



LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THE 6 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



INTRODUCTION

The Language and Communications Training Unit (LCTU) provides learning managers and focal points throughout the Organization with various levels of language learning support from our proven results in the six official languages of the United Nations.

As part of our commitment to equal language learning opportunities, this information sheet includes a variety of authentic language resources (online, audio, video, written,) intended for learning experiences and materials designed for the six official languages of the United Nations.

The current version of the document is presented in PDF format; however, other forms of distribution (online and/or paper) are being discussed for future versions. *Please note that the UN does not endorse any of the products, websites or any other reference material presented in this document.*

For more information on language learning programmes across the UN, language managers, instructors, and potential learners, should refer to the website [Language Learning at the United Nations](#).

For information about online language learning, please see the following pages on the HR Portal:

Current schedule of [Online Language Learning Courses](#)

Information about [Online Language Learning Licenses](#)

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT?

The resources contained in this document can be shared with the following actors:

- ◆ Learning Manager or learning focal points who wish to know which resources are used in the UNHQ and UNOG Language Programmes.
- ◆ Consultants such as language instructors, language learning institutional partners or similar actors. The learning resources referenced here may complete or coincide with your own preferred sources and will regularly be updated. Any feedback is therefore greatly appreciated.
- ◆ Learners of one UN official language or more wishing to maintain and improve their language skills on a self-study basis.



Please do not hesitate to contact the LCTU for further information and please note that more language-related information is available on the HR Webpages

<https://hr.un.org/page/language-learning>

<https://hr.un.org/page/language-programmes-unhq>

DOS-CDOTS-training@un.org

MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Language Learning

Apps

◆ **Duolingo (available for English, French, Russian and Spanish)**

<http://www.duolingo.com>

Language Learning App Cost: Free

This app aims at improving language skills in general. The material is broken into small units, and learners can test their knowledge after each lesson. Lessons include speaking, listening, translation and multiple choice activities. Additional resources include games and other fun activities for revising the material.

◆ **Busuu**

<http://www.busuu.com>

Language Learning App Cost: Basic version is free; premium version available for a fee

The basic version of Busuu allows learners to create flashcards for studying and revising vocabulary. The premium version is set up as a course and includes more features that help learners build grammar units, a vocabulary trainer, and conversations with native speakers. The course material is also available for offline learning.

◆ **Voxy**

<http://www.voxy.com>

Language Learning App

Cost: Fees may vary

Voxy offers personalized content based on the learner's needs. The curriculum automatically adapts to the learner's progress. A new feature is that Voxy offers distance learning, and private and group classes by certified teachers can be requested. Speakers. The course material is also available for offline learning.

◆ **Babbel**

<http://www.babbel.com>

Language Learning App

Cost: First lesson is free; fees for accessing the whole course apply



Focusing on speaking skills, Babbel offers conversation lessons with interactive dialogues. Review sessions reinforce the content and help learners to remember phrases that can be used in authentic situations.

◆ **Fluentu**

<http://www.fluentu.com>

Language Learning App Cost:

\$10/month for the basic version, \$20/month for the plus version

This app focuses on learning words in context and offers a large variety of authentic video material for learners. Members who subscribe to the plus version also have access to quizzes and flashcards.

Vocabulary

◆ **Memrise** <http://www.memrise.com>

Language Learning App Cost:

Free; Pro version from \$4.90/month available

This language learning tool allows learners to sign up for beginners or advanced courses online. Its focus is on building up vocabulary through fun exercises and activities that are based on recent brain research.

◆ **Quizlet**

<http://www.quizlet.com>

Language Learning App Cost: Free

Creating flashcards in this online learning tool help learners to retain vocabulary, and they can practise the words through games and various other activities. Flashcards can also be shared with other learners.

Speaking Partners

◆ **Tandem**

<https://www.tandem.net/>

Language Learning App Cost: Free

Learners find an online tandem partner for practicing listening and speaking skills, and improving pronunciation. They can also find an online tutor through the app.

◆ **HelloTalk**

<https://www.hellotalk.com>

Language Learning App Cost: Free

This app allows you to find a conversation partner to practice your English. The focus is on the chat function, which allows for giving and receiving corrective feedback.

◆ **Verbling**

<https://www.verbling.com>



Language Learning App Cost: Individual lesson prices may vary

Find an online teacher who tailors classes specifically for you through this website. Tutors for conversation are also available. Each teacher and tutor has their skills and availability listed online, with many offering free trials. Student reviews are also available.

