



# ALRC TECH TIPS

APRIL 2008

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

*Welcome to April's ALRC Tech Tips. We hope you find these brief ideas helpful. Please feel free to contact us with any tech ideas you would like to share with other programs. This is your forum.*

## Adult Learning Resource Center

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## ALRC is on the Web!

[www.thecenterweb.org](http://www.thecenterweb.org)

*The Adult Learning Resource Center (ALRC) is a member of the IL Adult Education Service Center Network.*

These are some of the new and updated pieces of software and other technology on display at the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) conferences. We hope that these notes will be helpful as you plan your technology purchases for the coming year. If you have questions about specific software, call Judith Diamond at 224.366.8625.

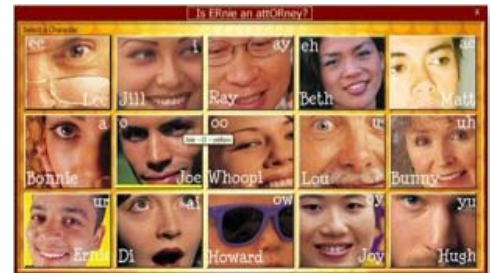
## ESL Software

### **American Speech Sounds**

[www.americanspeechsounds.com](http://www.americanspeechsounds.com)

Stand-alone version: \$149.95 with authoring

Students listen to sounds, words, or sentences and then record and compare pronunciation. The application includes discrete sounds, linking, intonation, stress, and special pronunciations for specific categories of words.



The company also has the program, *Is Ernie an Attorney?* This software focuses on vowel sounds using questions and statements from 15 speakers. There is no demo online. The cost is approximately \$75.00.

### **EasyESOL**

#### **Easy, the ESL Series**

[www.easyesol.com](http://www.easyesol.com)

Kit: \$700.00 One media set (DVD or CD) \$295.00

This series consists of three programs, *The Beginner Series*, *Community Essentials*, and *Easy at Work*. Each program has 6 units except *Easy at Work* which has 15. Videos of actors in simple situations speaking in very careful and structured English build up the student's proficiency in vocabulary and grammar in small steps. A kit with blackline masters and a teacher's guide is strongly suggested for each of the series.

### **English 101**

Living Language  
Random House

<http://www.randomhouse.com/livinglanguage/online-english-course.html>

Demo available online

\$54.95 for one program, one level

This affordable CD has clear and brief explanations of language and culture with audio support and downloadable content. There are three levels, Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced. *Living Language* has other products to examine at [www.livinglanguage.com](http://www.livinglanguage.com) but without demos online.



## WIMBA ONLINE!

### WALK-THROUGHS

Everyone must take a walk-through before their first WIMBA session.

Thur., Apr. 24, 8:00 pm  
Wed., May 7, 10:00 am  
Wed., May 14, 10:00 am  
Wed., May 21, 10:00 am

### CLASSES ONLINE

*Begin Vocabulary Teaching with a Quadrant Chart*  
Wed., May 14, 1:00 pm

*ESL: Making Choices, Taking Chances*  
Thur., May 22, 2:00 pm

*Evaluating ESL Textbooks*  
Thur., May 8, 2:00 pm

*New Ways to Use the Web for ESL*  
Thurs., May 15, 8:00 pm

*NRS Review*  
Wed., May 21, 1:00 pm

*Red States, Blue States, Platforms, Debates – What's It All About?*  
Wed., May 7, 1:00 pm

*Web 2.0 Tools & Stuff*  
Thurs., May 8, 2:00 pm

### PROVIDER GROUPS ONLINE

*Citizenship Educators Interest Group Meeting*  
Thur., Apr. 24, 11:00 am

### REGISTRATION

[www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/wimba.html](http://www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/wimba.html)

## ESL Software, continued

*English Discoveries*  
*English Discoveries Online*  
*English Discoveries Expert*  
Edusoft

<http://techno-ware-esl.com/index.html>

\$699.00 for a complete set of five levels for 1-9 workstations

All of these programs have a combination of short videos, reading passages, listening, recording and assessing pronunciation, and clever cartoon grammar guides. The technology is adequate though not impressive, but the program is thorough covering many different aspects of English. It is certainly worth a look for any ESL program that can afford it. Five levels from Let's Start to the Executive Level are all available for \$699.00 as a stand-alone price. Individually, the levels are less costly and the price goes down as more workstations are added.

