

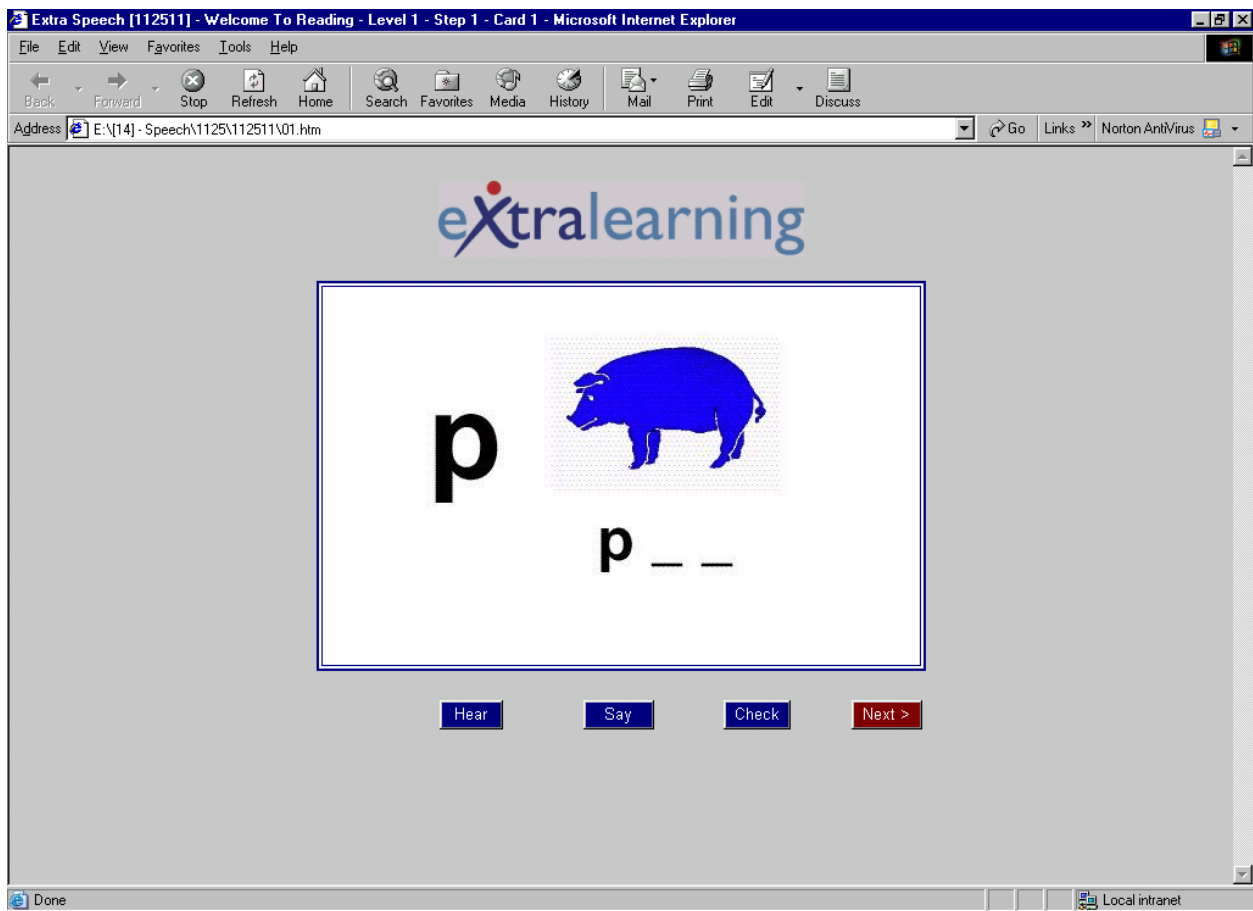


Teach basic life skills and language skills using e-Speech language cards.

extralearning takes into account the fact that many learners do not speak or are just learning to speak English. To fully benefit from all that extralearning has to offer, it is, of course, necessary for learners to read and speak English well. To insure that extralearning is beneficial to everyone, the system includes a strong English as a Second Language (ESL) component called e-Speech.

The e-Speech component includes hundreds of interactive language cards that **teach basic language skills in a step-by-step process**. The cards start with letter identification and letter-sound association and work up to the decoding of complicated phrases and sentences. e-Speech teaches learners to recognize and say letters, words and phrases and to use these words and phrases in daily life. Each illustrated language card has buttons for students to “Hear,” “Say,” and “Check” each letter, word, phrase or sentence. The language cards get more difficult as learners progress through each series. Readability gets higher with each series, and there is built-in reinforcement of previously learned skills throughout the successive series.

