

Cell-Ed (Full Review)

Overview

Resource Type	Subjects	NRS Level(s)
Online	Writing, Reading, Social Studies, ESL	ESL 2-4

Summary

General Information

Cell-Ed is a highly accessible learning resource for English language learners who want to learn via their smartphone, a tablet, a web-based app, or through a phone text-based conversation. Cell-Ed is known for its short, approximately three-minute lessons, which learners can access on a variety of topics.

Cell-Ed has a large library of available courses, with all courses listed under “Language Learning” being approved for supplemental distance learning.

Although learners can access Cell-Ed independently for free, the class management and reporting capabilities that come with a subscription makes supplemental distance learning possible. Cell-Ed offers a variety of pricing packages depending on the services selected and the number of student seats. All subscriptions include access to Cell-Ed’s complete library, a partner platform where teachers can manage their classes and students, and some subscriptions also include live lessons taught by a Cell-Ed instructor.

Language Instruction

Teachers who are interested in using Cell-Ed will note that its strength is in building the learners' reading and listening skills. The Cell-Ed courses that are written for language learners teach relevant vocabulary and grammar, while reading is emphasized with simple texts for the lower-level courses and a variety of text structures (bar charts, T-graphs, illustrated images, expository texts, etc.) for the higher-level courses. Throughout each lesson, learners listen to audio recordings of the teacher explaining the point of the lesson and any supporting materials, so there is a high level of audio-based input throughout all Cell-Ed courses. Additionally, lessons occasionally contain short conversations or dialogs between individuals. Learners can check their progress through the multiple informal assessments that are built into each lesson, or they can check their own progress/achievement reports.

Also worth note is Cell-Ed's emphasis on speech acts. Each of the language-instruction courses explicitly instructs learners on how to complete different speech acts, such as asking for permission, apologizing, or asking for clarification.

While Cell-Ed is strong in building receptive language skills, it provides less practice with productive skills. Although learners will often hear the Cell-Ed teacher ask a wh- or Y/N question, they typically only need to respond via text with a single word or short sentence, limiting the level of meaningful conversation practice that the learners receive. In general, learners who study with Cell-Ed are not required to develop their writing skills beyond the sentence level, while their speaking practice typically consists of listening to and repeating key vocabulary words when prompted by the teacher.

Teacher Support

Teachers who have access to Cell-Ed's partner platform can find all of the features necessary for instruction and tracking supplemental distance learning time. Within the partner platform, teachers can add new students, use customizable reports to track student time and progress through courses, and view student pre- and post-tests results for each course. Student assessment results include the student's percentage of correct answers and their responses to individual questions.

When initially setting up students, teachers can also make use of Cell-Ed's customizable onboarding materials.

Functionality

Within its own marketing, one of the features that Cell-Ed promotes most is its accessibility, and this is certainly true in terms of the number of ways students can access Cell-Ed courses. Students can access Cell-Ed through Android or iOS apps, WhatsApp, web browsers, or by calling in with a basic phone. In each case, student progress will be

saved if the student switches between devices, ensuring a level of consistency throughout the student's use of the program. Cell-Ed can be accessed via Wi-Fi or a student's data plan, so even students without a reliable internet connection will be able to access the courses.

The Android app was used for this review. The app was easy to use, with most courses simulating a text exchange between the teacher and student. Several courses also included mini-lessons on how to access different portions of the app, so students who are less familiar with mobile-based learning could increase their digital literacy skills while also studying English. After a few days of inactivity in the app, Cell-Ed sends reminder texts to encourage further study.

For technical support, educators can email customer support and learners can find in-app support.

Accessibility Features

Online platforms may include different accessibility features to aid learners. The publisher has provided a [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#) to help you review the features offered. Information that may help you understand the VPAT is available in our [informational document](#).

You may also contact the publisher's sales representative or customer support.