



# How to Teach English Online

**tefliberia**

[www.tefl-iberia.com](http://www.tefl-iberia.com)

# Learn how to teach English from home, **or anywhere in the world!**

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Teaching English online is growing in popularity and looks like it's here to stay. Students love it because they get great value lessons and don't have to travel. And it's great for teachers because you can log on from anywhere in the world and get paid to teach. It's a win-win!

If you're looking for new opportunities, reliable income and a great way to help others, check out our detailed guide on how to get started as an online English teacher.





# What do I need **to get started?**

## YOU WILL NEED:



To be a fluent English speaker\*



An accredited and internationally recognised TEFL qualification



A computer with a webcam and microphone



Zoom, or similar video conferencing software



A high-speed internet connection



A quiet, well-lit space

### **Pro tip 1:**

Make your CV stand out with a top-level qualification, such as the Trinity CertTESOL.

### **Pro tip 2:**

Invest in a decent headset for good audio.

\*You don't need to be a native English speaker, as long as you can demonstrate a C1 level of English.  
**Take our level test to find out.**

# Where do I start?

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STEP 1

## Get qualified

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We recommend you complete the **Trinity CertTESOL course** (available 100% online). This is one of the few genuinely internationally recognised and accepted certificates. There are many other Level 5 qualifications available but they don't include teaching practice with real students.

A top level qualification benefits both you, your future students and will impress your future employer. They will look for:

- Experience teaching real students
- Variety in your teaching practice - low/high levels, big/small groups
- At least 160 hours of study time
- A module related to teaching young learners
- External validation, such as Trinity College London



**GET QUALIFIED TODAY**



## 02 STEP 2 Make yourself stand out

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Apart from a world-class qualification, you can make yourself stand out by:

- Doing your qualification online - this shows you know what is involved and have what it takes to teach online.
- Getting experience in using online tools, such as Miro, Google Classroom and Kahoot.
- Having an online presence - set up a Facebook or Instagram page to promote yourself as a teacher.
- Setting up a simple, personal website using services such as Wix or Squarespace. This is especially useful if you decide you want to work freelance. Which takes us to our next step...





## 03 STEP 3 Decide how you want to work

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There is a lot of flexibility in the English-teaching world and it's relatively easy to either set yourself up as a freelance teacher or work for a school.

If you teach freelance you can:

- Set your own schedule
- Set your own rates
- Advertise yourself on freelance teaching websites

If you work for a school you will have:

- Ready-made groups of students for you to teach
- Less responsibility
- Regular income





## 04 STEP 4 Job hunting

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There are a LOT of well-established online schools you can apply to work at, as well as platforms aimed at freelance teachers. Some are region-specific, such as China, South East Asia, Middle East, Europe, etc. Some of the bigger ones are:

- VIPKid
- Palfish
- Preply
- Italki

**Check out our detailed list of online schools and platforms.**

**Pro tip:** Having a good online profile is important when establishing yourself as an online tutor. Set up your own social media pages specific to teaching and consider setting up a simple personal website, to use like an online business card.



## 05 STEP 5 Get prepared

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To make your first classes go as smooth as possible it's a good idea to do a couple of trial runs with your friends or flatmates. Start a session and get familiar with the platform you are using. Practise using features such as inviting participants, screen share, breakout rooms, sharing files, chat, online whiteboard, etc.

Make sure you won't be disturbed for your lessons (flatmates, noisy traffic, pets, deliveries, etc), you have a suitable background and have all your teaching resources to hand.



## 06 STEP 6 Enjoy your first lessons!

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Well done! You're ready to teach your first lessons. Remember to be professional (dress smartly, have good lighting) and relax and enjoy your lessons. Remember: students will take their cue from you, so be friendly, positive and encouraging.

**Pro tip:** When doing online interviews or meeting students for the first time, treat it like you would a face-to-face interview. Be punctual and dress smartly (smart casual, no need for a suit!) and you'll make a great first impression.

# Our favourite online teaching resources

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## Zoom

A clear winner for online video calls, it has all sorts of features perfect for teaching - online whiteboards, 'breakout rooms' for dividing students into groups, screen sharing and a chat function.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

## ITESLJ

The Internet TESL Journal. An enormous list of conversation topics, guaranteed to keep any class lively.

[www.iteslj.org/questions](http://www.iteslj.org/questions)

## Tim's Free English Lesson Plans

Produced by one of our own TEFL Iberia tutors. This resource is growing enormously in popularity and has even won a British Council award. Updated regularly with ready-made lesson plans, videos, worksheets and more.

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

## Breaking News English

Lesson topics based on current news, all graded into 7 different levels, from beginner to advanced.

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

## Film English

Film English has viewing guides for students who want to learn English through watching films. The guides help students improve their English vocabulary, listening comprehension, pronunciation, speaking and writing.

[www.film-english.com](http://www.film-english.com)

## Prezi

Prezi is an online tool that allows you to create a presentation using a map layout. It is an alternative to traditional powerpoint presentations and will really make your lessons stand out!

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

# How much **will I earn?**

Type of class	Typical rates
General and conversation English	\$10 - \$20 per hour
Exam preparation	\$20 - \$30 per hour
Business English	\$25 - \$40+ per hour
ESP (English for Specific Purposes) e.g. job interviews, medical English, legal English	\$25 - \$50+ per hour

Note: Teachers typically teach 20-25 hours per week, but you should also factor in the time required to prepare your lessons and deal with student inquiries.

### Pro tips:

1. The rates you earn depend on where your students are. E.g. students in Cambodia will pay less compared to students in Italy.
2. You can leverage your salary by living in a cheaper country and teaching online to students in a more expensive country. E.g. you live in Spain and teach English online to students in the Middle East.



**GET QUALIFIED TODAY**