

5. Online academic tools for students

Here is a list of online academic tools which can be used in class or by students on their own.

1. General Academic English

The following websites can help students with their grammar, listening, developing academic skills and presentations.

- <http://www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/> (Introduction to life at university – main differences between school and HE)
- <http://elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/eap/> (General EAP skills + presentation skills)
- <http://www.uefap.com/> (General EAP skills)
- http://www.uefap.com/reading/exercise/menu_eff.htm (Improving reading skills)
- http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_41.htm (Grammar)
- <http://aeo.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/> (General Academic skills)

2. Focus on vocabulary

2.1 Academic Word List (AWL)

Numerous exercises which focus on the Academic Word List can be found on the following websites:

- <http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/AWL/index.htm>
- <http://www.uefap.com/vocab/exercise/exercise.htm>
- <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/>

2.2 AWL Highlighter

With this tool, students can upload their written work and see how academic their vocabulary is as the tool highlights all of the words in the text from the AWL.

- <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alzsh3/acvocab/awlhighlighter.htm>

2.3 Academic phrases & expressions

Often students use the same expressions and phrases in their writing. This site introduces postgraduates and undergraduates to a whole range of phrases used in introductions, methodology sections, etc.

- <http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

2.4 Understanding key words in context

The following Corpus can be used by teachers and students alike to see how words work in context:

- <http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/>

2.5 Word collocations

If students are struggling with collocations (words that come before or after the target word), they can access the site below:

- <http://wordtree.coventry.ac.uk/?BAWE>

3. Common mistakes in written work

3.1 Common Errors Detector

With this programme, you can upload any written text and the program will output the text with the errors highlighted, give comments and explanations to help you solve the problems.

- <http://www2.elc.polyu.edu.hk/CILL/errordetector.htm>

4. Referencing (Using the Harvard Referencing System)

4.1 Online reference guide

For help writing in-text references of a list of references using the Harvard referencing system, students can go to: <https://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm>

4.2 Mobile phone (iphone) app:

- *ReferenceME* (Students can scan the barcode of the book they want to include in their list of references and it will write it in the Harvard Referencing Style).

Now that you have seen some useful tools.

Discuss the following questions.

- What are your student's main weaknesses?
- Which websites do you think your students would benefit most from?
- Do you use others that are not on this list? If yes, which ones?
- How could you incorporate the new websites into your classroom?