Recommended English as a Second Language (ESL) Acquisitions*

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Student Textbooks, Readers & References

Stand Out Student Book (Levels 1 – 4 available) with accompanying Grammar Challenge (Teacher’s Lesson Planner also available) by Staci Lyn Sabbagh, Thomson-Heinle.

ICON International Communication through English Student Book (with CD) and Workbook (available at various language levels) by Donald Freeman et. al., McGraw-Hill

The Oxford Picture Dictionary (available in a monolingual edition and other languages: Spanish, Polish, Korean, etc.), Oxford University Press (companion student workbooks also available).

Basic English Grammar by Betty Azar, Prentice Hall Regents (see companion under Teaching Books)

Understanding and Using English Grammar by Betty Azar, Prentice Hall Regents (see companion under Teaching Books)

Pronunciation Plus: Practice through Interaction Student Book (with CD), Cambridge University Press

Pronunciation Pairs by Ann Baker, Cambridge

Dictations for Discussion: A Listening/Speaking Text (with CD) by Judy DeFilippo, Pro Lingua Associates

Conversation Strategies: Pair and Group Activities for Developing Communicative Competence by David Kehe, Pro Lingua

Discussion Strategies: Beyond Everyday Conversation (a higher level Conversation Strategies) by David Kehe, Pro Lingua
Stories We Brought With Us: Beginning Readings (folktales) by Ann Silverman, Longman / Pearson Education (contains both beginning and intermediate versions).

All New Easy True Stories: A Picture-Based Beginning Reader by Sandra Heyer (also available at higher levels), Longman / Pearson Education

Totally True: Building Vocabulary through Reading, Book 1 by Jann Huizenga (also available at higher levels), Oxford University Press

Essential Idioms in English, by Dixson, Longman

Teaching Idea / Reference Books

Fun with Grammar: Communicative Activities for the Azar Grammar Series (with worksheets) by Suzanne W. Woodward, Prentice Hall Regents

Grammar Practice Activities by Penny Ur, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press

Five-Minute Activities: A Resource Book of Short Activities by Andrew Wright, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press

Games for Language Learning by Andrew Wright, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press


Pronunciation Practice Activities by Martin Hewings, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press

Planning Lessons and Courses by Tessa Woodward, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press

Stories: Narrative Activities for the Language Classroom by Ruth Wajnryb, Cambridge Handbooks for Language Teachers series, Cambridge University Press

Over 1,000 Conversation Starters: and Strategies for Creating a Lively “We Live There” Communicative Classroom for Any Language Course by Sue Fenton, Madame Fifi Publications
Conversation Inspirations: Over 2000 Conversation Topics by Nancy Zelman, Pro Lingua

English Structure Practices by Keith S. Folse, University of Michigan Press

Writing Inspirations: A Fundex of Individualized Writing Activities for English Language Practice (with copyable handouts) by Arlene Marcus, Pro Lingua

Write for You: Creative Activities for Building Writing Skills by Janet Morey, Pro Lingua

Jazz Chants by Carolyn Graham (with audiotape), Oxford University Press

Small Talk: More Jazz Chants (with audiotape), by Carolyn Graham, Oxford University Press

The Non-Stop Discussion Workbook (with worksheets) by George Rooks, Heinle & Heinle Publishers

Look Who’s Talking: Activities for Group Interaction (with worksheets) by Sharron Bassano, Alemany Press


*Recommendations based on books I’ve used in the ESL classroom/one-on-one lessons. Many are either widely used in college ESL classes or in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) graduate courses for teachers.