

# Adult Literacy Resources

Best books and links for tutors to try!



**HCLN**

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## **Introduction**

In the fall of 2007, the Halifax Community Learning Network received a grant from the Adult Learning Knowledge Centre to host a series of Tutor Learning Circles. The Learning Circles were an opportunity for volunteer tutors to discuss materials that they had found useful in their work as adult literacy tutors. A series of five Learning Circles took place and this resource list is a compilation of the best books, web sites and other learning tools that an adult literacy tutor will find useful.

Thanks to all the volunteers who participated by attending a Learning Circle and adding their suggestions and ideas to this list.

## **Where can I borrow these materials?**

Most are available from the Adult Literacy Coordinators' resource collections at the program where you tutor.

Another source is the Halifax Public Libraries System. Check out both the Adult Literacy Section and the ESL collections at local libraries. They are side by side on the shelves. Look for the adult literacy logo (below) on book spines. And don't forget the libraries' Children's Non-Fiction Collection, a great place for user-friendly books about history, science, geography and much more.



Feel free to add new books, web sites or tutor tips to your list of favourite resources and let us know your suggestions at HCLN by e-mailing: [hcln@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hcln@ns.sympatico.ca)

Best of luck with your work as a literacy tutor!

## Online Literacy Resources - Some Key Sites:

### **Halifax Community Learning Network:** [www.hcln.ca](http://www.hcln.ca)

The Halifax Community Learning Network (HCLN) is a community-based non-profit organization that has been assisting adults with literacy needs since 1994. HCLN offers one to one tutoring at four branches of the Halifax Public Library and at the Lady Hammond Learning Program.

### **Halifax Public Libraries:** [www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

The Halifax Public Library (HPL) is the life-long learning centre of the community and the place to go to explore ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information. On this web-site you can sign up for a library card, or if you already have one, you can search for materials, renew items you have borrowed and much more.

### **Literacy Nova Scotia:** [www.ns.literacy.ca](http://www.ns.literacy.ca)

Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS) is the provincial adult literacy coalition that puts out regular on-line newsletters highlighting everything new in the field in Nova Scotia. Read and sign up for free training workshops of interest to tutors and learners.

### **Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning:** [www.goNSSAL.ca](http://www.goNSSAL.ca)

The Nova Scotia Department of Education site for information about adult learning programs including the GED and High School Diploma for adults.

### **Advancing Learning Technology:** [www.alt.ns.literacy.ca](http://www.alt.ns.literacy.ca)

This site links you to the Literacy NS's information technology project. You need to log in with your name and password, which are easy to obtain. Tutors would find the "Instructional Links" and "Learner Links" of interest. Other tutors and instructors share their favourite links and explain why they like them. Learners can sign up for "courses" and actually chat to each other through the site.

### **Halifax Regional C@P Association:** [www.hrca.ns.ca](http://www.hrca.ns.ca)

### **Bridging the Gap Program:** [www.hrca.ns.ca/CLN/resources.htm](http://www.hrca.ns.ca/CLN/resources.htm)

This program has taught literacy skills entirely through the computer. You will find comprehensive lists of useful sites to use with learners under their RESOURCE section. There is also a list of other useful sites for the general public, listed alphabetically that might be useful in tutoring.

### **The National Adult Literacy Database:** [www.nald.ca](http://www.nald.ca)

A very useful site and a place to search for free resources. There are free downloads for workbooks and readers for adult learners that could be read direct from the computer.

### **Story of the Week:** [www.nald.ca/story/story.htm](http://www.nald.ca/story/story.htm)

A new story written by a learner just like yours is posted every week on this site. Stories can be viewed on line or printed off to share at the end of a lesson. There are archives of previous stories which are filed under each province. Your learner can have his or her own story posted to the site. This can be a great motivator for learner writing.

### **Literacies Magazine:** [www.literacyjournal.ca](http://www.literacyjournal.ca)

This is the on-line version to an excellent magazine addressing topics of interest of everyone, including tutors working in Adult Literacy in Canada. Back issues can be viewed on line.

# Websites for Tutors and Learners

## *Useful Community Sites*

<http://www.halifax.ca>

The home page of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) has information about the Metro Transit Schedule:

<http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/Schedules/index.asp>

a list of HRM Councillors:

<http://eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/>

as well as information about community events, garbage pick up, recreation centres and lots more.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/tab/citizen/>

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations has online permits and forms including information about the Registry of Motor Vehicles

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/>

useful Consumer and Credit information:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/consumer/>

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/>

Capital Health Nova Scotia contains useful information about the health care system, hospital locations and programs such as Healthy Beginnings, a drop in program for parents and their children.

## Searches

[www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca)

Google is especially good for phonetic spellers as it will replace it with standard spelling.

