

Resource list: further resources and reading suggestions

How to use this guide

This guide provides a comprehensive list of wider reading suggestions and further resources to complement the teaching and study of A-level English Language. It's not exhaustive, nor prescriptive; instead a selection of reputable sources should you need to explore particular subject areas in more depth.

Introduction to English Language as a subject

Author(s)	Title, Publisher and Date of Publication	Description
David Crystal	<i>How Language Works: How Babies Babble, Words Change Meaning and Languages Live or Die</i> (Penguin, 2007)	A perfect introduction to the subject area - wide-ranging, informative and highly readable.

Course textbooks

Author(s)	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Marcello Giovanelli, Gary Ives, John Keen, Raj Rana and Rachel Rudman	<i>English Language A/AS level for AQA Student Book</i> (CUP, 2015)	Supports both AS and A level teaching with AS content clearly signposted throughout.
Dan Clayton, Angela Goddard, Beth Kemp and Felicity Titjen	<i>AQA English Language: AS and A level</i> (OUP, 2015)	A course book that covers AQA's AS and A level English Language specifications in a co-teachable way.
Dan Clayton, Angie Kolaric	<i>Revise AQA English Language: A level and AS Workbook</i> (OUP, 2018)	Clear, easy to follow structure to support the AQA assessments. Suitable to be used by students working independently.

A-level Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

Section A: Textual variations and representations

Text analysis (general)

Author(s)	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Ron Carter, Angela Goddard, Danuta Reah, Keith Sanger and Nikki Swift	<i>Working with Texts</i> (Routledge, 2008)	Both textbooks cover the language methods/levels involved in text analysis and include many everyday texts.
Ron Carter and Angela Goddard	<i>How To Analyse Texts: A toolkit for students of English</i> (Routledge, 2016)	Both are also useful for NEA ideas and approaches. The later book includes corpus methods.

Language levels

Author(s)	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Ron Carter and Michael McCarthy	<i>Cambridge Grammar of English</i> (CUP, 2006)	Very thorough and teacher-friendly guide to grammar.
Peter Grundy	<i>Doing Pragmatics</i> (Hodder, 2008)	A refreshingly clear take on what pragmatics is and how it's relevant to communication.
Deborah Cameron	<i>The Teacher's Guide to Grammar</i> (OUP, 2007)	Very useful for teachers, as its title suggests.
George Lakoff and Mark Johnson	<i>Metaphors We Live By</i> (University of Chicago, 1980)	A ground-breaking text of its day, revealing the metaphorical nature of everyday language use. Still relevant and full of great examples.
Angela Goddard and Neil Carey	<i>Discourse: the basics</i> (Routledge, 2017)	Student-friendly explanation of what is meant by discourse(s), with examples from different contexts and guidance on collecting and analysing discourse.
Christopher Hart	'Critical Discourse Analysis' in <i>Language Handbook: Key Thinkers on Key Topics</i> (English and Media Centre, 2018)*	More teacher-oriented and specific to CDA, explains where CDA came from and gives some useful examples from newspapers.

*Further references to this collection are shortened to *Language Handbook (EMC, 2018)*.

Mode: Spoken language

Author(s)	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Ron Carter and Michael McCarthy	<i>Exploring Spoken English</i>	A non-technical account of different types of interaction, drawing on naturally occurring speech.
Sue Fox	'Spoken Language' in <i>Language Handbook (EMC, 2018)</i>	Good introduction to the nature of typical spoken language features.
Neil Mercer	<i>Words&Minds: How we use language to think together (Routledge, 2000)</i>	Focussing primarily on speech, this looks at how we use language to achieve our goals. Also good for child language acquisition.

Mode: Technology

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Angela Goddard	'Language and Technology' in <i>Language Handbook (EMC, 2018)</i>	A chapter on technology and language with a focus on representation, identity, and the effects of different technologies.
Daniel Allington & Barbara Mayor (Eds.)	<i>Communicating in English: Talk, Text, Technology (Routledge, 2012)</i>	Accessible, with some good coverage of multimodal forms and political rhetoric.
Angela Goddard and Beverly Geesin	<i>Language and Technology (Routledge, 2011)</i>	Interesting and accessible student book on how new technologies are represented as well as how they are used.
Gretchen McCulloch	<i>Because Internet: Understanding the new rules of language (Penguin, 2020)</i>	An informally written, entertaining look at digital communication and changing patterns of language use.
Caroline Tagg	<i>Exploring Digital Communication: Language in Action (Routledge, 2015)</i>	See description on the Routledge website

Caroline Tagg and Philip Seargeant	<i>Taking Offence on Social Media: Conviviality and Communication on Facebook</i> (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)	See description on the Palgrave website
Naomi Baron	<i>Always On: Language in an Online and Mobile World</i> (Oxford University Press, 2008)	See description on the OUP website

Representation

Note that some of the texts already listed include representation in their coverage - for example, texts on technology and on discourse(s).

