Free Online Resources

The number of free online educational resources continues to grow every day.
The following sites are just a few of our favorites that we think you'll like.

Adult Basic Education

- TV411 (tv411.org)
  - Engaging videos on reading, writing, vocabulary, math, science, and finance
  - Users are not required to but can register for a free account to keep track of their lessons and videos
- PBS LiteracyLink (litlink.ket.org)
  - A wide range of adult basic education resources with interactive lessons, including high school equivalency test preparation and workplace essential skills
  - Teacher accounts allow access to a collection of lesson plans and handouts via virtual classrooms
- Hopelink Adult Education Tutor Support (eastsideliteracy.org/tutorsupport/General/GeneralLessonList.htm)
  - A collection of lesson ideas specifically for adult educators in basic ESL, workplace skills, reading and writing, math, GED preparation, and lessons specific to learning-disabled students
  - Special lesson ideas for working with ESL and learning-disabled students

Digital Literacy Topics

- Digital Literacy (digitalliteracy.gov)
  - Offers free tutorials, skills assessments, and other resources for educators and users curated from organizations around the country to help individuals improve their digital literacy skills
- DigitalLearn (digitallearn.org)
  - Public Library Association website that serves as an online hub for digital literacy support and training
  - Includes a collection of self-directed tutorials for learners to increase their digital literacy, and a community of practice for digital literacy trainers to share resources, tools, and best practices
- Learn My Way (learnmyway.com)
  - U.K.-based organization that offers free tutorials in using computers and devices, using the Internet, staying safe online, finding a job online,

improveing your health online, managing your money online, and using public services online

- BBC Webwise (bbc.co.uk/webwise)
  - Offers video tutorials and articles for beginner computer users to improve their digital literacy skills
  - Topics include Internet safety, social networks and blogs, and applying for jobs online
- My Web My Way (bbc.co.uk/accessibility)
  - Provides accessibility help to enable computer users to make the most of the Internet, regardless of disability
  - How-to guides include those who are hearing and vision impaired, as well as those who may have physical disabilities
- OnGuard Online (onguardonline.gov)
  - Government website that offers free online security tips and resources for individuals, educators, and parents, as well as videos and games to improve digital literacy and enhance online safety
- EveryoneOn (everyoneon.org)
  - National nonprofit working to eliminate the digital divide by making affordable Internet, low-cost computers, and free digital literacy courses available to all unconnected U.S. residents
- Northstar Digital Literacy Project (digitalliteracyassessment.org)
  - Defines basic skills needed to perform tasks on computers and online through self-guided modules in areas including basic computer use, Internet, Windows operating system, Mac OS, email, Microsoft Office, social media, and information literacy
  - Learners can earn a certificate through successful completion of the assessment at a sponsored site

Advanced Technology Topics

- Codeacademy (codeacademy.com)
  - An education company where users can learn to code interactively for free
  - Partners with experts to offer industry-relevant skills and technologies
- Learn X in Y Minutes (learnxinyminutes.com)
  - Whirlwind community-driven tour of the most common computer programming languages
- W3Schools (w3schools.com)

- Users can educate themselves on web development languages like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, and Bootstrap, using simple code explanations and illustrations
- Tutorials start from the basic level and move all the way up to professional references
- Learners can study for free at their own pace; a certificate is available for a fee
- Envato Tuts+ (code.tutsplus.com/design.tutsplus.com)
  - Sister sites that offer a sampling of free learning guides in software development from mobile devices to web applications, including coding, web design, 3D and motion graphics, photography, and music and audio
  - Also offer full courses, but most are not free (there's a monthly subscription to access both sites)
- Good-Tutorials (good-tutorials.com)
  - Offers technology-focused tutorials curated from third-party sites on CSS, HTML, photography, Photoshop, and more
  - Users rate tutorials and can upload tutorials of their own
- PCWorld How-Tos (pcworld.com/howto.html)
  - Publishes technology-focused tutorials, articles, and videos on electronic gadgets, hardware, and software applications like Microsoft Excel
- OSXDaily (osxdaily.com)
  - Chronicle of important Apple-related news, helpful information, tips, tricks, and reviews
- Lynda (lynda.com)
  - Provider of 6,208 courses in business, technology, and creative skills
  - NOT FREE, but many libraries have a group membership, providing patrons with access; also offers a free 30-day trial
  - Owned by LinkedIn

College-Type Experiences

- Coursera (coursera.org)
  - A massive open online course (MOOC) that offers 1,000+ online courses from 120+ partners
  - Courses are NOT FREE; they include recorded video lectures, auto-graded and peer-reviewed assignments, and community discussion forums
  - Learners receive a shareable electronic course certificate upon completion of a course or class; also includes MBA programs from internationally recognized universities

