom, the lab, and also at home.

English Computerized Learning

**Pronunciation Power 1 and 2**

The Pronunciation Power 1 and 2 software are excellent tools for teachers of ESL to compliment their classroom learning environment by aiding the students in practicing and improving their pronunciation skills through self-study. The teacher can direct the students to the lessons that would be best for them to study as the program is designed for students to be able to practice on their own. The Pronunciation Power program is easy to navigate and is extremely user friendly with few confusing icons and an informative help bar just in case.

ESL.net

**New Interchange Version 3 (Cambridge University Press)**

Interchange 3rd Edition is a comprehensive, up-to-date approach to teaching and learning. It is an immersive experience that educates students by navigating them through the range of interchanges that face an ESL student, from personal to professional, cultural to academic. Proper emphasis is put on communication and the grammar and vocabulary skills that are needed equally to understand someone talking to you as well as clearly coming across to them. Designed for young adult to adult learners, Interchange brings a vital immediacy, whether for home or in the classroom, by preparing a 21st century student for all the potential language encounters they will have.

ESL Pro Systems

**English for Kids Box Set**

Whether the child is new to English or a native speaker, the English for Kids Box Set will educate and entertain. Combining all essential elements required for building a strong foundation in English, this collection of software has everything the young learner needs to excel in both verbal and written communication. With the help of the English for Kids Box Set, students will gain skill and confidence in English speaking. In addition, they will have over 50 hours of pronunciation practice, master all key English language sounds, and learn to avoid common English language pronunciation errors through a combination of multimedia including pictures, movies, and sounds.
At least there's one ESL decision that's easy.

Choose the #1 ESL Software in U.S. Schools

ESL teachers face a lot of tough decisions every day. Here's one that's easy. Rosetta Stone's outstanding effectiveness and ease of use are why it's the #1 ESL software in U.S. schools.

- Customizable curriculum to meet individual student needs
- Interactive learning using our Dynamic Immersion™ method
- All key language skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing
- Assessment built into every lesson.

Call now or go online for a free Demo CD.
1-888-232-1027
or visit www.RosettaStone.com/im1

McGraw-Hill
All-Star Interactive CD-ROM

McGraw-Hill's All-Star Interactive CD-ROM installable program is ideal for classrooms, computer labs, and self-study use. The combined beginning and low-intermediate levels provide 60 hours of valuable multi-sensory instruction with 300 activities that systematically build language skills around life-skill topics. Dialogs, songs, and other natural recordings introduce users to the richness and variety of vocabulary through authentic American English and develop user conversational English skills. Students are introduced to civic, community, workplace, and family application lessons. A game section gives users a high-interest, fun perspective to language learning and mastery. A test at the end of every unit gives students practice in CASAS-like competency standardized test-taking.

Oxford University Press
Grammar Sense Interactive

New from Oxford University Press is Grammar Sense Interactive, an interactive software program available in three levels that provides extensive grammar practice through a unique blend of exercises, tests, games, and reference notes. It is based on the syllabus of the Grammar Sense series and builds on the series' focus on the development of learner autonomy. The program includes a variety of instructional games to challenge and motivate students, score reports which can be viewed at any time to provide a continuous record of student progress, and audio examples to provide invariable models of native speech.

Pearson Longman
Longman English Interactive Levels 1 to 4

Designed for teenagers and adult learners, Longman English Interactive Levels 1 to 4 offers students a unique way to learn and practice the communicative skills and the functional competencies that they need. LEI is a video-based integrated-skills course that makes use of engaging video, audio, and animated text activities to present learners with real language in context. Each level provides over 100 hours of CD-ROM instruction with an additional 45-60 hours of classroom instruction. Each unit of the course features video listening, vocabulary, speaking, grammar, pronunciation, reading, and quizzes and tests. This program offers a complete curriculum, which provides extensive instruction and comprehensive practice to ensure positive results.