Below is a sample language card:



There are several e-Speech courses in extralearning. These courses include Academic ESL, Welcome to Reading, Academic ESL, Citizenship Competencies, and Speaking at Work.

Academic ESL (1131-1134)

The Academic ESL course starts with the basics including letter recognition, capital and lowercase letters, and consonant and vowel patterns. It then moves on to numbers and dates and basic sight words. After laying these foundations, the language cards within the course become more difficult, focusing on words, phrases, and sentences that are associated with daily activities. These cards allow learners to become familiar with the words and phrases they will be using in daily life. Each series of language cards in Academic ESL focuses on a specific theme. These themes include the classroom, leisure activities, climates, seasons, and everyday household activities. After introducing basic words and phrases associated with these themes, the cards then move on to asking learners basic questions centered around these themes. Successive language cards provide the answers to these questions.

Welcome to Reading (1125)

The Welcome to Reading course reviews much of the content covered in Academic ESL, but the course is designed more for new readers rather than those learning English as a second language (although the series will still be helpful in teaching ESL). Welcome to Reading reviews consonants, vowels, and consonant blends and letter-sound association. Learners will sound out letters and simple words. The course also introduces simple sentences and basic grammar concepts such as possessives and contractions and antonyms and synonyms.

Functional ESL (2131-2134)

The Functional ESL course takes a functional approach to language skills, focusing on what words and skills learners need to succeed in daily life. Learners will review the basics like capital and lowercase numbers and letter sounds, and then move on to important everyday skills like how to read documents (from left to right, top to bottom) and how to glean information through reading. The language cards in this course take learners through everyday tasks like getting information from phone books, medicine labels, and schedules. The cards also cover such fundamentals as ordering from a menu, giving personal information, and answering the phone. One set of cards focuses on emergency words and what to do in an emergency. Another set reviews the steps in setting up and managing a checking or savings account. Other topics in Functional ESL include job functions, parts of the body, and travel information.

Citizenship Competencies (2241-2244)

The Citizenship Competencies course ties language skills into the basic history of America. Learners will be able to say words associated with the founding of America, the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and other important events in American History up through recent times. While learning words and phrases associated with American History, learners will also learn fundamental American history concepts.

Speaking at Work (2111)

The Speaking at Work course introduces language skills integral to success in the workplace. The course takes learners step by step through all aspects of the work world, starting with the basic “Foundations for Employment”. Learners will read and say the names of jobs and names of tools and supplies associated with those jobs. Learners will also read and say words and phrases associated with the locations of jobs, work schedules and time and punctuality.

The course moves on to “Frameworks for Employment”. Learners will read and say phrases associated with looking for a job, scheduling and appointment for an interview, and interviewing for a job. They will also learn the basics of filling out an application and using the telephone to follow up on job leads.

The next portion of the course focuses on “Bridges to Employment.” In this portion learners will read employment want ads and use other sources to find jobs. They will also learn how to prepare for interviews and learn what questions to ask about jobs they are interviewing for.