UN Apps

UN Audio Channels (available for Android or iPhone)

Arabic



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

Alif- Baa' and Al-Kitaab series Demo online lesson

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/alkitaabtextbook/abLinks.php>

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/alkitaabtextbook/>



Online resources for language courses

For learners

<http://alkitaab.blogspot.com/> <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/aswaat/>

For teachers

<http://aataweb.org/>

<http://press.georgetown.edu/al-kitaab/teacher-resources/additional-components>

Pronunciation

http://mylanguages.org/arabic_alphabet.php

Vocabulary

<http://quizlet.com/subject/arabic-al-kitaab/>

Reading

<http://arabicreadingcourse.com/letters-menu.html> <http://readarabic.nflc.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUyQRFHhFzekHxWk8jC7w/videos>



Listening

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUyQRFHnFzekHxWk8jC7w/videos>

Online dictionaries

<http://www.baheth.info/>

Tests

Unite Connections



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in Arabic

<http://www.unicef.org/arabic/>

<http://www.un.org/arabic/news/index.asp>

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/>

<http://arabic.people.com.cn/>

Audio & Audiovisual

<http://tunein.com/search/?query=arabic>

<http://streema.com/radios/genre/Arabic>



Chinese



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

UNHQ *Road to Success*

UNOG programme specific materials developed in-house (beginner and intermediate cycles)
Road to Success (Advanced cycle)



Online resources for language courses

General

<http://www.chinesecio.com>
<https://www.yellowbridge.com/>
http://clta-gny.org/resources/resources_t.html

For teachers

<http://www.hanban.org/resources/> (in Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Arabic)

Pronunciation

<http://pinyinpractice.com/tones.htm> (in English)
<https://chinese.yabla.com/chinese-pinyin-chart.php>
<https://chinesepod.com/tools/pronunciation/>

Characters and Vocabulary

<http://www.clavisinica.com/resources.html> (in English)
<http://www.clavisinica.com/fcsets.html> (in English)
<http://www.skritter.com/> (in English and Chinese)
http://parlezchinois.free.fr/exercice_hsk.html (in French)
<http://chineseliteracy.net> <http://hanziyuan.net/>

Reading

<http://www.ramou.net/zhCadreActualite.htm> (in French)
<http://www.chinese-shortstories.com/> (in French and Chinese)
<http://readchinese.nflc.umd.edu/> (in English)
<https://www.pressreader.com/> (accessible and free on UNHQ premises)

Listening

<http://www.audio-lingua.eu/> (in French)
<http://clearchinese.com> (in English)



Online courses

[http://www.greatwallchinese.cn/portal.do\(inEnglishandChinese\)](http://www.greatwallchinese.cn/portal.do(inEnglishandChinese))
<http://popupchinese.com/> (in English and Chinese)

Online dictionaries

<http://www.nciku.com/> (in English and Chinese)
<http://goo.gl/9YsYIm> (in English and Chinese)
<http://www.tigernt.com/> (in English and Chinese)
<http://dict.youdao.com>
http://www.archchinese.com/chinese_english_dictionary.



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in Chinese

<http://uncip.org/>
<http://www.unicef.org/chinese/>

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

[https://news.un.org/zh/audio-hub\(in Chinese\)](https://news.un.org/zh/audio-hub(in%20Chinese))
<http://www.people.com.cn/> (in Chinese)
<http://www.xinhuanet.com/> (in Chinese)
<http://news.ifeng.com/> (in Chinese)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp/> (in Chinese)
<https://www.pressreader.com/> (accessible and free on UNHQ premises)

Audio & Audiovisual

<http://www.chinasite.com/Media/Chinatv.html> (in English and Chinese)
<http://v.163.com/> (in Chinese)
<http://www.booksshouldbefree.com/language/Chinese>



English



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

*Northstar 5, World English
Language Leader; Headway; New English File; Premium;
Destinations (B1, B2, C1 & C2);
Cambridge examination preparation books (Objective Advanced, Objective
Proficiency, New Proficiency Gold)*



Online resources for language courses

In-house course materials

<https://sites.google.com/site/unlpepreparationgeneva>
<https://sites.google.com/site/unitednationsreportwriting>
<https://sites.google.com/site/summarywritingstudentsite>
<https://professionalwritingtips.weebly.com>

For learners

<http://writershelp.bedfordstmartins.com/ebooks/helphandbook.php>
<http://www.italki.com>

For teachers

<http://www.eslcafe.com>
<http://www.esflow.com>
<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk>

Pronunciation

<http://www.manythings.org/pp> <http://www.rachelsenglish.com/videos/listening-comprehension-word-stress-2-syllable-words>