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

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

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

## E-mail- get a free e-mail account online!

[www.chebucto.ns.ca](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca)

[www.yahoo.ca](http://www.yahoo.ca)

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

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

## Computer Skills

[www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/learnonline.html](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/learnonline.html)

A basic introduction to using the mouse, searching the web and using the Internet.

[www.bbc.co.uk/computertutor](http://www.bbc.co.uk/computertutor)

Teaches the mouse, keyboard and computer screen through games. Great for complete beginners. Use with headphones. Very accessible to all levels of learner.

[www.internet4classrooms.com](http://www.internet4classrooms.com)

Very comprehensive; for learners who already have some knowledge of the computer. May be useful for tutors too, to extend their knowledge.

# Using the Mouse

## *Mouse Tutorials for Seniors*

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

Jigzone - [www.jigzone.com](http://www.jigzone.com)

An addictive game at progressing levels that requires click and drag mouse skills, so a fun way to learn that.

# Keyboarding

[funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blaster/games/game\\_super\\_hyper\\_spider\\_typer.html](http://funschool.kaboose.com/fun-blaster/games/game_super_hyper_spider_typer.html)

[www.internet4classrooms.com/winkeyboard.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/winkeyboard.htm)

# Reading / Writing / Listening / Grammar / Vocabulary / Phonics

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/)

This site covers all the above and especially designed for adult learners. There are tips for tutors and teaching points for learners that can be printed off. When an area has been taught there are very creative, fun games and quizzes that the learner can do independently to see if they have learned the area covered. Well worth a look.

[www.voanews.com/specialenglish/](http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/)

Voice of America News and special interest articles using a base vocabulary of 1500 words. Intended for ESL learners but relevant for Literacy learners too. Articles are read very slowly using high frequency vocabulary. Click link "English teaching" for reading exercises.

[www.englishexpress.ca](http://www.englishexpress.ca)

This is a site linked to a newspaper for adult learners produced in Alberta. There are learners' stories on line here, with text to speech software and pictures to go along with the text. The site would work well for literacy and ESL learners. The design is very uncluttered and simple ... ideal for adult learners just beginning to use the computer.

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

A free interactive learning site which teaches everyday skills ... the scenarios have audio, so use headphones. The Everyday Life section teaches Banking and using ATM; checking a receipt; grocery list; measuring; filling a prescription; classifieds; job applications; bus map and more.

# Spelling

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise)

very well designed quiz games here to test skills including forming plurals, word families, Look,Say,Cover,Learn approach to spelling and more.

[www.quia.com/pages/gedstudy.html](http://www.quia.com/pages/gedstudy.html)

A hangman game to based on the most commonly spelled words in the GED.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com>

<http://www.wordcentral.com/games.html>

More advanced, and GED: Try the word central or spelling options on the Merriam Webster site. Most require good reading ability.

## Math

The following sites have practice activities for learners designed for children but still fun for adults. Good for reinforcement.

[www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com)  
[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)  
[www.math.com](http://www.math.com)  
[www.mathgoodies.com](http://www.mathgoodies.com)  
[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

## Math for you, the tutor:

[www.eduplace.com/math/mw/tools/tt\\_k.html](http://www.eduplace.com/math/mw/tools/tt_k.html)

A site to help you, the tutor or instructor to plan your Math lessons.

[jumpmath.org/about](http://jumpmath.org/about)

John Mighton's site with an outlined creative method for teaching Math, based on the idea that everyone can do Math if taught in the right way. If you register as a volunteer tutor you can download teaching notes and workbook activities for free. Especially useful for the basic operations and teaching fractions.

## On-line newspapers

"The Northern Edge" and "The Learning Edge": for adult learners with many activities and games to develop literacy skills. Both have text to speech facility, so they are excellent for independent use.

[www.nwt.literacy.ca/northernedge/NorthernEdgeThumbnail.html](http://www.nwt.literacy.ca/northernedge/NorthernEdgeThumbnail.html)  
[thewclc.ca/edge](http://thewclc.ca/edge)

The Learning Beacon: [www.ns.literacy.ca/TheLearningBeacon/index.html](http://www.ns.literacy.ca/TheLearningBeacon/index.html)

## Health

[www.mealsmatter.org/EatingForHealth/Tools/pnp.aspx](http://www.mealsmatter.org/EatingForHealth/Tools/pnp.aspx)

Free site which requires registration but allows reader to look at diet suggestions in line with personal health goals related to age and lifestyle details provided.