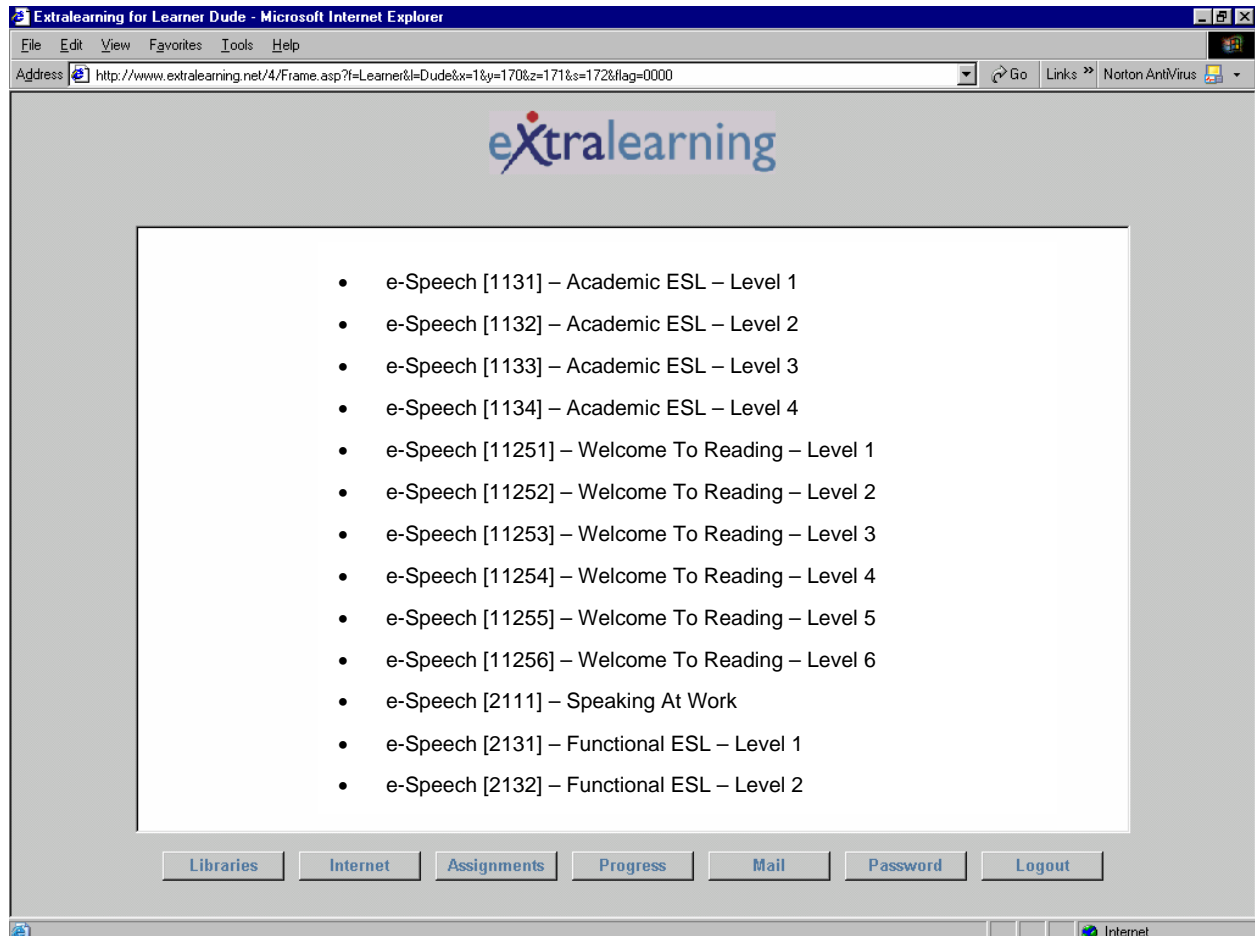
After covering widespread facts applicable to all jobs, the course moves on to types of jobs. First the course reviews “Blue Collar Work.” Learners will be able to name jobs associated with specific types of blue collar work. The categories include construction work, industrial work, agricultural work, military work, outdoor work, law & safety work, food service work, and transportation work. The language cards first identify specific jobs associated with that industry and then indicate what qualifications are required to obtain that job. Learners must read and repeat the names of the jobs and the sentence about qualifications.

The course then moves on to “White Collar Work.” Learners will be able to identify jobs associated with office and professional work, health care work, technical and computer work, retail work, science work, art and music work, education work, service work, and sports and entertainment work.

After reviewing blue collar and white collar jobs, the course then reviews the tools and tasks associated with these jobs. Learners will be able to identify tools and tasks associated with specific jobs.

Accessing e-Speech

Extralearning allows teachers to assign learners a particular e-Speech skill or an entire e-Speech course. This flexibility is of great benefit to the learner. A learner who is entirely new to the job market and the process of getting a job can take an entire course, while a learner who just needs help with filling out a job application can go straight to the e-Speech skill that focuses on filling out a job application. Learners may also browse through the e-Speech Library and choose the specific materials that they need. A portion of the e-Speech library is illustrated below:



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Extralearning website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.extralearning.net/4/Frame.asp?Learner=Dude&x=1&y=170&z=171&s=172&flag=0000>. The website features the Extralearning logo at the top center. Below the logo, a list of e-Speech materials is displayed in a white box with a black border. At the bottom of the page, there are several navigation buttons: Libraries, Internet, Assignments, Progress, Mail, Password, and Logout. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates the Internet connection.

- e-Speech [1131] – Academic ESL – Level 1
- e-Speech [1132] – Academic ESL – Level 2
- e-Speech [1133] – Academic ESL – Level 3
- e-Speech [1134] – Academic ESL – Level 4
- e-Speech [11251] – Welcome To Reading – Level 1
- e-Speech [11252] – Welcome To Reading – Level 2
- e-Speech [11253] – Welcome To Reading – Level 3
- e-Speech [11254] – Welcome To Reading – Level 4
- e-Speech [11255] – Welcome To Reading – Level 5
- e-Speech [11256] – Welcome To Reading – Level 6
- e-Speech [2111] – Speaking At Work
- e-Speech [2131] – Functional ESL – Level 1
- e-Speech [2132] – Functional ESL – Level 2