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Paul Simpson and Andrea Mayr	Language and Power: a resource book for students (Routledge, 2009)	One of the Routledge English Language Introductions. Good for teachers and more advanced students.
Steve Thorne	The Language of War (Routledge, 2006)	Good for both students and teachers. Some very detailed and wide-ranging approaches to studying areas like army recruitment adverts and computer games covers. Part of the Routledge Intertext series.
Mario Saraceni	<i>The Language of Comics</i> (Routledge, 2003)	Students may find these helpful for different genres that are common starting points for sources, as well as for the NEA. (Part of the above series).
Danuta Reah	<i>The Language of Newspapers</i> (Routledge, 2002)	
Angela Goddard	<i>The Language of Advertising</i> (Routledge, 2002)	
Linda McLoughlin	<i>The Language of Magazines</i> (Routledge, 2000)	
Matt Madden	<i>99 Ways to tell a Story</i> (Penguin, 2005).	

Section B: Children’s language development

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Paul Ibbotson	‘Child Language Acquisition’ in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	Chapter in student-friendly book on recent approaches to language development.
Matthew Saxton	<i>Child Language Acquisition and Development</i> (Sage, 2010)	Excellent, accessible and thorough look at child language development.
Michael Tomasello	<i>Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition</i> (Harvard, 2005)	A detailed look at new approaches to language development – for teachers.
Jean Stilwell Peccei	<i>Child Language</i> (Routledge, 1999) <i>Child Language: a resource book for students</i> (Routledge, 2005)	Both are good, accessible texts, with the former aimed especially at students.
William O’Grady	<i>How Children Learn Language</i> (CUP, 2005)	A student-friendly book that has many case studies.
Julia Gillen	<i>The Language of Children</i> (Routledge, 2003)	Suitable for students and teachers, with some good material on children’s writing.
Neil Mercer and Joan Swann (ed)	<i>Learning English: Development and diversity</i> (Routledge, 1996)	Especially chapters 1 and 3 on initial acquisition and reading and writing.
Katharine Perera	<i>Children’s Writing and Reading: Analysing Classroom Language</i> (Wiley-Blackwell, 1984)	Currently out of print but occasionally available second hand. Very thorough book on children’s literacy. Suitable for teachers.

A-level Paper 2: Language diversity and change

General introduction

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
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Peter Stockwell	<i>Sociolinguistics: a resource book for students</i> (Routledge, 2001)	A good overview of this topic area.
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Language change: History and background

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Graeme Trousdale	'Language Change' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	Particular focus on why language changes, in this student and teacher-friendly collection.
David Crystal	<i>Evolving English: One Language, Many Voices</i> (British Library, 2011)	The book that accompanied the British Library's exhibition on the history of English.
Terttu Nevalainen	<i>An Introduction to Early Modern English</i> (Edinburgh University Press, 2006)	A very thorough guide to Early Modern English complete with a very good range of textual examples.
David Crystal	<i>The Stories of English</i> (Penguin, 2005)	An accessible and entertaining account of English language history.
John McWhorter	<i>Words on the Move: Why English Won't – and Can't – Sit Still (Like, Literally)</i> (Picador, 2017)	Accessible, engaging book on the history of English, showing language change as a natural process. Suitable for students and teachers alike.
Adrian Beard	<i>Language Change</i> (Routledge, 2004)	Excellent text for encouraging students to work from the textual level, outwards to an understanding of change and context with a wider scope.