## Personality, Learning Styles and Employment

[www.naldatwork.ca](http://www.naldatwork.ca)  
[www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)  
[www.testcafe.com/career.html](http://www.testcafe.com/career.html)  
[similar minds.com/jung.html](http://similar minds.com/jung.html)

## Social Studies

### *Canadian Geography*

Sheppard Software - [www.sheppardsoftware.com/Canadian\\_Geography.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Canadian_Geography.htm)

Easy tutorial on Canadian provinces, capitals and geography with games at three levels to reinforce the teaching.

Canadian Geography, Canadian Government - [www.canadainfolink.ca](http://www.canadainfolink.ca)

Very comprehensive site with links to information on Canada with games and quizzes for reinforcement.

# GED

U.S. sites but free and helpful for self testing skills. Social Studies tests are not relevant to the Canadian GED.

[www.testprepreview.com/ged\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/ged_practice.htm)

[www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=38](http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=38)

## English as a Second Language (ESL)

[www.eslcafe.com/pv/pv-mng.html](http://www.eslcafe.com/pv/pv-mng.html)

(phrasal verbs)

[iteslj.org/links/ESL/Grammar\\_and\\_English\\_Usage/](http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Grammar_and_English_Usage/)

(grammar links)

[www.edict.com.hk](http://www.edict.com.hk)

Many different kinds of language games. Some suitable for literacy learners too.

[www.englishpage.com/prepositions/prepositions.html](http://www.englishpage.com/prepositions/prepositions.html)

Practice with prepositions as it suggests.

## Assessment

[www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/)

Adult Literacy Tutoring – Resources in Print

*Materials on this book list can be borrowed from one of the following locations:*

**Halifax Public Library:** [www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

Check out both the Adult Literacy Section and the ESL collections at local libraries. They are side by side on the shelves. Look for the adult literacy logo on book spines.

Most are available from the Adult Literacy Coordinators' resource collections at the library or program where you tutor.

## Tutoring Tips

### Ready Set Know

A Handbook for New Tutors, National Literacy Secretariat, 2003

### Litstart: Literacy Strategies for Adult Reading Tutors

Second Edition Revised, Ed Robson, Marsha De Vergilio, Donna DeButts, Michigan Literacy Inc, 1990

### Handbook for Literacy Tutors

Chris Harwood, Ottawa-Carleton Coalition for Literacy, Grass Roots Press, 2001.

### A Guide for Tutoring Adult Literacy Students - Adult Basic Education

Joyce Cameron and Myrna Rabinowitz, British Columbia, Ministry of Advanced Education, 2000

### Tips at Your Fingertips: Teaching Strategies for Adult Literacy Tutors

Ola M. Brown, Editor International Reading Association, 1996

## Workbooks

### **My Front Yard**

Dartmouth Literacy Network, 2002

### **My Backyard**

Dartmouth Literacy Network, 1999

### **Voyager: Reading and Writing for Today's Adults**

various authors, (9 graded levels Foundation to 8) New Readers Press, 1999

### **In The Know: The Informational Reading Series**

1,2,3,& 4 Michael O'Donnell and Margo Wood, New Readers Press, 1987

### **Reading for Today**

Steck-Vaughn

### **Vocabulary Boosters 1 and 2**

Susan Rogers, Grass Roots Press, Alberta, 2005

## Encouraging Writing

### **Writing Out Loud, Deborah Morgan**

Grass Roots Press, 2002

### **More Writing Out Loud**

Deborah Morgan, Grass Roots Press, 2002

### **Enriching Our Lives: Poetry Lessons for Adult Literacy Teachers and Tutors**

Francis Kazemek and Pat Rigg, International Reading Association, Delaware, 1995

## Spelling

### **The Spelling Toolbox**

1, 2, & 3 Linda Kita-Bradley, Grass Roots Press, 2002

### **Instant Spelling Words for Writing**

Robert Forest, Rebecca Sitton, Curriculum Associates Inc

## Easy Readers

### **Grass Roots Readers**

The Hike

How to Find a Good Used Car

Bears

Where is my Man?

Stress

The Big Snore

The Big Goof

The Big Question

The Big Surprise;

Just Good Friends

Tony's Deal

Mandy's Garage Sale

Fran's Story;

*Grass Roots Press, 2000*

### **The Page Turners Collection 1**

The Hero

The Duck

Too Many Marias

The Stud

Not Any More

I Want a Holiday!

