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[http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/07/15/the-best-sites-where-ells-can-learn-vocabulary /](http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/07/15/the-best-sites-where-ells-can-learn-vocabulary%20/)

Here are my choices for The Best Sites Where ELL’s Can Learn Vocabulary:

[**Vocabsushi**](http://vocabsushi.com/) is a neat new — and free — vocabulary learning site. It includes assessments, audio, learning words in context, and games. The only thing it’s missing are photos and/or videos, but I guess you can’t always have everything. [Joyce Valenza](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/blog/1340000334/post/1310046331.html) has written a post that describes the site in much greater detail. I’d encourage you to read that, and then try out Vocabsushi…

[**Kindersay**](http://www.kindersay.com/words/?s=470de8685eaedf7a&gclid=) is a new free site that offers an excellent multimedia experience where Beginning English Language Learners can learn about 500 basic words.  I wish the examples included sentences where the words were used in context, but, again, II guess you can’t have everything…

[**Word Ahead**](http://www.wordahead.com/) is one of the best vocabulary-learning sites I’ve seen for advanced English Language Learners and mainstream students.  It uses SAT words, and shows the word and representative image, plus provides audio support for text showing the word being used in context.

[**Word Carnival**](http://www.iknowthat.com/com/L3?utm_campaign=iktnewsletter&Area=WhatsThatWord&IP=207.166.7.200&utm_source=iktnews1&utm_medium=email) is a new good game from I Know That, which is on [The Best Sites Where Students Can Work Independently & Let Teachers Check On Progress](http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/07/15/2008/05/21/the-best-sites-that-students-can-use-independently-and-let-teachers-check-on-progress/) list (when you click on the Word Carnival link, you may be asked if you want to subscribe to I Know That — just click “maybe later” and you’ll be taken directly to the game).  I’ll quote from their announcement describing the game:

To play the game, your children try to fill in four hidden words by selecting letters they think are in the words…A definition accompanies each hidden word. When a word is filled in, it is spoken and an example sentence is presented. Click on the ‘Hear It’ button and the sentence is spoken aloud too.

It’s probably too advanced for Beginning English Language Learners, but any student above that level should be able to have a good time playing and learning with it.

[**Photo Munchr**](http://imagine-it.org/flickr/PhotoMunchrs.html) (their spelling, not mine) is a Pac-Man-type word game.  It shows a word and a bunch of different photos.  If you “munch” on the seven photos that correctly illustrate the word, you advance to the next level.  It’s a fun way for English Language Learners to build and reinforce vocabulary.

[**Starfall**](http://www.starfall.com/)is the established site that is rivaled by no other in providing accessible literacy activities toBeginning English Language Learners.

[**U.S.A Learns**](http://usalearns.org/) is an incredible website to help users learn English that’s on several of my other “The Best…” lists.  Even though it’s primarily designed for older learners, it seems very accessible to all but the very youngest ELL’s.  It’s free to use. Students can register if they want to save their work and evaluate their progress, but it’s not required.  One of its great features is that learners can report and record words that they’re learning and listen to how they sound.

I like these simple exercises from **Oxford University Press:**

[Happy Earth Vocabulary 1](http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/happyearthamerican/vocabulary1/)  
[Happy Earth Vocabulary 2](http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/happyearthamerican/vocabulary2/)

[Stardust 1 Games](http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/stardust/level1/gamepc/)  
[Stardust 2 Games](http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/stardust/level2/gamepc/)  
[Stardust 3 Games](http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/stardust/level3/gamepc/)

I also like these vocabulary games **from Cambridge:**

[Interchange “What Do You See?” Introductory](http://www2.cambridge.org/interchangearcade/launch.do?activityID=337&sortbytype=a&level=0&unit=2&type=Cup_gallery)  
[Interchange “What Do You See?’ Book One](http://www2.cambridge.org/interchangearcade/sortbytype.do?level=1&type=Cup_gallery)  
[Interchange “What Do You See?” Book Two](http://www2.cambridge.org/interchangearcade/sortbytype.do?level=2&type=Cup_gallery)  
[Interchange “What Do You See?” Book Three](http://www2.cambridge.org/interchangearcade/sortbytype.do?level=3&type=Cup_gallery)

[**Splashr**](http://splashr.com/) is an extraordinary application that students, particularly second-language learners, can use to easily create their own picture dictionary. Write in a word, choose from a ton of different presentation styles, and you get countless images representing that word. Even better — and this is really the reason for its placement on this list — you can email the link and create your own picture dictionary.

[**Sight Words With Samson**](http://www.sightwordswithsamson.com/sw/sight_words.asp) is clearly one of the best websites out there to learn sight words — for English Language Learners or younger native-English speakers.  There’s audio support for text and a lot of interactive fun exercises. One of the best things about it is that it also shows sight words in the context of sentences — in both audio and text. In an ideal world it would also show an image illustrating the sentence, but, once again, you can’t always have everything.

I’m not a real fan of Word Searches, and view them more as “busy work.” However, [**Photo Soup**](http://photosoup.games.yahoo.com/) is can be a fun word search game where users pick the category, and then photos from Flickr are shown as hints. It’s a good way to reinforce vocabulary when you have a few minutes to kill in the computer lab.

[**Learning Chocolate**](http://www.learningchocolate.com/) is designed for English Language Learners to gain basic vocabulary through many interactive exercises.