

Read and Write every day

Pre-entry ESOL Literacy series

**SAMPLE PAGES: Self-study
for pre-entry groups**



The following pages are from *the Read and Write every day* series.

esolbooks.com

Introduction



Hi, I'm Dave. I'm an ESOL teacher and teacher trainer based in an FE college in Glasgow. I have been teaching ESOL Literacy groups for almost 20 years. However, when I started with this level, I found it difficult to find material. I would spend hours looking for books and worksheets or creating my own resources from scratch. I compiled this work into the **Read and Write every day** series for basic ESOL

Literacy groups (pre-entry).

About this sample

I was flattered that NATECLA Scotland invited me to host a webinar entitled ***I want my students to go away!*** The aim of the session was to share my enthusiasm regarding the power of self-study to unlock students' progress towards achieving their goals. [You can watch a recording on YouTube!](#)

This sample features:

1. Tips for how to encourage self-study in pre-entry groups.
2. Pages from the **Read and Write every day Student's Book**: top tips for pre-entry self-study.

[Sample units](#) from the **Read and Write every day** series can be downloaded from esolbooks.com.

Feedback

We'd love to know what you think of this sample unit! Please comment under the blog post or contact me to give me your feedback:

davebutler@esolbooks.com.

Pre-entry self-study

The students who I have seen make significant progress from a basic ESOL Literacy level to beginner, elementary and even up to intermediate, all have one trait in common: they embrace self-study. Here are my tips for encouraging independent learning for students in pre-entry groups.

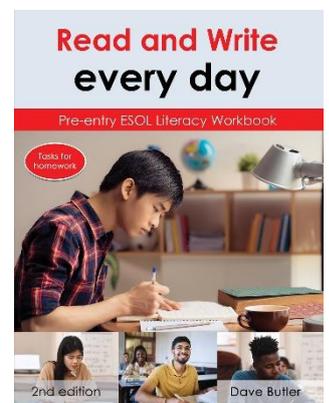
Mindset

Get students on board when it comes to self-study. Going to college is great but ask your students if it's enough if they want to really improve. My students this year all agree that they need to do homework!

Make homework a habit

Set homework at the end of every class and check it at the beginning of the next class. Keep homework tasks super simple at this level!

There is a **Workbook** which accompanies the **Read and Write every day Student's Book**. This includes straightforward tasks for learners such as jumbled sentences and gap-fills. Crucially, any tasks are linked to work done in the Student's Book. As such, this consolidates learning and, as the group already know the context, they are far less likely to get lost.



Here are a few examples of homework tasks in the Workbook, all exploiting a text in the Student's Book:

Mohammad



1. My name is Mohammad.
My name is Mohammad.

2. I am from Sudan.

3. I am 28 years old.

Mohammad

My name is Mohammad. I am from Sudan. I am 28 years old. I live in Glasgow. I like Glasgow. I am a student. I like football and You Tube. I play football with my friends.

My name is Mohammad. I am
from Sudan. I am 28 years old.
I live in Glasgow. I like Glasgow.
I am a student. I like football and
You Tube. I play football with
my friends.

Here's my process for setting and checking homework:

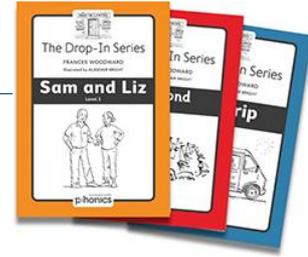
1. After a lesson using the Student's Book, set some pages for homework. If you create a group on Teams then it's easy to share a video you record on your phone where you model the tasks by doing a question or two yourself from each page.
2. At the start of the next class, the learners check their answers in pairs. Clarify that you want them to check if their answers are the same or different. For different responses, one student needs to change their answer!
3. Monitor while the learners are checking. My main aim here is to see that everyone has done the homework and give plenty of praise! I might underline a few errors for students to self-correct but I mostly just tick the pages.
4. Address any common errors in open-class feedback but tasks such as letter gap-fills don't need to be checked as a group. Are there any areas where you could run some remedial work, e.g. letter formation / writing on the line?

Keep it simple

Don't overlook simple self-study techniques, for example, "read your notebook / Student's Book" after class! Also, giving students 10 words from the day's class before a spelling practice the following day is simple but very effective. They can use 'look-say-cover-write-check' (LSCWC) at home to memorise the spellings. The test can be done in pairs and students can just write the first letter if they struggle.