Language change: New words and meanings

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Susie Dent	<i>The Language Report 5: Language on the Move</i> (OUP, 2007))	The Language Reports cover new usages, with interesting examples and enlightening discussions around new words.
Kerry Maxwell	<i>Brave New Words</i> (Pan, 2007)	New words and their origins, with comments from an experienced lexicographer.
Allan Metcalf	<i>Predicting New Words</i> (Houghton Mifflin, 2002)	How and why some new words take off while others don't.
John Ayto	<i>Twentieth Century Words</i> (OUP, 1999)	A journey through the new words of the 20th Century, decade by decade.
Geoffrey Hughes	<i>Words in Time</i> (Wiley-Blackwell, 1998)	Looks at how words have changed over time but with a particular focus on terms used to label others. More for teachers than students but could be used by able students for this topic.

World Englishes, global English and English as a lingua franca

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Jane Setter	'English around the world' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	Chapter offering a good overview in this student-friendly collection.
Nicholas Ostler	<i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (Penguin, 2010)	A thorough look at how English has spread around the world and its possible antecedents as a lingua franca, along with its future chances.
Jennifer Jenkins	<i>World Englishes: a resource book for students</i> (Routledge, 2009)	Helpful for both students and teachers. Ranges from the basics in section A to much more advanced material in B-D.

Language diversity: Accent, dialect and diversity

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Paul Kerswill	'Language Variation 1: Social factors' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	Useful overview in this student- and teacher-friendly collection.
Kevin Watson	'Language Variation 2: Patterns of Accent Variation in British English' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	As above.
Julie Coleman	<i>The Life of Slang</i> (OUP, 2012)	Slang is its main focus, but the whole book is very interesting for its sociolinguistic take on new words and expressions.
Carmen Llamas and Dominic Watt (Eds.)	<i>Language and Identities</i> (Edinburgh University Press, 2010)	An interesting collection of papers exploring many facets of language identity. Primarily a book for teachers.
David Britain (Ed.)	<i>Language in the British Isles</i> (CUP, 2007)	Another useful collection covering language variation from British Black English to Anglo-Romani and British Sign Language.
Joan Beal	<i>Language and Region</i> (Routledge, 2006)	A very usable text for students on accent and dialect.
Sali Tagliamonte	Teen Talk: The language of adolescents (CUP, 2016)	A detailed look at this aspect of variation, drawing on a large corpus of language data.

Language and gender

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Deborah Cameron	'Gender and Communication' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	Good overview in this student- and teacher-friendly collection.
Keith Harvey and Celia Shalom (Eds.)	<i>Language and Desire: Encoding sex, romance and intimacy</i> (Routledge, 1997).	A delightful collection of articles covering a wide range of material from dating ads to the language of romantic fiction. Great for modelling research methods to students.

Paul Baker	<i>Sexed Texts</i> (Equinox, 2008)	The complex connections between gender and sexuality are explained well here.
Deborah Cameron	<i>The Myth of Mars and Venus</i> (OUP, 2008)	A well-judged response to the Female Brain, Men Are From Mars and If Men Could Talk school of folklinguistics / psychobabble.
Angela Goddard and Lindsey Mean	<i>Language and Gender</i> (Routledge, 2008)	Good student-friendly material on representation of gender.
Janet Holmes	<i>Gendered Talk at Work</i> (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007)	Teacher text with plenty of theory and examples.
Jane Sunderland	<i>Language and Gender: an advanced resource book</i> (Routledge, 2006)	Lots of material for teachers to explore with students.
Penelope Eckert and Sally McConnell-Ginet	<i>Language and Gender</i> (CUP, 2003)	Excellent teacher book on the topic from two longstanding researchers in the field.
Dale Spender	<i>Man Made Language</i> (Rivers Oram Press, 1998)	One of the most influential texts on gender, often seen as kick-starting the whole debate, and therefore essential reading for teachers.
Jennifer Coates	<i>Women, Man and Language 3rd edition</i> (Routledge, 2015)	See description on the Routledge website
Abby Kaplan	<i>Women Talk More Than Men... And Other Myths About Language Explained</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2016)	See description on the Cambridge website
Felicity Titjen	<i>Language and Gender - Cambridge Topics in English Language</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2018)	See description on the Cambridge website
Mary Talbot	<i>Language and Gender 3rd edition</i> (Polity Press, 2010)	See description on the polity books website

