
TESL-L: An Electronic Forum

ESL/EFL professionals now have a completely free of charge, international, 24-hour resource! The name is TESL-L, and it is an electronic mail network that provides a discussion forum for ESL/EFL teachers and links all of us around the world in the free exchange of ideas and concerns related to our field.

TESL-L was founded in May 1991 by two classroom EFL teachers in New York. Since then, it has grown to reach 190 institutions in nineteen countries, and welcomes more members every day. "Discussions" are ongoing and touch on all aspects of our profession. You can "log on" at any time of the day or night and find a kindred spirit. There is no subscription fee, and you do NOT need to be a computer whiz to understand and enjoy it.

TESL-L was established to help members with similar teaching and/or research interests locate each other so that they can discuss items of mutual concern and coordinate their teaching and research efforts more effectively. The speed and power of telecommunications give ESL/EFL professionals around the world a quick and efficient way to remain in touch with what's happening in the field. Via TESL-L, colleagues that you may see at conventions perhaps only once a year are

only keystrokes away. You can get news of conferences, jobs, books, and materials, as well as "discuss" all of these with your colleagues.

To Join

First, you need to get an electronic mail user number. These are normally provided free of charge to teachers by their universities, colleges, and boards of education. To get one, contact your academic computing center.

Next, you need to secure at least occasional access to a terminal or a personal computer with a modem—at school or work. You do not need to have your own equipment at home (although it is much more fun if you do).

Last, you need to send an electronic message asking to join TESL-L to Anthea Tillyer ABTHC@CUNYVM.BITNET or ABTHC@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU (internet).

You can also send a regular letter (snail mail) to Anthea Tillyer, International English Language Institute, Hunter College (10 East), 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.