

English Language and Teaching Resources for International Teaching Assistants (ITAs)

These are some resources you can use to practice your English skills and to better prepare for your role as a TA at FSU.

US Higher Education: Language, Culture, and Teaching

[Instruction at FSU - Chapter 6 – Especially for TAs](#)

Helpful tips and resources for FSU teaching assistants.

[Ideas for the Start of a Great Semester](#)

A list of great ideas from Iowa State University for the first days of a new course.

[Instruction at FSU - Chapter 8 – Using Active Learning in the Classroom](#)

A thorough resource guide explaining many kinds of active learning strategies and activities.

[Teaching in America: A Guide for International Faculty](#)

International teaching assistants and faculty at Harvard University discuss their experiences of teaching in the U.S.

[What Students Want](#)

Students at Harvard University explain the kinds of teachers who help them learn.

[Scenes from a Classroom: Managing Conflict](#)

Short videos of difficult teaching situations with possible solutions.

[Common Questions for International Teaching Assistants](#)

Practice listening to real American students asking common classroom questions in faster English with reduced speech.

[Khan Academy](#)

This site features hundreds of video lessons in math, science, and several other fields. This is usually used as a resource for English speaking students (grade school through university), however international TAs will find lots of useful teaching language for explaining difficult concepts. Transcripts and subtitles are also available.

[MERLOT II](#)

MERLOT is a curated collection of free and open online teaching, learning, and faculty development services contributed and used by an international education community. Look under “Search MELRLOT” for resources.

Pronunciation and Listening

[American Rhetoric](#)

A database of full text, audio and video version of public speeches, sermons, legal proceedings, lectures, interviews, etc.

[English Page Listening Resources](#)

This page has links to both US and British radio programs—great for listening practice.

[Phonetics: The Sound of Speech](#)

An excellent resource from the University of Iowa which demonstrates how to produce all of the sounds of American English. The site now has an app for your phone.

[Reduced Forms from Karen’s Linguistics Issues](#)

This page has a list of common phrases that are often “reduced” (e.g., going to = gonna) in English.

TED Talks

<http://www.ted.com/>

TED Talks are videotaped presentations of varying lengths (3-25 minutes long) on a variety of topics from art to science to technology. You can view most of the talks with subtitles in several languages, and transcripts are usually available in several languages. TED Talks are a great way to practice listening and also learn new vocabulary.

Especially for the STEM Fields

These resources will help you with pronouncing special terms and symbols. Some are written sources and some contain audio.

Handbook for Spoken Mathematics (phonetic explanation):

http://web.efzg.hr/dok/MAT/vkojic/Larrys_speakeasy.pdf

Mathematical and Scientific Symbols (phonetic explanation):

<http://www.uefap.com/speaking/symbols/symbols.htm>

Technical Terms (Audio) for Math and Science from Michigan State University:

<http://www.tap.msu.edu/team/resources/>

Grammar and Vocabulary

[Activities for ESL students](#)

This site has a list of bilingual quizzes for reviewing vocabulary in English and many other languages.

[English in a Minute from Voice of America](#)

Short video lessons on idioms and common phrases in American English.

[Eng Vid: Free English Video Lessons](#)

This site features videos of English language teachers presenting short lessons on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, slang, TOEFL preparation, etc.

[Many Things: Interesting Things for ESL Students](#)

This site contains English language exercises and materials for practice in the areas of vocabulary, reading, grammar, speaking and listening. There are materials for beginners, too.