



Teach English Abroad

# How to Teach English Online with eTefl Online



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# How to Teach English Online with eTefl Online



## *"What's your dream job?"*

Answers commonly include traveling the world, working from home, with flexible hours, and earning good money. Maybe you want to pay off debt, spend more time with your family or take that dream holiday. But what it boils down to is freedom. Freedom to be your own boss, work when you want to and where you want to and still make enough money to not have to sacrifice your lifestyle.

## **Get TEFL certified:**

eTefl Online offers online TEFL courses to suit every need and budget. for more info visit [www.eteflonline.com](http://www.eteflonline.com)

## **What if we told you this lifestyle was achievable?**

Up until now, the thought of teaching English online may have never crossed your mind – and why would it? It's a new profession. The demand for online education has taken the field by storm and erupted in popularity this year. A flexible lifestyle and the ability to be your own boss while working from home or traveling the world – what's not to love?!

Teaching English online is an industry experiencing rapid growth in demand, and it has the potential to long-term employment stability, whether it be a part-time or full-time basis. You get to meet and interact with people from all over the world, and you have the opportunity to build relationships with your students and teach them the skill of English to set them up for a successful future. You have the chance to teach both children and adults from countries you may never visit, but who knows, maybe with your newfound lifestyle, you can add it to the top of your bucket list!

# How to Teach English Online with eTefl Online

## What is teaching English online & is there a market for it?

In short, teaching English online is teaching English as a foreign language to a non-native English speaker over the Internet through the use of a computer and a webcam. Students can learn one-on-one or in a small group and the cost is usually cheaper compared to an in-person, face-to-face class. Both students and teachers are able to set their own times and schedules and the teacher can teach from whatever location is convenient to them.

Online learning is a huge business and here to stay – from world class universities to Fortune 500 companies, computer, mobile, and Internet-based training has become an integral part of nearly all fields of education, including language instruction, and [Teaching English as a Foreign Language](#) (TEFL). Combining the fact that there are more than 1 billion people learning English worldwide with massive increased access to the Internet, online English instruction is one of the fastest growing sectors of international education. In recent years, opportunities for teaching English online to speakers of other languages from across the globe have grown exponentially and show no signs of slowing down – it is definitely a booming industry!



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## What qualifications are needed to teach English online?

If you are **TEFL certified** and a fluent English speaker then you can teach English online! Most companies will also require that you have a Bachelor's degree, although this fluctuates from company to company. Other traits that are often sought after include being personable and having great presentation skills.

If you don't have an **accredited TEFL certification**, then this is your first step.

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It is extremely common for someone already teaching English abroad at a language school to teach English online to boost their income. Many teachers also take advantage of teaching English online after returning home from being abroad. Finally, there are those who make teaching English online their full-time job no matter where in the world they are. This flexibility provides a fantastic way to support yourself while traveling the world and leaving abroad.



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Some advantages and benefits of teaching English online include:

- You can teach English online from anywhere in the world, whether you are inside your home country or abroad;
- Work as few or as many hours as you please – you set your own schedule!
- Gain experience in the field of online learning, one of the fastest growing areas in education both in the U.S. and abroad;
- The ability to gain teaching experience for your resume before or after you teach English abroad;
- Opportunities to hone your teaching skills;
- Whether you are teaching English abroad or working in an entirely different industry, you can teach online part-time to supplement your income;
- Use your TEFL certification to make a positive impact on people's lives and to make some money at the same time.

## How do I teach English to non-native speakers if I don't speak another language?

Language classes are typically taught entirely in English. For example, imagine you're teaching a group of students from South Korea. Even if you were completely fluent in Korean, you would still be teaching the class 100% in English. The students will have some level of English language proficiency. The class is run by a fluent English speaker 100% in English the entire time, so that's why you are in such high demand teaching students from all over the world. The online students want to learn from a real native English-speaker and be able to mimic your accent and dialect and pick up on exactly how you speak.

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## Why do these students want online English lessons instead of in-person classes at a language school?

There are several reasons students are turning to online English classes over a traditional classroom approach.

- **Efficiency:** Neither the teacher nor the student needs to commute to the classroom therefore saving time and money;
- **Less distraction:** When teaching one-on-one or in a small group, there are fewer students and overall less distractions that detract from the lesson;
- **Back-tracking:** Some online English teaching platforms have capabilities to record the class and use it for reference at a later date. This way the student always has something to look back on. In-person classes do not offer this;
- **Cheaper:** An online English class is often cheaper than an in-person class at a language school;
- **Flexibility:** In-person classes at a language school often require you to be in attendance on a set day and time. If you can't make that time slot, then you miss the class. If you're a student, online English classes allow you to pick the time you would like your lesson, and if you're a teacher, you get to set your own hours. This is especially beneficial for adult students that are already working part or full-time jobs.