Protea Textware
Issues in English 2

Published in March 2005, Issues in English 2 is an effective, innovative, and comprehensive software program for English language and
literacy learners. With four levels from beginning to advanced, students learn a wide range of English language skills within meaningful contexts. The issues — Sport, Media, Technology, Fame, Education, Immigration, Wilderness, and Languages — are relevant and engaging. The program is content-rich, with over 700 interactive exercises based on the stimulus videos. These include reading and listening comprehension, grammar and vocabulary, pronunciation, and writing.

**Renaissance Learning**

**English in a Flash**

English in a Flash introduces a revolutionary new research-based approach to dramatically accelerate English language learning. English in a Flash builds language proficiency from the bottom up. The program begins with vocabulary and then implicitly teaches all the grammatical structures of English, helping students acquire the building blocks of English — the sound system, vocabulary, and grammatical structures. This innovative new product helps teachers meet the needs of ELL and ESL students regardless of ability level or cultural background by providing them with individualized instruction, practice, and immediate feedback. As a result, teachers have the information they need to efficiently target instruction, improve long-term retention of the new language, while teaching students the basic grammatical structures and pronunciation.

**Riverdeep**

**Destination Reading**

Destination Reading is a research-based program that balances phonics instruction with reading-for-meaning exercises, offering students a blend of direct skills training and authentic reading experience. All of the lessons and creative activities are student-adaptive, making it easy for teachers to respond to the individual needs of every child within a diverse classroom. With the widest assortment of age-appropriate fiction and non-fiction text styles available in a software program, Destination Reading is designed to capture the attention and imagination of young learners.

**Rosetta Stone**

**The Rosetta Stone Level 1,2, & 3 Classroom Edition**

Rosetta Stone Classroom Edition is a comprehensive curriculum for institutional language programs. It contains over 1000 hours of mastery learning in key language skills, in levels from beginner through high intermediate. Rosetta Stone’s effectiveness and ease of use is why it is one of the leading software in U.S. schools. Based on thirty years of language learning research, the software’s method develops all key language skills-listening, reading, speaking, and writing-for students of any age, ability, or language background. Rosetta Stone can be used as a primary language-learning tool or coordinated with classroom instruction.

---

**Powerful Online Courses for Teachers and Students of Business English**

**BizEnglish**

Your online provider of Business English Language Instruction and Teacher Training

- Certificate Programs for Teachers and Trainers
- Instructor-led Courses for International Business People

- Convenient and cost-effective
- International award-winning materials
- Expert, friendly teachers
- Daily feedback and discussions
- Sharing ideas with other professionals

Experience BizEnglish to improve language learning and retention – alone or in combination with your face-to-face program.

Email us today: info@bizenglish.com
Visit us online: www.bizenglish.com

---

**Issues in English**

available now!!

For ESL learners from 12 to adult

- **Meaningful contexts and sound pedagogy** - for fast and effective learning
- **Four levels** - great for multi-ability classes
- **Easy to use** - the graphical interactive interface motivates even the most reluctant learners
- **Comprehensive** - listening and reading; speaking and writing; grammar and vocabulary

“**This is CALL at its best!”**

On CD-ROM

With over 700 hours of interactive activities

CONTACT PROTEA TEXTWARE FOR A FREE DEMO CD

info@proteatextware.com.au www.proteatextware.com

---

**Bringing learning to life ...**
Siboney Learning Group  
Orchard Software  

Through interactive and motivational activities, students are guided by a combination of voice and images through the fundamentals of the English language. Students immerse themselves in English, directly associating sound with meaning. Orchard Software is intended to be used as a curriculum supplement to help students master essential language arts achievement standards. Because of its flexibility, the program can be integrated into regular classroom instruction, used in the lab as part of the computer curriculum, or be an integral part of an ESL, remedial, or after-school program.

Talking Fingers  
Read, Write, Type Learning System — Int’l Version  

For 6-10 year olds learning to read and write in English, a program that is highly recommended by researchers, is the Read, Write, Type Learning System—International Version from Talking Fingers, Inc. Children learn more than 200 words in English with pictures that are clearly named. They learn the 40 sounds (phonemes) of English by playing games to identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds in those words. There are six activities in each of the 40 consecutive lessons, where children spell out or read words and sentences in games and stories, using English vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and punctuation.

