

English for Latin America (ELA) is an initiative that focuses on increasing access to high quality English proficiency instruction through the use of EDC's Interactive Audio Instruction methodology.

What is ELA

English for Latin America (ELA) is an Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) program designed to teach English to young people aged 10 to 17 years and support teachers in effective instruction. ELA consists of 100 programs that use audio dramas, song, games, and more to help students meet the basic level of English according to internationally recognized standards. Taking into account the need for English proficiency to succeed in the 21st century and in life and business, ELA offers young Latin Americans a good start in acquiring these skills.

More about ELA

The programs are aimed at students aged 10 to 17 years and are culturally relevant to the Latin American context. Besides incorporating strategies for learning and teaching English, the program facilitates the acquisition by teachers of pedagogical concepts to improve their teaching. The program also incorporates thematic segments designed to develop competencies and skills to improve their livelihoods.

Focus on Language Acquisition

- Each program guides the teacher to teach an interactive lesson, and once learned, how to implement it.
- The vocabulary is adapted to students' age, grade level, realities and interests.
- The vocabulary and concepts are repeated in several programs, helping to facilitate the acquisition and consolidation of language skills.
- Pronunciation is carefully modeled to specifically address the difficulties faced by Spanish speakers learning English.
- The extensive use of stories, songs, and dialogues reinforces and extends the oral language skills of students.



How does ELA work?

A typical lesson of ELA consists of:

- **Introduction:** The model teacher and student connect the lesson to real life and lead a preliminary activity.
- **Game Show Review:** Students participate in a game that provides systematic review and ensures continued practice of vocabulary from previous lessons.
- **What's new:** Students learn new words and phrases in the context in which they are used. The teacher guides students in interacting with the audio and each other to practice the new material.
- **Listen to Reality:** Students listen to examples of English words from the lesson, in "real life" context and from the mouths of native speakers.
- **Drama:** Students listen to a drama series about a Latin American teenager who spends the summer showing his country to two American youths. Episodes incorporate phrases students have learned, as well as introduce other phrases critical to English communication.
- **Sing it Now:** Students listen to an English-language song contest that showcases songs that relate to what they are learning. Through memorizing the songs, students memorize the key phrases and words within them.
- **Reading/Writing:** The students participate in guided spelling, decoding, and writing activities.
- **Get to Work:** Students learn life skills, how to manage their finances, and how to use English in the tourism and service industries.
- **Review and Conclude:** Students participate in a review activity and teachers are given instructions on how to continue to practice after the lesson.



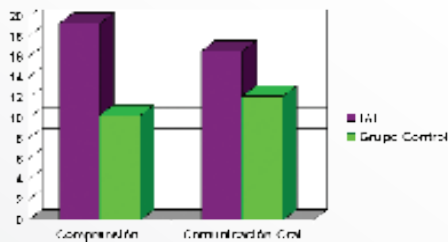
Interactive Audio Instruction helps the teacher with the use of new reading and writing strategies, and allows them to see the impact on student learning.

“ [The program] is not too adult, not too childish. Youth, children...everyone can learn. ”

-Vanessa, 12 years old

IAI Results in Other Countries

An evaluation of English language teaching in India and Pakistan compared the performance results of IAI versus other conventional methods. The evaluation examined students' abilities to listen and understand English (comprehension) and to speak English (oral communication) by asking questions to each student and asking him or her to respond in English. Statistical analysis showed a significant difference between the IAI pre-test and post-test, as well as significantly higher gains in the IAI group than the control group in both the comprehension test and the oral test.



El gráfico de arriba representa los resultados de pruebas administradas hechas en Chhattisgarh, India.

Cost

One of the advantages of ELA is its cost effectiveness. To implement the ELA program, teachers simply require some means of audio playback. There is no need for costly additional materials or equipment.

When ELA is employed at a large scale, cost-effectiveness is even more attractive. ELA program costs range from \$8 to \$20 per student, per year, depending on the number of students participating in the program. In most cases, the annual cost per student is lower than the cost of an teaching English as a second language through a textbook.

Why use ELA?

- Research shows highly significant learning gains in both students and teachers using the IAI program when compared with conventional methods.
- IAI incorporates pedagogical development through both implicit and explicit teacher training.
- IAI is an economical way to provide large-scale effective instruction. IAI reaches and teaches millions of students every day.
- IAI efficiently addresses many of the challenges facing education systems: the lack of English as a foreign language teachers, the low English proficiency level of teachers, the difficulty in reaching remote rural areas, classrooms with many students, classes with different levels among its student population, and the financial cost to provide English instruction.
- Interactive Audio Instruction helps the teacher with the use of new reading and writing strategies, and allows them to see the impact on student learning.