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## Students, online class sizes and session types:

There are typically two different session-types when teaching English online:

### a. One-on-one or Private Sessions:

These will involve just you (the teacher) and only one student.

### b. Small Groups: Anywhere from 2-6 students at a single time.



Just like traditional classroom teachings, students can range from young children right through to adults. Most online English teaching companies will specify whether their clients are students, adults, or business professionals (and may even cater to all three), and then you will find that some companies are specific to just a single demographic. For example, [VIPKID](#) only provides a learning experience for Chinese children ages 4-12, whereas [English First](#) conduct group and private lessons to adult learners, while [Learnlight](#) focuses on business professionals that work for specific organizations.

**Online English classes can also take different forms. Some include:**

**a. General or conversational English:** help students with their fluency, introduce new words and terms, and correct basic errors;

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**b. Business English:** focus on topics pertaining to email writing, presentations and proposals, and you can even cater to a particular niche or industry;

**c. Examination preparation:** tuition for students preparing for their IELTS, TOEFL, or Cambridge proficiency exams;

**d. Job interview coaching:** sessions focus on common job interview discussions and topics like strengths and weaknesses, talking about themselves, and why they deserve the job;

**e. Trial English lessons:** this will allow you to get to know your students a little before committing to any future classes. Often provided free of charge or at a discounted rate.

## How many hours do I have to spend teaching English online?

The beauty of teaching English online is that the hours you work and the schedule you set is completely up to you. While some online teaching companies may require you to teach a specific number of work hours, you can usually choose from teaching a few hours per week to 20 hours, or even turn this into a full-time career with 40+ hours.

Apart from hours, it's common for companies to contract you for a particular period of time.

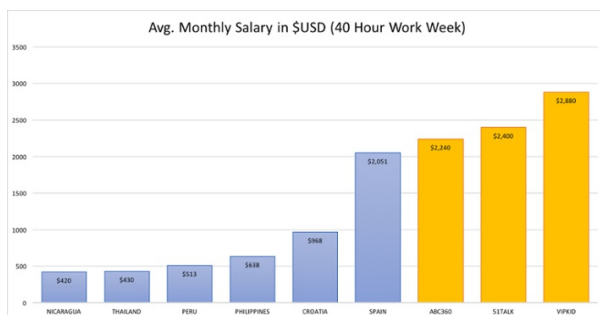




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## How much money can I make teaching English online?

Some online English teaching companies provide a flat-rate of payment per hour, while other platforms allow you to set your own hourly rate. Generally speaking, online English teachers typically make anywhere between \$10 - \$40 USD per hour depending on their level of qualifications and instruction provided in the lesson.



If you are a first-time English teacher, you will likely be making \$10-\$20 to start (if you are a fluent English speaker with a TEFL certification). If you choose to work for an agency that finds/recruits and schedules work for you, then that agency may take a cut of your hourly wage as a finder's fee for their role in getting you the job. Please research all agencies diligently and **steer clear of any companies asking for upfront payments of any sort.**

If you choose to travel the world and support yourself via teaching English online, you can make a very comfortable living for yourself by earning U.S. dollars in countries that have a cheaper cost of living. To help break this down, let's take a look at the average monthly salary (in US Dollars, \$USD) for a 40-hour work week in Nicaragua, Thailand, Peru, the Philippines, Croatia, and Spain, versus the average monthly salary (in \$USD) for a 40-hour work week teaching English online with [ABC360](#), [51Talk](#) and [VIPKid](#).

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## What employers can I use to teach English online?

Another place to look for online English teaching jobs is Just EsL Jobs. It's free and you can upload your CV and create a profile with them so that they can match you with suitable jobs. For more info and to create a profile with them [click here](#).

- **Berlitz** – This company pays \$13 an hour for ESL tutoring. You must be a native English or French speaker to be considered.
- **Cambly** – Webcam tutoring. You can teach English online without a degree, and you can work anytime! Currently they need English & Spanish language tutors. This is informal tutoring — you're mostly doing social chatting.
- **English Hunt** – Often hires people to teach English online from home via video (independent contractors). Must have a four-year degree and have either teaching or substitute teaching certification.
- **TutorABC (TutorGroup)** – Must have a four-year degree.
- **Open English** – Hires native English speakers to teach English online. Must be able to put in 15 hours per week.
- **iTalki** – Work anywhere in the world teaching any language. You will qualify as long as you are a native fluency speaker for your language.