Topics Entertainment  
Instant Immersion ASL V. 2.0  

The effective language learning software Instant Immersion™ English Standard Version 2.0 was recently updated and improved to increase learning transition from beginner to intermediate. At its core, the Talk Method is designed to effectively teach the English language through a progressive series of lessons and activities. Instant Immersion adds an additional transition step (Talk More) to aid in increasing speaking proficiency and heighten language fundamentals. Through the assistance of video technology features, an interactive supplemental picture dictionary and a challenging interactive mystery game, Instant Immersion provides the tools to learn English in a fun and engaging manner.

Transparent Language  
Language Now!  

Language Now! is based on one the top-rated language learning methodologies. With this program the user can go from learning basic speaking skills to a mastery of the language. The user starts with the Listen & Speak activities, grammar tools, and vocabulary games, which provide a solid language learning foundation. As the user advances, authentic conversational video content lets them interact with their new language like a true native. With Language Now! the user participates in real conversations, reads interesting articles, and watches intriguing videos to interactively build all of their language skills.

Vocals  
Word Town / Las Palabras del Pueblo  

This fully bilingual CD-ROM presents 800 commonly used English/Spanish vocabulary words (spoken in clear, generic Spanish) found within a typical town. It is organized into 20 colorful scenes, such as school, hospital, and library, each emphasizing real-life situations. Students will see, hear, and read all of the words necessary for everyday communication in English. In addition to teaching vocabulary words, the interactive CD-ROM format stresses correct pronunciation. Word Town / Las Palabras del Pueblo is a helpful aide for the classroom or independent use.

World Language Resources  
Language Solution English (ESL) Level I 10-User Lab Pack  

Language Solution has adapted its highly acclaimed natural learning methodology, the way children learn their native languages, to the latest CD-ROM technology, to make learning fast, fun and effective for anyone 9 (or younger) to 90. The self-paced, “point-and-click” CD-ROM programs combine an intuitive user interface with proven “total immersion” methodologies to enable immediate understanding, and speaking of the language studied from the very first day.

The CD programs utilize various optimum learning techniques including spaced repetition, total physical response, role-playing, and pronunciation.

Only software-based products have been covered in this feature. An alternative is learning ESL online. Here are a few companies that offer this effective type of learning. See the October issue for a more complete list of ESL online companies:
ESL teachers can also train online:

CompassLearning

Odyssey for English Language Learners

CompassLearning’s Odyssey for English Language Learners is a browser-based K-adult program that develops English language learners’ reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills and prepares them for high-stakes testing. With Odyssey ELL, students acquire the basic language skills they need as a foundation for academic language acquisition and adequate yearly progress. A theme-based, spiraled curriculum helps students make connections to the real world and build on their knowledge as they advance through the curriculum. Multimedia lessons and activities engage students in their learning and motivate them to achieve. When combined with CompassLearning’s management system, Odyssey ELL provides data to support ELL accountability and inform instruction.

ESL ReadingSmart

ESLreadingsmart.com is a multimedia, online environment for ESL students and teachers. Designed to provide academically challenging, reading selections and activities for ESL students and teachers. Using a host of literary genres — myth, legend, ghost story, biography, short story, and poetry — ESLreadingsmart.com offers a reading program and curriculum that supports ESL classroom instruction from late elementary through high school. The program offers international themes through translations of contemporary and classical readings from countries across the globe. The Teachers section includes lesson plans complete with step-by-step instructions and other class management features for creating class rosters, recording scores, and assessing individual students’ needs.

BizEnglish

For ultimate flexibility in professional development, BizEnglish.com offers teacher-training programs online. Their goal is to deliver a learning experience that will satisfy the needs of the international business person. While maintaining a flexible and creative approach in order to provide the most applicable and beneficial product for each client. Teachers of English or other languages can enjoy top quality teacher training from home or office on individual schedules. Whether the need is to enhance qualifications with knowledge of Business English or with skill in teaching online, BizEnglish.com has the online professional development program. The Certificate in Teaching Business English (CTBE) and the Certificate in Teaching English Online (CTEO) are top-notch programs designed for the busy teacher.

Hannah Zeiler is copy editor for Language Magazine.