

The resources are so very good for our Year 7 students.

High School teacher Queensland, Australia - June 2025

I love your resources and use them as a volunteer literacy tutor here in Perth. I have no training in literacy tutoring but I can use your resources as my curriculum. Thank you, Frances, for your high quality resources.

Volunteer literacy tutor - Perth, Australia - June 2025

We very much enjoy using your resources.

Literacy Specialist - Read Easy UK - January 2024

Forward with Phonics has great resources.

Literacy Tutor - Western Australia - January 2024

Both books are perfect for the beginner students I plan to use them with. Thank you for making them available as PDFs.

Literacy Tutor - Western Australia - June 2023

Thank you Frances for creating and sharing these fabulous literacy resources. The Phonics for Older Learners books have become staple resources of my collection, something I've personally purchased and enthusiastically recommended to fellow educators and Speech Pathologists. Their seamless alignment with curriculum standards makes lesson planning effortless, and the positive engagement from students aged 5 to 15 speaks volumes. Highly recommended for any educator or Speech Pathologist – these resources are a must-have!

Speech Pathologist - South Australia - November 2023

I work with adults from the very early stages of literacy to those who have some competency in reading but whose spelling (and sometimes comprehension) is patchy.

I found Phonics Resources for Older Learners to be brilliant and it filled a big hole in the adult resources available to me. I now have a clear, logical, adult step by step approach which my learners enjoy. The variety of tasks - pictures, gap fill, mixed up sentences and crosswords suit a wide range of learning styles. During lockdown I was able to send out copies by post and then work with them over the phone. I have also used the Drop In series of books - my learners relate well to the stories and we can build on them with real life materials.

I also teach ESOL from early beginners to those who are trying to improve their writing skills.

I have found the dictation sentences in Phonics Resources to be invaluable - the learners are delighted with the consistent approach to the different vowel phonemes and I have seen great improvement in spelling as a result. Thanks Frances.

Clare, Ireland, September 2020

Thank you, Frances, for creating age-appropriate resources for older learners (teens and adults) who are still learning the code. I appreciate that they are perfectly aligned to the Sound-Write scope and sequence of teaching and learning. I am currently using the resources with a 17yr old and he has thanked me for finding resources that he can relate to.

Kate, New Zealand, August 2020

I use the activities in these two books a lot - most of my online students now have them included in their home practice sessions. Purchasing them online is more convenient than hard copy and avoids the expense (financial and environmental) of air freight.

The Reading Coach, Western Australia, April 2020

Both books are excellent particularly for older learners. Would definitely recommend them.

Louise, Northern Island, April 2020

I use your resources all the time, it saves me sooo much work. Thank you.

Paula Thomas, ESOL tutor, Tower Hamlets, June 2019

I just wanted to say THANK YOU. I have had a few adult clients and was looking for resources to support that age group and I stumbled upon your Phonics Resources for Older Learners when I was looking through the SPELD-SA library. I had goosebumps just reading through the material, knowing it would better target that clientele. I just wanted to express my gratitude for your efforts to put together this resource.

Jayne Ayliffe, Access and Inclusion Advisor, University of South Australia, July 2019

I teach at a learning centre with a wide range of learners, including some adults and older teenagers. These books have proved an invaluable resource for my older learners as they offer age appropriate stories and activities, coupled with a very well structured phonic progression. Even my most struggling learners have been able to experience success as the phonic progression in this series is so secure and there is no need for them to guess at words. They really are truly decodeable even at the most early levels. The instructions included in the books are so clear that the books can easily be used by teachers and tutors who may not themselves have a solid grounding in phonics. I can highly recommend both the stories and support activities for both adults and teenagers.

I work in an FE college, teaching groups of Entry Level Literacy students, progressing from Entry Level 1 to Entry Level 3.

Clair Wilson, November 2017

These two books, Phonics Stories for Older Learners and the accompanying book, Phonics Resources for Older Learners have been invaluable to me and other Literacy and ESOL practitioners.

All the pages are easily photocopied and provide a quick and effective method of teaching lower levels, something that is worth its weight in gold to busy teachers. The stories correspond to the accompanying skills based worksheets and systematically build up the learners' understanding of phonemes, graphemes and syntax.

With these books it is possible to plan an entire lesson in stages built around one target sound. There is also more than one level of stories and resources which is a great help in differentiating effectively for mixed-level groups at word, sentence and text level.

I particularly like the dictation pages that learners can do in pairs, allowing them to work together to develop their reading, writing, speaking, listening and proof-reading skills. Activities like this still correspond to a target sound and so fit seamlessly into the rest of the lesson.

During a recent Ofsted inspection it was mentioned that even with these lower levels that teachers should be incorporating more student-focused activities. The dictation in particular allows the teachers to stand back and let the students peer correct without too much teacher involvement.

All in all I would recommend these books to any professional teaching in this sector as a fantastic and varied way to help students build a solid foundation from which to advance to higher levels.

Beverley Hill, January 2015

I have used these fabulous books to help support a range of dyslexic learners, from both top end Primary and Secondary schools, who have gaps in their phonic knowledge. The short punchy stories focus on real life situations which capture the interest of the pupils without patronising them. The accompanying support activities really help reinforce learning and ensure new knowledge is retained. Would definitely recommend.

Drew Wilson, June 2014