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## Do I need to pay taxes on the money I make from teaching English online?

Many online English teaching jobs categorize you as either an independent contractor or self-employed. This means it's your responsibility to report your earnings as a self-employed income. This process will differ based on your country of citizenship or the country you are teaching English online from.

One benefit of online teaching (if you pay your taxes) is that you will be able to write off a portion of your home or apartment as a home office. You can also write off expenses like your computer/laptop, Internet, webcam, microphone, headset, teaching supplies, etc.

There are so many online English teaching companies for you to consider when looking for online work. Some that come highly recommended include [VIPKid](#), [Lingoda](#), and [51Talk](#).

If you want to work from home and are qualified to do this, it could be a great way to make some money! The requirements vary from company to company as does the pay.

Some want a university degree, others don't mind if you have don't have one. Also, sometimes the work will be done online while other times it's via phone and/or webcam.

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## What equipment do I need to teach English online?

Another advantage of teaching English online is the fact that getting started is relatively easy and start-up costs are generally low (given you already have access to all the required equipment necessary). The main essentials you will need to teach English online include:

### HARDWARE:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- Webcam
- Reliable, high-speed Internet connection
- Microphone and a headset (headset not obligatory but definitely helps)

### SOFTWARE:

- [Skype](#) (sometimes required if a company does not have their own video platform)

### OTHER:

- A [PayPal](#) account (the most common form of online payment among online English teaching companies)
- A quiet, well-lit home office or work space



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## What are the best video platforms for teaching English online?

For smaller, lesser-known companies, it's common that you will be using Skype to teach your English sessions. Alternative voice/video platforms include Zoom and Google Hangouts. Although not as popular, Zoom receives praise from online English teachers for having excellent sound and HD video quality, as well as a more reliable connection when compared to Skype.

Let's delve further into the benefits of each of these video/voice platforms:

**SKYPE** - Benefits include:

- Most well-known and commonly used video platform
- One-on-one video calls
- Group video calls
- Can be used as an instant messaging service
- Screen-sharing capabilities
- Free to use



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## ZOOM - Benefits include:

- Fantastic, reliable connection
- HD video and audio lessons
- You can embed videos and play the audio from a video during a lesson
- Screen-sharing capabilities
- Use annotations like a whiteboard while screen-sharing
- Facilitates both private and group video/chat
- You can schedule and have recurring lessons
- Basic plan is free to use and allows unlimited 1-on-1 meetings as well as 40 minute max. group meetings (if group classes will be 40+ minutes, you can upgrade to the [Pro Plan](#) for \$14.99 per month)
- You can create "break out rooms" to partner students off together when teaching in small groups
- Students can record and save their sessions to their hard drive (or part of a session) for later use

## GOOGLE HANGOUTS - Benefits include:

- Free
- Calls can be made to anyone with a Google account
- One-on-one video calls
- Group video calls
- Chat capabilities
- Screen-sharing capabilities
- You can embed YouTube videos into your sessions
- You can record your session for later use
- Google Effects adds to the fun, especially if you are teaching children
- You can use a whiteboard through a third-party application called Web White Board

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## What supplemental teaching tools would benefit me when teaching English online?

- Whiteboard + markers
- Flashcards with letters + letter combos to use for spelling
- Picture flashcards with colors and shapes
- Hand puppets (favorable among younger students)
- Magnetic letters + magnet board

Some companies will provide you with lesson plans and curriculum to follow, whereas other companies will expect you to supply your own. For example, [VIPKid](#) provides you with a full curriculum, you just log in before each class to look over the lesson plan set for that session – very little prep work is required. Some items that compliment lesson plans and help aid in successfully conveying a message or a new teaching to a student via webcam include:

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*"It is very difficult to explain what it means to teach online and how much fulfillment it has given me these past two years... Everyday I wake up and am welcomed into the living rooms of Chinese families that I have never met before... I've built relationships with people in multiple countries. I've been invited to a wedding in Brazil, offered kung-fu lessons in Taiwan, and taken dance lessons in Costa Rica."*

- Caroline Chadwell

*"I have traveled to over 118 countries over the last four years because I could work online, and earn my income even if I was spending one week in Lebanon, another week in Oman. A lot of my time was spent working, not traveling, but the fact that I was able to live so easily everywhere and anywhere was its own boon, and for all of you who want to travel without a tether, I can't think of another better way."*

- Kiran Bhat

If you are excited about teaching English from either the comfort of your own home or anywhere in the world, [contact us about TEFL certification options](#) and get ready for a great adventure!