### *See Say English*

<http://www.seesayenglish.com>

\$70.00 per computer station per year (1 – 10 stations). The cost reduces for more stations. This cost is per station not individual student.

The screen is divided into pictures for subject, verb, and object. The participants can combine them in any order and hear a sentence spoken. After listening, the user can record their own voice and compare pronunciations. There are 50 regular and 50 irregular verbs in the course.

### *Tell Me More*

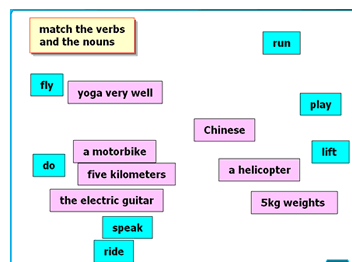
Auralog

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

\$195.00 to \$499.00 stand-alone depending on level and package

The goal of *Tell Me More* is to be a complete English learning software. It contains conversations with the computer, speech recognition activities, many workbook-type exercises, a wide range of levels, and very extensive student tracking.

## Online Application for ESL



### *Teachit World*

[www.teachitworld.com](http://www.teachitworld.com)

This is a very nice resource from England. For about \$30.00 yearly, teachers can have access to "whizzys" or interactive exercises, audio files and other attractive resources. They will also have the tools to make and upload their own resources. PDF lessons and images are free. The only negative is that words about money and accents in the audio portion are, of course, mostly British.

## EL/CIVICS ONLINE



*EL/Civics Online*  
[www.elciviconline.org](http://www.elciviconline.org) is a group of four unique free professional development courses to help instructors and volunteers incorporate EL/Civics into adult ESL classrooms. The courses included are: U.S. History, U.S. Government, (available now) Civic Engagement, and The Naturalization Process (soon to be available).

## ABE/GED Software



### **Math'scool**

BestQuest

[www.bestquest.com](http://www.bestquest.com). Brief demo online  
\$249.00 per individual module.

There are many options for delivery and special prices for combinations of modules. Each module begins with a rather silly animation. This is followed by interesting videos of math used in a variety of professions. The professional explains both the math and how he/she uses it. There is also a similar *Algebra'scool* program at \$499.00 a module. Workbooks are available for an additional cost.

### **Understanding Math Plus**

Neufeld Learning Systems

[www.neufeldmath.com](http://www.neufeldmath.com)

from \$108.00 to \$786.00 for one stand-alone depending on program and package

These are some of the best pieces of math software available. They are clear, very structured, and interactive. The programs cover basic math through algebra. An excellent demo can be downloaded from the site.

## ESL and ABE/GED Software

### **Easy Writer Deluxe**

Software for Students

[www.softwareforstudents.com](http://www.softwareforstudents.com)

\$506.00 for five workstations

*Easy Writer Deluxe* is a large group of essays that are read aloud. Students read, listen, and get vocabulary and grammar help. It is basically an interactive book on CD.

### **Clicker 5**

**Crick Software**

[www.cricksoft.com](http://www.cricksoft.com)

\$299.00 Stand-alone: *Clicker 5*

\$199.00 Stand-alone: *Clozepro*

These are authoring software. *Clicker 5* allows the teacher to create groups of words and/or pictures that popup or can be dragged by the student in sentences or as identifiers. It can be adapted for any content area. The programs are very easy to use, rather like having specialized software for each class and each topic. The software includes a website with free, importable resources. *Clozepro* is similar to *Clicker 5* in that teachers can create their own Cloze programs for students.

## Utility

### **Mimio: Whiteboard Capture**

[www.mimio.com](http://www.mimio.com)

\$599.00 for a basic system

This is the least expensive way to turn any whiteboard into an interactive display for CD's, DVD's, or utility programs like Microsoft PowerPoint or Word. It is worth taking a look at the site.