LSCWC can also be set as homework for a text written in class. The students cover and write sentence-by-sentence for the text, rewriting it five times. Check their notebooks the following day to see that they have done this.

Graded readers



If you have a college library and can request graded readers, then this is a great opportunity for self-study too. The problem is finding something that is well-graded for learners at this level! Here are a few which I've found students can manage:

- *The Forward with phonics Series* by Frances Woodward
- Gatehouse Books' Beginner Readers and Phonics Readers, e.g. *the Liz and Joe series*, *the Eastenders series*.

Even with these excellent books, the learners need some help and guidance:

1. Take the group to the library to choose a book.
2. Spend some time in class with the books. Can the students read them? Many of my students have the **Google Translate** app, which learners can point at text for it to be translated and read aloud in the student's language and in English. This is potentially excellent but learners need training in class regarding how to use this:
 - a. Students must try to read texts themselves first, without using the app.
 - b. After trying to read without Google Translate, then use the app to understand the meaning of the text and to hear it read aloud. As such, they can link sounds and spellings.
 - c. Read the text again without the app.
3. Tell the group to bring the books to college so that they can read to each other during some classes.

A great option here is to buy a class set of readers and read together in class. This can not only enthuse the learners that this is possible, but it can also show them the benefits and enables the teacher to train the learners in how to make the most of this.

Read on for some online graded readers too, e.g. from NATECLA Scotland.

Independent self-study

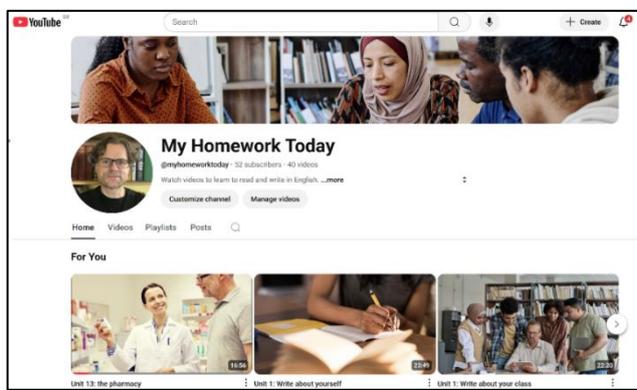
Just before the summer holiday of the last academic year, I was keen to give my students some self-study tools to help them practise their English over the break. As a result, I produced a worksheet which I have since added to the ***Read and Write every day Student's Book***. The pages are included in this sample. Here is how I staged a class and set the learners up to understand and use the various tools.

1. Class discussion: what do you do at home to learn English?
2. Tell the group about the different ideas in the 'Learn English at Home' worksheet.
3. Set the task: tick the ideas which you already do. Discuss this in small groups.
4. This sets up an interesting whole class discussion regarding the tools the students already utilise and which they would like to try. Perhaps the more tech-savvy class members know of some useful websites and apps?
5. If you have a smartboard / projector, show the students the websites/apps.
6. Students with smartphones can help each other to download the apps and find their way around the websites. They can help each other to scan the QR codes. You can monitor to help too, of course.
7. In addition to homework from the Workbook, set a task from the worksheet for self-study at the weekend. The students can start this in class and continue at home. For example, everyone can read the same story from NATECLA Scotland's online readers. As with Google Translate, encourage them to use the audio to help but then turn this off and read it for themselves. In the next class, see if the learners can read the text aloud independently.

The idea here is to train them towards **independent self-study**. With regular practice using the various tools, they can really boost their level! I'm planning to set a homework task linked to the various tools on the worksheet each week.

You Tube

Students love You Tube but I've found that many of my pre-entry learners follow teachers who are pitching at a level that is way too difficult for them. As a result, I am building a channel with a range of videos to help them improve their English. Although these videos are linked to the ***Read and Write every day series***, I have kept them simple enough so that students without the books can still access them and benefit.



Other tech tools

Another website with online readers was mentioned at the webinar: **uniteforliteracy.com**. **Book Creator** can be used to create your own simple audio books for your students or you can use **Zoom** and record a video of you reading aloud while sharing your screen. These videos can be shared via a group on Teams. In this way, you can create a video for homework of any text used during the class.