Language discourses and debates

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Lynne Murphy	<i>The Prodigal Tongue</i>	Covers the relationship between American English and British English, with a focus on attitudes.
Harry Ritchie	<i>English for the Natives</i> (John Murray, 2013)	An interesting and accessible look at how grammar really works in spoken language, online communication and written texts.
Lane Green	<i>Talk on the Wild Side: Why language won't do as it's told</i> (Economist Books, 2018)	Covers attempts at (and failures of) prescriptivism.
Dan Clayton	'Attitudes to Language Change' in <i>Language Handbook</i> (EMC, 2018)	A good overview in this student and teacher-friendly collection of articles.
Jean Aitchison	<i>Language Change - Progress or Decay?</i> (CUP, 2012)	Attitudes to language change, covering some of the discourses about change that circulate.
Henry Hitchings	<i>The Language Wars</i> (John Murray, 2011)	A great read for teachers and students alike. Good coverage of ideas about 'proper English'.
Jane Setter	<i>Your Voice Speaks Volumes</i>	Covers attitudes to accents and explores familiar patterns in public prejudice.
April Baker-Bell	<i>Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity and Pedagogy</i> (Routledge, 2020)	A detailed and powerful exploration of how linguistic prejudice against Black Language speakers forms part of a pattern of oppression.
David Shariatmaduri	<i>Don't Believe a Word: the surprising truth about language</i> (W&N, 2019)	Explores many of the 'myths' about language that circulate in popular discourses.
Deborah Cameron	<i>Verbal Hygiene</i> (Routledge, 1996)	A clearly written analysis of attempts to regulate language. Particularly helpful chapter on 'political correctness'.

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

Language investigation

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Ron Carter and Angela Goddard	<i>How To Analyse Texts: A toolkit for students of English</i> (Routledge, 2015)	A book that particularly supports text-based investigations. Also useful for Paper 1 text analysis tasks.
Alison Sealey	<i>Researching English Language</i> (Routledge, 2010)	A useful guide to data collection, analysis and writing up projects on language.
Angela Goddard	<i>Researching Language: English Project Work at A Level and Beyond</i> (Heinemann, 2000).	Very clear guide to language Investigation. Currently out of print but available second hand.
Mark Sebba	<i>Focussing on Language</i> (Definite Article Publications, 2000)	Booklet designed for helping students carry out investigations.
Susan Cockcroft	<i>Investigating Talk</i> (Hodder, 1999)	Good focus on spoken language in all its varieties.

Original writing

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Shaun O'Toole	<i>Transforming Texts</i> (Routledge A Level English Guides, 2003)	Plenty of ideas and approaches for rewriting and transforming texts.
Rob Pope	<i>Textual Intervention</i> (Routledge, 1994)	A useful book for teachers, offering different angles on rewriting texts and making an 'intervention' in language discourses.
Various authors	... <i>For Dummies</i> series (John Wiley and Sons)	The 'Writing X for Dummies' series has some very readable material on the process of writing for different audiences and genres, including writing for children, screenwriting and romance novels

Beyond A-level

Author	Title, publisher and date of publication	Description
Angela Goddard	<i>Doing English Language</i> (Routledge, 2012)	Useful student-friendly book about studying English Language and/or Linguistics in higher education. Will help students make choices that are right for them.

Online resources

Organisation	Web Address	Description
York University	englishlanguagetoolkit.york.ac.uk	Teaching resources for English Language from university tutors.
The Talk of the Toon	research.ncl.ac.uk	Resources on English varieties in the north-east.
Queen Mary University of London	linguistics-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk/	Regular inputs on research for teachers and students.
British Library	sounds.bl.uk/Accents-and-dialects	Sound clips of many varieties of English, plus links to many other resources.
BBC Word of Mouth	bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtzn/episodes/player	A longstanding series with a focus on language use.
Lexicon Valley	slate.com/podcasts/lexicon-on-valley	Podcasts hosted by John McWhorter, Columbia University.
Lexis	anchor.fm/lexispodcast	Podcasts by A-level English Language teachers.
Because Language Talk the Talk	becauselanguage.com talkthetalkpodcast.com	Two different sites, both hosted by Daniel Midgley, Perth University, Australia.
Accentricity	accentricity-podcast.com	Podcasts focussing on accents and public attitudes to them.
EngLang blogspot	twitter.com/EngLangBlog	Twitter feed from Dan Clayton, offering regular coverage of language topics in the news.
Lingthusiasm	lingthusiasm.com	Podcast hosted by 'language enthusiasts' Gretchen McCulloch and Lauren Gawne.