

# LASSN's Guide for Teaching English Online



# A new way of doing things!

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Since the beginning of lockdown in March 2020, LASSN have been looking for innovative ways of continue to support English at Home learners and tutors. This booklet is a way of capturing the key things we have learned during this time and to pass on ideas and resources. We hope they help!

# Managing Expectations

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Teaching online is very different to face to face visits. Don't be too hard on yourself if you are struggling! It is important to note that-

- Progress is likely to be slower
- Lessons tend to be missed more frequently
- Technological issues will arise

It is important to just be there at this moment in time and for your learner to feel supported.





# Top tips for teaching online

- Keep it short and simple
- Speak slowly
- Remind the learner you will call
- Use images, especially for difficult language e.g. unmute
- Involve children and other family members
- Set work to prepare in advance of the lessons, such as sending videos to watch
- Embrace the positives
- Smile lots!



There is a wealth of online teaching resources, but knowing where to look can be tricky and you can spend hours delving in to numerous websites. Due to this, LASSN have created a new section on our website titled – **Teaching Remotely**. It has resources we have created as well as those made by others which we love, all gathered in one place. Have a look and see what you find!

On the following pages are some of the best of the best that we highly recommend checking out. If there are specific resources you need let us know and we can help guide you in the right direction.



## Getting Started

It can be difficult knowing where to begin when teaching online so Daniela from MDA College has created a [great video](#) for LASSN with some important things to consider before you start.

It is also worth reading the [assessment criteria](#) for the level your learner is at to give some idea of what might be good to cover.



## Starting Conversations

Having meaningful conversations can be difficult. However, this brilliant resource from [The Learning and Work Institute](#) has 15 different topics to choose from and many intriguing questions you can discuss with your learner to delve a bit deeper.



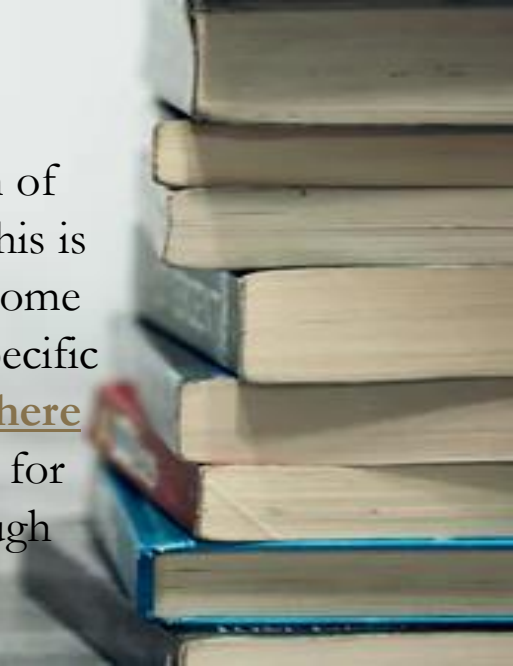
## Ideas and Activities

LASSN have been working hard to produce [ideas and activities](#) which can be used with learner's of all abilities of English. They can be used to start a session or you can plan a whole lesson around them. We are constantly updating these so please keep checking and let us know if you have any ideas which should be included.



## Exams and Assessments

It is good practise to work some form of assessment in to your lessons, even if this is as informal as a short quiz. However, some learners will be focusing on passing a specific test. You can find resources on exams [here](#) which you can pass on to your learner for self study, or that you can work through together in your lessons.



## Listening Resources

[Ello](#) have a massive catalogue of videos to watch and discuss with your learner. They are in numerous accents too.

[Podcasts in English](#) have a great range of topics and discussions.



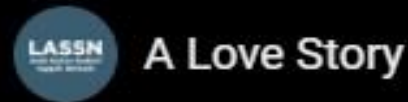
## Interesting Images

[The Guardian](#) have fascinating images from around the world, providing great conversation starters.

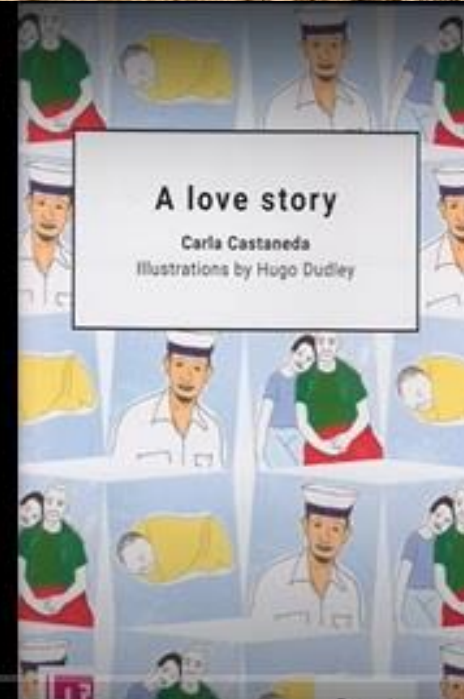


## Useful Websites

There are so many good websites to choose from! Look [here](#) for some of the ones we recommend. Well worth a look for more structured activities are the [British Council site](#), [BBC SkillsWise](#), [Excellence Gateway](#) and also the wonderful visual Dictionary [Babadada](#).



## Read Along Books



LASSN have narrated a number of [ESOL readers](#) so learners can watch and improve their reading



# Support – For you

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- Every month we run a ‘Skill Share’ session on Zoom. This is a time for all volunteers to come and share ideas and resources they use as well as discuss any issues encountered. The time and day varies to reach as many volunteers as possible.
- We have a Signal group for tutors. Please download the App and we can add you to the group to receive updates and useful information.
- There are numerous training sessions we run during the year on the asylum system, supporting learners and teaching grammar among others. These are sent in the monthly newsletter. If you are not receiving this let us know and we can add you to the mailing list.
- Call/email us if there is anything you need!



# Support – For your learner

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The support offered by LASSN to clients in these strange times has been different to normal due to the different needs the pandemic has created. The most common difficulties have been with-

**Food** – If your learner is having any issues with food provision please let us know. There are a number of organisations offering a variety of support that is location specific.

**Data and Technology** – Keeping in touch with loved ones and also accessing groups and classes has been a real issue due to a lack of both of these. There are a few places technology might be provided from and LASSN are offering £10 a month phone credit for learners to help make lessons possible.

**Safeguarding** – Social contact has been hugely reduced meaning that things which might be noticed by friends or professionals may be missed at the moment. If you have **any** concerns at all please let us know.

THANK YOU