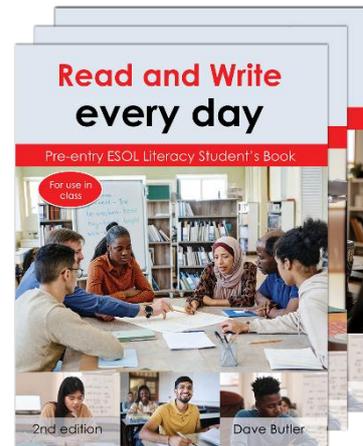
You can find links to **Kahoot** games on our site, **esolbooks.com**, which can be shared with learners for homework. **Wordwall** was mentioned by lots of teachers at the webinar. It's been on my to-do list as a platform to incorporate but I still haven't used it. However, it sounds great so it's definitely something I'm going to look into!

Feedback and further info.

We'd love to know what you think of this sample! Please contact me to give me your feedback: davebutler@esolbooks.com.

Visit esolbooks.com for details of our books, including:

- online bookshop
- sample units
- free extra material, e.g. Power Point slides and Kahoot games
- blog with tips, techniques, free worksheets etc
- form to join our mailing list



Sample pages

The sample pages follow on the next three pages. Feel free to copy them and use them in class with your students!

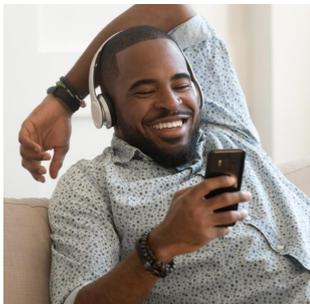


Learn English at home

What do you do?



1. Watch TV and videos.



2. Do my homework.



3. Help from friends.

4. Read books.



5. Read and copy
my notebook.



6. Apps



- ✓ Readable
- ✓ Duo Lingo
- ✓ Duo Lingo Kids

7. Go online.



NATECLA
Scotland



Bridges
Project



Citizen
Literacy

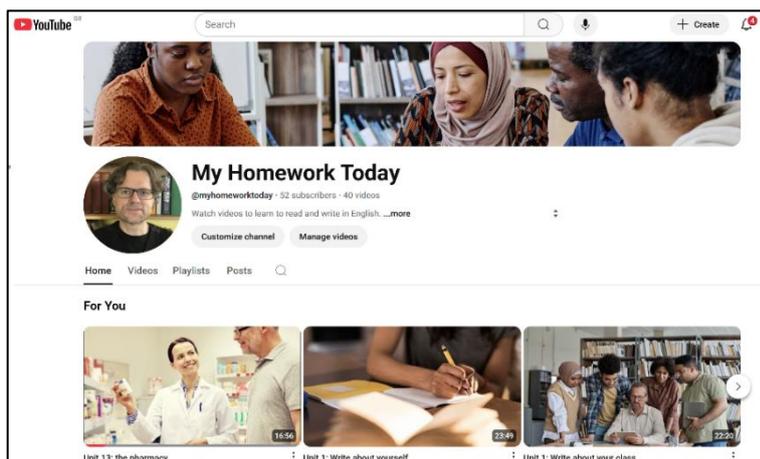
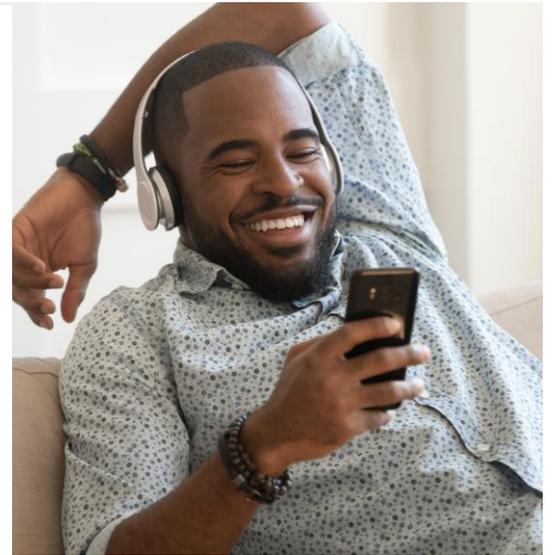


Storybooks
UK

8. Watch You Tube.

My Homework Today

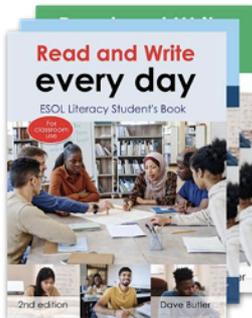
- ✓ Videos for beginners.
- ✓ Practise reading and writing.
- ✓ Help with spelling.
- ✓ Learn new words.
- ✓ Use the QR code or search on You Tube for 'My Homework today.'
- ✓ Subscribe now!





