

Project Overview

USA Learns is a premier, free website that teaches English as a second language (ESL) to adults around the world. This highly popular resource utilizes thousands of multimedia elements, including video, audio, and images, resulting in an engaging and effective learning experience for students. It has both a [learner site](#) and a [teacher site](#), making it a flexible educational tool for both independent learners and students enrolled in a class.

Background

USA Learns was originally funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), which is now the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE). The objective of the grant was to see if adults could learn English online independently. After having millions of people learn English, USA Learns provides testimony that online learning can be an invaluable educational tool.

When the grant ended, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) successfully completed a competitive process to take over ownership of the website. Since that time, SCOE has nurtured and expanded the site by adding new courses and upgrading it over the years.

Course Summary

USA Learns has several courses that teach English as a second language, job skills, ESL integration, and U.S. citizenship.



COURSE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

2008

USA Learns launched with three ESL courses

2019

USA Learns Citizenship and English 1 Plus courses added

2020

Skills for the Nursing Assistant course added

2021

Responsive design rebuild (mobile-friendly upgrade)

2022

Access America course added

English Courses

These courses teach beginning and intermediate ESL, with focus on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension. Professionally-developed videos are incorporated into the learning activities, resulting in fun and effective instruction.



Access America

This course covers all three pillars of immigrant integration: linguistic, civic, and economic. It includes 23 ESL lessons, including hundreds of multimedia elements, that promote learners’ access to the knowledge, skills, resources, and services necessary for success in the United States. Custom videos were produced at SCOE to enable learners to practice English conversations and provide real-world examples related to finding a place to live, communicating with the school, getting a job, and much more.



USA Learns Citizenship



This course helps immigrants prepare for all aspects of the naturalization interview, including the steps to becoming a U.S. citizen, who needs legal help and where to get it, how to avoid immigration fraud, preparation for the oral review of the N-400 application, U.S. history and government for the Civics test, what to expect at the interview, and what to do after becoming a U.S. citizen.

Skills for the Nursing Assistant

This course teaches the language and academic skills to help learners successfully communicate with patients and co-workers on the job. This course is ideal for students with English skills that are High Intermediate and above, and in fact, is helpful to all learners who are preparing for a career as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or other jobs in the healthcare field. Several CNA teachers at community colleges and adult schools have reported using this course with all of their students, not only English learners.



Usage Statistics

USA Learns positively impacts people around the world, as they seek to improve their education and their lives.

- Web pages viewed: **2.1 billion**
- Number of website visitors: **17 million**
- Average amount of time per visit: **22 minutes**
- Accessed by **every country** in the world
- Used mostly by **independent learners** and also by **students enrolled in adult schools**



How to Access

USA Learns is available to use on phones, tablets, and computers. Learners and teachers can create an account using an internet browser on any device to access USA Learns.

- Learners go to <https://www.usalearns.org> and select Start Now to register. After entering a few easy bits of information, students can select a course and start learning for free.
- Teachers go to <https://www.usalearns.org/teacher> and select Register. After registering, they can create their own online courses based on USA Learns' course content and monitor learners' progress.

Funding

The ongoing maintenance of USA Learns is funded by ads that are carefully placed on the website (to not be confused with learning content). This revenue pays for the ongoing programming and technical support, and it also paid 100% of the development costs of *Access America*. Also, occasional grants fund specific efforts, such as a portion of the cost to build *USA Learns Citizenship* and the conversion of *Skills for the Nursing Assistant*. The responsive design rebuild was funded by Dollar General Literacy Foundation.



For More Information

To learn more about USA Learns, please visit the [About Us](#) page.

For technical support, please email help@usalearns.org.