## **The Page Turners Collection 2**

Tattoos  
The Beach  
A Dog's Life  
Just One Friend  
Pay Dirt  
Spare Parts  
Bikini Sandals

*PRACE, Australia*

## **Grass Roots Biographies**

Amelia Earhart  
Matthew Henson and Robert Peary  
Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay  
First Women in Space  
Charles Lindbergh,  
Althea Gibson  
Nancy Greene  
Wayne Gretzky  
Muhammad Ali  
Tom Longboat;  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Louis Riel  
David Suzuki  
Nelson Mandela

*Grass Roots Press, 2007*

## **A Biography**

### **Life is So Good**

George Dawson and Richard Glaubman, Random House, 2000

## **Selections**

**Viewpoints: Non-Fiction Selections**, Ed Cathy Niemet, Contemporary Publishing Group, 1991

**Viewpoints: Non-Fiction Selections Volume 2**, Ed Pat Fiene, Contemporary Publishing Group, 1994

**Expressions Stories and Poems: Volumes 1& 2**, Ed Pat Fiene, Contemporary Publishing Group, 1994

## **Published Writing by Adult Learners:**

**HCLN Yearbooks:** Still Dreaming, Step by Step and other titles

**In Our Words:** a book of learner writings, funded through the annual "Word on the Street" festival

**Over the Mountain Yearbooks:** Nova Scotia Dept of Education

**Mel's Story:** Mel Lively and Kim Hutchison, Communications Nova Scotia, 2003

## **Disability Issues (Portraits of Our Lives):**

Belonging  
Choosing to Be Proud  
Daring to Win  
Do You Have a Broken Leg?  
Growing Up, Getting Together  
How We See the World  
It Never Occurred to Me  
It's About Solidarity  
So Much Depends on an Address

*Roehrer Institute, 1998*

## **Novels for Adult Learners**

Frozen Tears  
The Buckle  
Crocodiles and Rivers by Don Sawyer  
The Mailbox  
The Scowling Frog  
Three Wise Men by Kate Ferris

*Grass Roots Press, 1997*

## **Non-Fiction;** (for youth but appropriate for adults)

**The Nature Company Discoveries Library** Time Life Books

**Dangerous Animals**, edited Seidensticker and Lumpkin, Time Life Books, 1995

**Flight**, edited Donald Lopez, Time Life Books, 1995

**Eyewitness Explorers** (various titles) DK Publishers

**Eyewitness Books** (various subjects) DK Publishers

**Visual Dictionaries** (various subjects) DK Publishers

**Time for Kids: Science Scoops** (various titles) Harper Collins, 2005

**The Human Body; Matter, Motion and Machines; Plant Life, Wonders of Science** series, Joan S Gottlieb, **Harcourt Achieve**, Steck-Vaughn, 2004

## **ESL** (but ideas work for Adult Literacy as well)

**101 Bright Ideas: ESL Activities for All Ages**, Claire Maria Ford, Addison-Wesley, 1997

**Zero Prep: Ready to Go Activities for the Language Classroom**

Laurel Pollard and Natalie Hess, Alta Book Centre Publishing, 1997

## **Everyday Math**

**Math for All Ages:** Dartmouth Literacy Network, 2002

**Living on a Shoestring Budget**, Dorothy Silver, Laubach Literacy of Canada

**Kitchen Math**, Susan Brendel, Grassroots Press

## **Goal Setting/Life Skills/Personal Growth for Adult Literacy Learners**

**A Dream that Walks: A goal setting Workbook**

Myrna Hanna, Action Read Community Literacy Centre, Garlic Press, 2000

**A Dream that Walks 2: Planning for Change**

A Workbook, Anne Moore, Action Read Community Literacy Centre, Garlic Press, 2005

**Making it Work: a workbook on conflict and communication for adult literacy learners**

Anne Moore, Action Read Community Literacy Centre, Guelph, Ont, Garlic Press, 2006

## **Assessment**

**Progress Profile: Measuring Progress in Literacy Development**

Literacy Coordinators of Alberta, Literacy Services of Canada Ltd, 1997

**Rethinking Assessment: Strategies for holistic adult numeracy assessment**

A resource book for practitioners etc, Beth Marr, Sue Helme and Dave Tout, Language Australia, 2003, Distributed by Grass Roots Press

## Real Life Materials (items from home that can help you to learn together)

newspapers  
movie ads  
letters

road signs / maps  
supermarket flyers  
classified ads

bus schedules  
telephone books  
restaurant menus

recipes  
application forms school  
notices

## Remember

- Good resources are not far away! Check out the Literacy or ESL collection of your local library.
- Ask your Program Coordinator if you need ideas on workbooks or resources to try.
- Use your imagination: there are learning tools all around us!

**If you have a resource to share, please let us know:**

**Halifax Community Learning Network**

**Phone:** (902) 422-7648

**Website:** [www.hcln.ca](http://www.hcln.ca)

**Email:** [hcln@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:hcln@ns.sympatico.ca)

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**HCLN**   
Halifax Community Learning Network  
*"a bridge to a brighter future"*

CANADIAN COUNCIL ON LEARNING **CCL**  **CCA** CONSEIL CANADIEN SUR L'APPRENTISSAGE  
Adult Learning Centre du savoir  
Knowledge Centre Apprentissage chez les adultes