

Free English Language Learning – at Your Library

Many adults arrive in the United States with little or no English language speaking or writing ability. The Cambridge Public Library Literacy Project offers an array of English conversation classes to help adults transition into their new language. The classes are free and can be found on the library's listings of events.

For those who want to spend additional time learning English, the library has books, CDs and DVDs which can be taken out and used at home to supplement classroom learning.

For adults who need to learn basic English literacy, a good place to start is [Longman's ESL Literacy](#) student book. This book is useful in introducing simple English words that an adult might encounter – money terms, time, bus schedules and medical phrases.

[Longman ESL Literacy \(student book\)](#) The Longman Literacy book is probably not useful as a stand-alone tool but rather is to be used with an instructor's guidance.

[Longman ESL Literacy \(teacher's book\)](#) The teacher's book is also available through the Minuteman catalogue and can be taken out.

The Literacy Room at the Central Square Branch of the Cambridge Public Library has lots of books and CDs which can be taken out which are designed to help adults work on their spoken English. The following are several examples:

[English Pronunciation](#)

[American Accent Training](#)

[Grammar/Accent Training](#)

For adult learners who want to practice basic English phrases the [Side by Side](#) texts are a great place to start. They come in four levels and cover fundamentals that will be immediately useful. Again, these texts are best if used with a tutor or instructor. The Literacy Room at the Cambridge Public Library in Central Square has all four levels which circulate.

[Side by Side Book 1](#)

Finally, perhaps the most digestible of all of these sources – the Pimsleur English language CDs. These CDs teach English using the first language of the learner. It is a highly interactive process that feels very natural and painless. Students can come away having some rudimentary English – providing the new speaker with confidence. The Central Square branch in Cambridge has these for Spanish speakers as well as for speakers of Haitian Creole: [English for Haitian Creole speakers](#)

Whatever it is that you're seeking to learn, there's a good chance that the library has materials which will help you in your pursuits.