Vocabulary

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learn-british-english-free/id319650659?mt=8>
<http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com> <http://www.visualthesaurus.com>
<http://www.etymonline.com>
<http://www.lexutor.ca/vp/eng>
<http://corpus.byu.edu/coca>
<http://www.wordandphrase.info>



Reading

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com>
<http://www.manythings.org/listen>

Listening

<http://www.esl-lab.com> <http://learningenglish.voanews.com>
www.englishcommunicationexercises.wordpress.com
<http://www.npr.org>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova>

Online courses

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish>

Online dictionaries

<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us>
<http://dictionary.reference.com>
<http://www.wordreference.com>

Unite Connections

[English language learning](#)



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in English

<http://archive.unu.edu/hq/library/resource/UN-correspondence-manual.pdf>

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

<http://www.usatoday.com>
<http://www.theguardian.com/us>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>
<http://www.nytimes.com>
<http://www.independent.co.uk>

Other writing resources

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/5/25>
<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers>

Audio & Audiovisual

<http://ello.org/>
<http://www.nytimes.com/packages/html/nyregion/1-in-8-million/index.html?hp&hp>



French



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

Programme-specific materials developed in house

Alter Ego 1 (A1), Alter Ego 2 (A2), Alter Ego 3 (B1), Alter Ego 4 (B2), Ici 1(A1), Ici 2 (A2)
Echo A1, Echo A2, Echo B1 (volume 1), Echo B1 (volume 2), Echo B2

Version originale (A1, A2, B1, B2)

Objectif Diplomatie 1 (A1/A2), Objectif Diplomatie 2 (B1/ B2)

Je pratique/Exercices de grammaire (A1, A2, B1)



Online resources for language courses

For learners

<http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/> <http://www.lepointdufle.net/>

<http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/>

<http://www.didieraccord.com/>

For teachers

<http://enseigner.tv5monde.com/>

<http://www.fdlm.org/>

Pronunciation

<http://phonetique.free.fr/alpha.htm>

Grammar

<http://www.lepointdufle.net/> (click on *grammaire*)

Vocabulary

<http://lexiquefle.free.fr/>

<http://www.lepointdufle.net/vocabulaire.htm>

Reading

<http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/index/indexapp.htm>

<http://www.lepointdufle.net/comprehensionecrite.htm>

Listening

<http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/index/indexapp.htm>

http://www1.rfi.fr/ffr/statiques/accueil_apprendre.asp

<http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/df>



Online dictionaries

<http://www.cnrtl.fr/>
<http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais>
<http://dictionnaire.tv5monde.com/>
<http://www.babla.fr/>

Tests and certificates

<http://www.ciep.fr/tcf-tout-public/documents-telechargeables>
<http://www.francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/tef-et-efef/>
<http://www.bonjourdefrance.com/preparation-delf/index.html>
<http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr/apprendre-francais/accueil-tcf>



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in French

<http://www.un.org/fr/> <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/fr/home/>

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

<http://www.courrierinternational.com/>
<http://www.lemonde.fr/>
<http://www.liberation.fr/>
www.lexpress.fr/
<http://www.lepoint.fr/sommaire.html>
<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/>

Audio & Audiovisual

<http://www.rfi.fr/www.franceinter.fr>
www.franceculture.fr
<http://www.radiofrance.fr/>
<http://www.franceinfo.fr/>
<http://www.tv5.org/>
<http://www.france24.com/fr/>
<http://www.arte.tv/fr/70.html>



Russian



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

GOLOSA, Basic Course In Russian: Textbook & Student Activities Manual. Vols. 1 & 2 (levels 1-6); In-House Materials (levels 7-9);
Zhili-Byli Vols. 1 & 2 (Once upon a time), Poehali–1 and 2 (Allons-y–1 and 2),
Doroga v Rossiyu 3 (The way to Russia 3), Russkiy Express (part 1 & 2)
Grammar book *Le russe à votre rythme!*



Online resources for language courses

For learners and teachers

<http://learningrussian.net> <http://masterrussian.com>
<http://www.practicerrussian.com>
<http://www.russianlessons.net> <http://www.study-languages-online.com> <http://www.therules.ru/>
<http://www.franklang.ru/index.php/russkij-yazyk/91-teksty-na-russkom-yazyke-adaptirovannye-po-metodu-chteniya-ili-franka>

Online courses

<http://www.raskraska.ru/azbuka/azbuka.html>
<http://learnrussian.rt.com>
<http://www.russianforeveryone.com/>
<http://www.banktestov.ru/test/entertainment>
<http://www.gwu.edu/~slavic/golosa/> (use with the textbook Golosa)

