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 and writing and sections on basic finance, science, and math
  - All topics have online lessons students can complete and downloadable worksheets
- **PBS LiteracyLink (litlink.ket.org)**
  - A wide range of adult basic education resources with interactive lessons
  - Teacher accounts allow access to a collection of lesson plans and handouts
- **Hopelink Adult Education (eastsideliteracy.org/tutorsupport/General/GeneralLessonList.htm)**
  - A collection of lesson ideas specifically for adult educators in reading, writing, math and financial literacy, the GED, and workplace skills
  - 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
- **DigitalLearn (digitallearn.org)**
  - Public Library Association website that serves as an online hub for digital literacy support and training
  - Provides a community where librarians can discuss digital literacy issues and resources
- **Learn My Way (learnmyway.com)**
  - U.K.-based organization that offers free tutorials in technology, reading, math, and everyday life
- **BBC Webwise (bbc.co.uk/webwise)**
  - Offers video tutorials and articles for beginner computer users to improve their digital literacy skills

- **My Web My Way (bbc.co.uk/accessibility)**
  - Shows people with disabilities how to customize their computer interfaces so they're easier to use
- **OnGuard Online (onguardonline.gov)**
  - Government website that teaches users how to be safe, secure, and responsible online
- **EveryoneOn (everyoneon.org)**
  - Nonprofit working to eliminate the digital divide by making affordable Internet, low-cost computers, and free digital literacy courses available to all unconnected residents of the United States
- **Northstar Digital Literacy Project (digitalliteracyassessment.org)**
  - Offers a great program in computer basics
  - Learners can earn a certificate through successful completion of the assessment at a sponsored site
  - Originally only available in Minnesota, but more and more sites are being added across the country

Advanced Technology Topics

- **Codeacademy (codeacademy.com)**
  - Users can learn to code interactively for free
  - Educators' resources include teacher training, lesson plans, and the ability to track student performance
- **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 everything from HTML and CSS to JavaScript and SQL in web development
  - Learners can study for free at their own pace; offers a certificate for a fee
- **Envato Tuts+ (code.tutsplus.com/design.tutsplus.com)**
  - Sister sites that offer free tutorials in design and illustration, code, web design, 3D and motion graphics, photography, and music and audio
  - Also offer full courses, but most are not free
- **Good-Tutorials (good-tutorials.com)**
  - Offers technology-focused tutorials curated from third-party sites on CSS, HTML, photography, Photoshop, and more
  - Users rate tutorials, pushing higher-rated tutorials to the front pages

- **PCWorld How-Tos (pcworld.com/howto.html)**
  - Publishes technology-focused tutorials, articles, and videos on electronic gadgets, hardware, and software applications
- **OSXDaily (osxdaily.com)**
  - Chronicle of important Apple-related news, helpful information, tips, tricks, and reviews
- **Lynda (lynda.com)**
  - Leading provider of online tutorials in development, design, the Web, and video
  - NOT FREE, but many libraries have a group membership, providing patrons with access
  - Recently acquired by LinkedIn
- **HTML5 Rocks (html5rocks.com)**
  - A series of free creative commons tutorials using Apache
  - Covers everything related to HTML5

College-Type Experiences

- **Coursera (coursera.org)**
  - A massive open online course (MOOC) that offers 1,000+ online courses from 120+ partners
  - Offers the ability to audit a course
  - Learners receive a free unverified certificate for free or a verified certificate for a fee
- **EdX (edx.org)**
  - MOOC that offers 200+ online classes from almost 50 partner universities (founding partners are Harvard and MIT)
  - Offers the ability to audit a course
  - 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
  - Offers free certificates
- **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
- **MIT OpenCourseware (ocw.mit.edu)**
  - The ability to audit 2,200+ courses from MIT
  - No certificates available, but no registration is required
- **Open Education Consortium (oeconsortium.org)**
  - Worldwide community of hundreds of (mostly international) higher education institutions offering thousands of college courses for free
- **Academic Earth (academicearth.org)**
  - Curated collection of more than 750 online courses from colleges in the United States and around the world
- **Open Education Database (oedb.org)**
  - Offers more than 10,000 online courses from universities and other educational organizations
  - Includes both free and for-credit learning options
- **iVersity (iversity.org)**
  - MOOC and the European platform for online learning that enables universities to share a broad range of courses with students around the world, allowing students to earn recognized credentials
  - Students can take free online courses from professors on everything from public speaking and architecture to business to international relations

Language Learning

- **Duolingo (duolingo.com)**
  - Users can learn Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French, German, Dutch, and Irish for free
  - Uses gamification with a focus on mobile learning
- **BBC Languages (www.bbc.co.uk/languages/)**
  - Courses and other resources for people learning French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Greek
  - 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

- 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
- **Learn That Word (learnthat.org)**
  - Users can practice spelling, learn English, or study vocabulary for tests like the SAT, GRE, and TOEFL
- **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 300,000+ courses
- **Open Culture (openculture.com)**
  - Free cultural and educational media, including audio books, online courses, certificate courses/MOOCs, movies, eBooks, K-12 resources, and language lessons
- **iTunes U (apple.com/education/ipad/itunes-u/)**
  - Through this app, learners can take courses through colleges, view free lectures, and browse collections from educational and cultural institutions like Oxford, Museum of Modern Art, and the New York Public Library
- **LearnerWeb (learnerweb.org)**
  - Content is developed specifically for learners' needs, though the site itself is geared more toward organizations to use it as a resource rather than for individual learners
  - Content includes GED preparation, digital literacy, ESL, workforce development, and college success and advising
- **CSM Learn (csmlearn.com)**
  - Adaptive learning system that personalizes instruction by guiding each student on a unique path through customized lessons
  - Topics include math, literacy, problem-solving skills, active learning, and academic habits like persistence, confidence, and self-efficacy
  - Students earn a CSM certificate upon completion of the program

- 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 more than 6,000 channels in science and education, 600 in cooking, and almost 2,000 in 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 designed to have each person share something innovative or inspiring in just five minutes

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 4,200+ free e-books, all in the public domain
- **Bartleby (bartleby.com)**
  - Large collection of reference works, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction
- **The Free Library (thefreelibrary.com)**
  - The go-to place for access to newspapers, magazines, journal articles, and classic books