

Getting Started in English

Thank you for contacting English At Large. If you are on our waiting list for a tutor, you will be interviewed in a few months. If you are accepted to the program, you may have to wait more than six months to get a tutor. We have a long waiting list.

While you are waiting, here are some things you can do to improve your English:

Join the Public Library:

Every town has a public library. You can join your local library for free.

- To get a library card, bring something with your address on it to the library – your drivers' license or a bill.
- Remember to return books on time. You must pay a fine for late books.
- When you get your library card, get a list of the libraries where you can use your card.

Ask a Librarian to show you:

- Books to help adults learn English (often in a "Literacy Collection"):
 - *Oxford Picture Dictionary*
 - *Laubach Way to English* series
 - *Side By Side* series
 - *English No Problem!* series
 - *News for You* (Newspaper for new readers)
- Books with cassette tapes (in the Literacy or Children's sections of the library)
- Nonfiction books in the Young Adult section. Many students find the biographies here very interesting.
- Borrow videotapes for learning English:
 - *Crossroads Café* video series is available at the Waltham Public Library.



Use the library!

Use the Internet:

- Learn to use the internet at your public library
- Visit these web sites:
 - Dave's ESL Café: www.eslcafe.com
 - EnglishClub.com: www.englishclub.com
 - Learn English on the Web: www.rong-chang.com
 - Computers in Action: <http://easternlines.worlded.org/docs/cia/toc.htm>
(Learn about English and about using computers)
 - English At Large: www.englishatlarge.org (provides more helpful links in the "Students" section)



Use the Internet!

Join an English Conversation Group:

- English At Large offers Conversation Groups in many towns in the Spring and Fall.
 - Call the English At Large office to register: 781-395-2374.
 - Visit the “Students” section of the English At Large Web site for the current schedule: www.englishatlarge.org.
- Project Literacy offers Conversation Groups in Watertown: 617-924-8797.
- The Boston Public Library offers Conversation Groups in the city of Boston: 617-536-0200.

Watch Public Television:

Programs for children can be very helpful:

- *Sesame Street*: Channel 44, 7:00 AM, Saturdays
- *Between the Lions*
 - Channel 2 and 44, 6:30 AM, Saturdays
 - Comcast Channel 217:
 - 7:00 AM Saturdays
 - 2:00 PM Mondays
 - 2:30 PM Tuesdays



Visit www.wbgh.org for the most recent schedules:

Watch television!

Get a Volunteer Job:

Volunteer work can help you meet people and practice speaking English. You can find volunteer jobs:

- At the English At Large office: 781-395-2374.
- By reading the “Volunteer Opportunities” in the Sunday Globe Northwest.
- Visit the United Way of Massachusetts Bay Volunteer Center: www.volunteersolutions.org/boston/volunteer.

Take a class:

For information about all English classes in Massachusetts, contact the Massachusetts Adult Literacy Hotline. Call 1-800-447-8844 or visit www.sabes.org/hotline.

The following list includes free and low-cost classes.

- Bedford Middlesex Community College: 781-280-3665
- Belmont Community Education: 617-993-5427
- Boston Red Cross: 617-375-0700 x271
- Concord-Carlisle Community Education: 978-318-1540
- Hudson-Maynard Adult Learning Center: 978-897-4203
- Lexington Grace Chapel, call 781-862-6499 Ext. 142
- Lexington Community Education: 781-862-8043
- Waltham Power Program: 781-893-0315 x5580
- Woburn Adult Learning Center: 781-935-6499



Take a class!