

Library Vocabulary for ESL Classes

A vocabulary lesson will be helpful before the actual library instruction session.

Level 1- 4

- **Librarian:** The professional who answers questions in the library.
- **Borrow or check out:** To take home library materials for a short time.
- **Circulation:** The place in the library where you can borrow or check out library materials.
- **Due Date:** The date you return the library materials.
- **ESL materials:** Books to help you learn English.
- **Foreign Language Newspapers:** Newspapers in languages not English.
- **Feature films:** Movies, such as Disney and popular films.
- **Media Service Center:** The room where you can borrow videos and DVDs.
- **Viewing room (in the Media Services):** The room in which you can watch movies.
- **Fine (\$):** Money you might owe for not returning books and videos on time.
- **Reference Materials:** Materials like dictionaries and encyclopedias to help answer homework.
Only used in the library.
- **Biographies:** Stories about famous people.
- **Atlas:** maps.
- **Encyclopedia:** summary of events and facts. e.g. Encyclopedia Britannia.
- **Fiction:** Stories and novels.
- **Non-Fiction:** True stories or facts.
- **Periodicals/Magazines:** Materials like TIME or Consumer Reports.
- **Books on Tape :** A story that has both book/s and tapes.
- **Student ID Number:** The number you can use to check out library materials.

Level 4- 6 (additional vocabulary is attached with each worksheet.)

- **Late Fees:** same as fine.
- **Library Catalog:** A list of what the library has. e.g. books, videos, and books on tapes.
- **Title:** Name of the book or videos.
- **Subject:** What a book or video is about.
- **Author:** The writer of the book and videos.
- **EBSCOhost:** A good research tool to find newspaper and magazine articles.
- **Reserved items:** Items that your teacher keeps for you to read in the library.
- **Browse:** To look around the library to find books and videos.
- **Spine:** Side of the book. It often has a unique call number.

Confusing Terms:

- Library fines – it is about money one might owe not about one's health.
- Call numbers – Academic libraries and public libraries use different call number systems.
The way to U.S. citizenship Call number: JK1758.H57 (academic libraries)
The way to U.S. citizenship Call number: 428.6 HIR (public libraries)
- Biography vs. Bibliography

Sample Dialogue Sentences for Library Users:

1. What is a librarian?
2. What are the reference materials?
3. How long can I keep this book/magazine?
4. What are the ESL books?
5. How much is the fine?
6. Can you show me where _____ is?
7. May I reserve a viewing room for tomorrow?
8. May I renew this book/magazine?
9. How can I use a computer in the library?
10. How much do I pay to make a photocopy in the library?