Read and Write every day

ESOL Literacy Student's Book, Workbook and Teacher's Book
For pre-entry level



Finally, a course book for ESOL Literacy learners

This series provides all your material in one place to support your students' progress in their literacy and numeracy skills.

- ✓ Boost your learners' literacy and numeracy level.
- ✓ Support students to pass assessments and change level.
- ✓ A structure for your classes throughout the year with all your material in one place.
- ✓ No more endless searching for material and hours spent at the photocopier.

"I love how this book combines and contextualises language and phonics into relevant contexts whilst also addressing students' literacy needs."

Dinushriya Spybey
Development Worker, Volunteer Tutor Project
ESOL Scotland

Cut your prep. time!

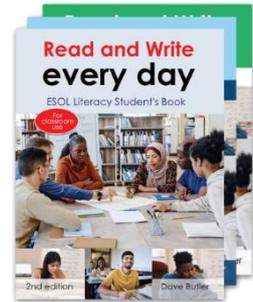


Teachers using these books have praised them for how easy they make lesson-planning.

FREE POWER POINT SLIDES!

1

Select your material from the **Student's Book** and decide on your main aims. Then check the advice on staging in the **Teacher's Book** and look through this book's **Extra resources** section for supporting materials, e.g. games and flash cards.



2

Download the free **Power Point slides** and **audio files** from **esolbooks.com**, which you can use to support your lesson. These include images to clarify vocabulary, texts to read aloud and slides of tasks from the book to allow clear and easy feedback.

3

Set homework from the accompanying **Workbook**. Lessons from the Student's Book all have corresponding homework tasks to allow students to consolidate their learning. Send your learners links to videos on our new **You Tube channel** (see next page for details) to consolidate what they have studied.

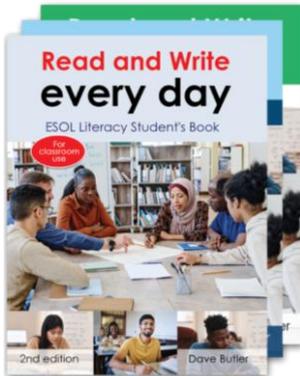


A further resource on our website outlines our **blueprint for an ESOL Literacy lesson** to make planning your lessons simple and effective. Get your **free PDF** including a **sample unit!** Go to the ESOL Books home page.



ESOL BOOKS

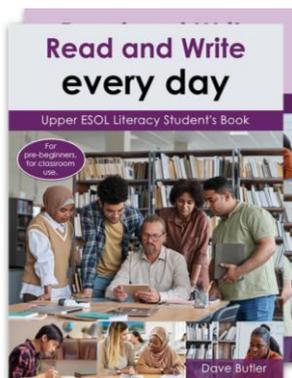
Current titles



Read and Write every day

ESOL Literacy Student's Book,
Workbook and Teacher's Book

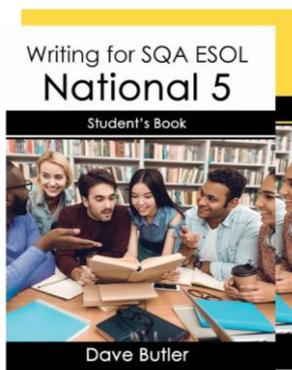
- ✓ For pre-entry level.
- ✓ 14 units based on contexts relevant to students' lives.
- ✓ Enables reading aloud, personalised writing, phonics and numeracy work.
- ✓ [Free sample units](#) available.



Read and Write every day

Upper ESOL Literacy Student's Book and Workbook

- ✓ For low beginners / Entry Level 1.
- ✓ Gives support with literacy / numeracy plus more advanced areas, e.g. grammar.
- ✓ Teacher's Book coming in December 2025.
- ✓ [Free sample units](#) available.



Writing for SQA ESOL National 5

Student's Book and Teacher's Book

- ✓ For upper intermediate / Level 1 learners (B2).
- ✓ Preparation for writing assessments.
- ✓ Focus on key task types: formal / informal e-mails, reports and essays.
- ✓ [Free sample units](#) available.