Online dictionaries

www.multitran.ru
<http://dictionary.reverso.net/russian-english/>
<http://slovari.yandex.ru/>
<http://jeck.ru/tools/SynonymsDictionary/>
<http://www.lingvo.ru>

Pronunciation

<http://ru.forvo.com>

For help typing in Russian (phonetic keyboard)

<http://translit.ru>



Tests

<https://sites.google.com/site/cefrtorfl/torfl-mock-exams>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_of_Russian_as_a_Foreign_Language



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in Russian

<http://www.un.org/russian/news/>
www.gramota.ru
www.strana.ru
www.vesti.ru
www.mayak.info
www.americancouncils.org

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

<http://magazines.russ.ru/km>
<http://www.rtv.com/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/russian>
<http://www.kp.ru/>
<http://www.1tv.ru/>
<http://rt.com/>
http://masterrussian.com/russianculture/Russian_Culture.htm
<http://www.runyweb.com/>
<http://www.newtimes.ru/>
<http://www.novayagazeta.ru>
<http://echo.msk.ru>
<http://www.tvrain.ru>
<http://cinema.mosfilm.ru>
<http://drugoi.livejournal.com>



Spanish



Text Books used in UNOG and UNHQ

Bitácora 1, Bitácora 2 and *Expertos*.

Resources page (free registration) <http://campus.difusion.com>

Vía Rápida for the first levels & in-house material for higher levels Blog: <http://laventanahispana.wordpress.com>

Grammar book, up to a high intermediate level (B1)

Gramática Básica del estudiante de español. It contains explanations, exercises & solutions.



Online resources for language courses

For learners and teachers

Repositories of free multimedia activities

<http://www.ver-taal.com/index.htm>

<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

<http://www.studyspanish.com>

<https://aprenderespanol.org/>

<http://www.auladiez.com/ejercicios/index.html>

Repository of free activities for teachers

<https://marcoele.com/actividades/> (all levels)

<http://www.todoele.net/#> (all levels)

Verb conjugation

<http://www.elconjugador.com/esindex.php>

Pronunciation and vocabulary http://cvc.cervantes.es/lengua/voces_hispanicas/
(Spanish varieties) <http://lingua.ly/?r=es> (news & vocabulary)

Reading

<http://cvc.cervantes.es/aula/lecturas/default.htm> (easy readers)

<http://www.pyc-revista.com/?idioma=EN> (magazine) <https://www.practicaespanol.com/>
(news, articles and activities).

<http://kiosko.net/es/> (Spanish newspapers)

<http://kiosko.net/iba/> (Latin American newspapers)



Listening

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/index.html> (all levels, different Spanish varieties, downloadable)
<http://www.newsinslowspanish.com/> (slow news) <http://cvc.cervantes.es/ensenanza/ese/> (higher levels)

Online Grammar

<https://marcoele.com/gramatica-a/> (level A)
<https://marcoele.com/gramatica-b/> (level B)

Online courses

<http://ave.cervantes.es>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/> (for beginners, last update 2013)
<http://www.videoele.com> (for beginners, low intermediate)
<http://www.practicaespanol.com/> (learning through actual news, all levels)

Dictionaries

www.rae.es (monolingual)
<http://www.fundeu.es> (language consulting)
<http://www.wordreference.com/> & <http://www.linguee.es/> (bilingual)
<http://laventanahispana.wordpress.com/diccionarios/> (UNOG Listing of dictionaries)
<https://www.linguee.com/>

Tests

http://diplomas.cervantes.es/informacion/modelos_examen_audios.html (DELE, sample tests)
<https://examendemo.siele.org/> (SIELE, exam demo)



Online sources of authentic language

UN Links in Spanish

<http://www.cepal.org/>
<http://www.un.org/es/multimedia/> (UN in photos, radio, video, reports)
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3B5C1AA21C44D045> (UNDP TV channel)

Newspapers, magazines, art & culture

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo>
<http://www.prensaescrita.com/> (repository of press publications)
<http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/> (virtual library)



<https://www.practicaespanol.com/> (news to read and hear, at different levels)

Audio & Audiovisual: Repositories of Broadcasters, some <Radio Nacional> examples

<http://www.e-spanyol.hu/en/radio.php>

<http://tunein.com/radio/South-America-r101219/>

Audio & Audiovisual: «Radio Nacional» examples

<http://www.radioreloj.cu/>

<http://www.radionacional.com.pe/>

<http://www.rtve.es/radio/>

<http://nacionaldechile.cl/>

Audio & Audiovisual: Some Public and Private Television Emissions

<http://www.televisa.com/>

www.rtve.es

<http://www.caracol.com/>

<http://www.vmetv.com/>

<http://cnn.espanol.cnn.com/>