- EdX (edx.org)
  - Harvard- and MIT-founded nonprofit MOOC offering 200+ free online classes from almost 90 global partners
  - Open-source programs include computer science, data and statistics, business and management, languages, economics and finance, engineering, the humanities, and biology and life sciences
  - Learners receive a free honor code certificate or a verified certificate for a fee
- Saylor Academy (saylor.org)
  - Not a MOOC but offers 90+ courses and areas of study set up to mirror what learners would find at a traditional university
  - Subjects include art history, biology, business, computer science, history, math, physics, political science, psychology, and sociology
  - Offers free certificates and college credits for some courses, as well as a self-paced business degree
- University of the People (uopeople.edu)
  - Tuition-free, accredited online university offering access to undergraduate degree programs
  - Students pay a small fee to apply and process exams, but scholarships are available to offset these fees
  - Not a MOOC; offers student support services, including advising, as well as free access to course materials
- MIT OpenCourseware (ocw.mit.edu)
  - Web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content that's open and available to anyone
  - Popular subjects include algebra, computer science, calculus, microeconomics, and quantum physics
- Open Education Consortium (oeconsortium.org)
  - Global network of educational institutions, individuals, and organizations supporting an approach to education based on openness, including collaboration, innovation, and collective development and use of open educational materials
- Academic Earth (academicearth.org)
  - Curated collection of more than 750 free online courses from colleges in the United States and around the world
  - Subjects include business, computers and information technology, criminal justice, education, health, liberal arts, nursing, psychology and counseling, science and engineering, and trades

- Open Education Database (oedb.org)
  - Comprehensive online education directory for both free and for-credit learning options
- iVersity (iversity.org)
  - MOOC for online learning that enables universities to share a broad range of courses with students around the world
  - While most courses are in English, some are available in German
  - Some courses are free; others require a Pro account

Language Learning

- Duolingo (duolingo.com)
  - Users can learn Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Irish, Danish, Swedish, Russian, Swahili, Polish, Chinese, Romanian, Japanese, Greek, Turkish, Vietnamese, Hebrew, Norwegian, Ukranian, Hungarian, Welsh, Czech, and Korean for free
  - Users create a profile to set and reach daily goals
- BBC Languages (bbc.co.uk/languages/)
  - Courses and other resources for people learning French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Greek, and 33 additional languages
  - Note: This section has been archived and is no longer updated
- Mango Languages (mangolanguages.com)
  - Users can learn more than 50 languages, including English, which is taught in 15 languages
  - Not free, but public libraries often offer access via library membership

- Verbling (verbling.com)
  - Matches learners with people speaking the language they are trying to learn; teachers set their own fees
  - Half the conversation involves speaking a learner's native language, while the other half is spent speaking another language

- WordReference (wordreference.com)
  - Features English definitions for words in 15 languages, including Spanish, French, Arabic, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, and Chinese
  - Also features Spanish, French, and Italian dictionaries
- Learn That Word (learnthat.org)
  - Users can practice spelling, learn English, or study vocabulary for tests like the SAT, GRE, and TOEFL for free
- Purdue Online Writing Lab (owl.english.purdue.edu)

- Offers more than 200 free resources, including writing and teaching writing, research, grammar and mechanics, style guides, ESL, and job search and professional writing

General Education

- Memrise (memrise.com)
  - Uses game-based and visual content to help users boost skills in vocabulary, languages, history, and science
  - Includes more than 200 courses created by expert linguists, as well as 20,000 native-speaker videos
  - Basic version is free; Pro version offers more features for a monthly subscription
- Open Culture (openculture.com)
  - Free cultural and educational media, including audio books, online courses, certificate courses/MOOCs, movies, audiobooks, eBooks, K-12 resources, and language lessons
  - Free courses include topics like astronomy, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, history, literature, philosophy, physics, and religion
- iTunes U (apple.com/education/ipad/itunes-u/)
  - Designed for educators, the recently reintroduced iTunesU helps teachers deliver lesson, grade assignments, and stay connected using their iPads
  - Features include homework hand-in, an integrated gradebook, and private discussions
- LearnerWeb (learnerweb.org)
  - Learning support system for adults who want to accomplish specific learning objectives, including improving their basic skills, increasing digital literacy, and preparing for a job
  - Users create their own learning plans based on what they want to learn more about
- CSM Learn (csmlearn.com)
  - Self-paced online course powered by adaptive learning technology to cater to each individual learner by analyzing student response through skills and emotions
  - Considered a credential of general high performance, demonstrating to employers the characteristics that they value in all employees and indicates to colleges those students who will thrive
  - Students earn a CSM certificate upon completion of the program that certifies the essentials of fluent workplace math and literacy, problem-

solving strategies, attention to detail, thbility to learn on their own, persistence and self-reliance, and self-efficacy
- Most of it is free, though the certificate and a CSM-provided coach are not

Educational Videos

- Khan Academy (khanacademy.org)
  - Free online education using an extensive library of content, including interactives, assessments, and videos
  - Focus is on math, science, finance, arts and humanities, and computing
  - Designed for teachers and parents helping their children
- YouTube (youtube.com)
  - Excellent educational resource, with thousands of channels in science, education, and DIY
- TED (ted.com)
  - Informational videos on a variety of topics from some of the greatest thinkers in the world
- Ignite (ignitetalks.io)
  - Series of speaking events in 100+ cities across the globe designed to have each person share something innovative or inspiring in just five minutes
  - Presenters get 20 slides, which automatically advance every 15 seconds

Free Books

- Textbook Revolution (textbookrevolution.org)
  - Student-run site that gives users access to free textbooks in subjects ranging from accounting to chemistry
- Project Gutenberg (gutenberg.org)
  - Gives users access to 54,000+ free e-books, all in the public domain
- Bartleby (bartleby.com)
  - Large collection of literature, reference and verse
- The Free Library by Farlex (thefreelibrary.com)
  - The go-to place for access to newspapers, magazines, journal articles, and classic books
  - Offers 34,252,522 articles and books in a range of subjects