

# ESL Software Resources

The following software resources can only be accessed in the Writing Center and may be used independently or with a Writing Assistant. These software programs provide assistance to ESL or Language Minority students who wish to improve reading comprehension skills, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

## Software for Writing Skills (Grammar & Mechanics)

**Easy Writer by Jane Boris:** This user-friendly program benefits students at multiple skill levels. This program provides exercises in grammar, mechanics, and sentence structure. A variety of stories are available at each level (see attached list). Students can check their answers immediately.

- **Level One:** The student identifies grammatical errors, and *the program fixes the errors for the student.*

**Skills:** Articles, nouns, pronouns, possessives, prepositions, punctuation, spelling, verbs, and “mixed bag.”

- **Level Two:** The student identifies the grammatical errors; *the student corrects the errors* (by typing the corrected sentence in the given box).

**Skills:** Nouns, pronouns, possessives, punctuation, questions, sentence structure, spelling, verbs, and “mixed bag.”

- **Level Three:** The student identifies and corrects the errors (by re-typing the sentence in the given box).

**Skills:** Conditional sentences, indirect speech, passive voice, gerunds and infinitives, and “mixed bag.”

- **Expert Level:** Includes both intermediate and advanced levels. The student identifies and corrects the errors.

**Skills:** Students are asked to identify multiple errors within a story. For example, they are told that the story contains one error in punctuation, errors in gerunds and infinitive usage, etc.

## Software for Overall English Language Learning

**Rosetta Stone, Level 3:** This program is a comprehensive language acquisition program. It uses a combination of visual, spoken, and written prompts and response options to teach English.

- The *User's Guide* explains the program's options/exercises and helps students navigate through the curriculum; the *Curriculum Text* and *Student Management System* manuals are valuable resources for Writing Center tutors.
- **Skills include:** listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing.
- **Topics include:** shopping, transportation, housing, and employment.
- The program uses three types of lessons: video lessons, narrative lessons, and picture lessons.
- The video lessons are interactive and cover more advanced listening skills. The narrative lessons are also more advanced and focus on listening and reading comprehension skills that are necessary for college-level work. The picture lessons cover rudimentary skills.
- Learning is progressive, as each lesson builds on skills taught in the previous lessons.
- Students can begin at the lesson that aligns with their present skill level.
- Lessons can be adjusted to address different skills. For example, the same lesson can be tailored to focus on listening, reading, speaking, or writing. The headset with the microphone is required for the speaking exercises.
- Video lessons use two-way conversations, and students answer comprehension questions after listening/viewing. Students have the option of reading the corresponding script for each speaker while viewing/listening to the dialogue.

**Pronunciation Power 2:** This interactive program helps students improve their English **speaking** and **listening** skills. STAIR exercises teach the following aspects of pronunciation:

- Stress
- Timing
- Articulation
- Intonation
- Rhythm

⇒ Students will learn how to pronounce 52 sounds in the English language; see how sounds are formed by viewing a demonstration of the instructor's mouth movements; and listen and compare their own voice to the instructor's voice/pronunciation of words/sentences.