THE BEST FREE EDU-THINGS ON THE INTERNET

CLICKABLE LINKS AT **freelearninglist.org**

YOUTUBE

Kurzgesagt — Beautifully animated, scripted and directed explainer videos. Covers subjects ranging from space, biology, and history through to philosophy and existential understanding of self. Highly compelling and engaging. youtube.com/user/kurzgesagt

Crash Course — Well produced video courses on sociology, computer science, film history, mythology, physics, philosophy, games, economics, U.S. government and politics, astronomy, anatomy, science, psychology, and much more. youtube.com/user/crashcourse

TED Ed — Nicely animated videos about a broad range of subjects. Each video is a collaborative effort between an expert and an animator to create a useful and engaging way to understand something. youtube.com/user/tededucation

CGP Grey — Short explanatory videos on varying subjects, including politics, geography, economics, history, and culture. The dry wit and absurdly simplistic animations add substantially to the engagement. youtube.com/user/cgpgrey

Vsauce — A science-based channel with videos and playlist curated around topics including science experiments, optical illusions, aliens, human behaviour, mathematics, artificial intelligence, art, and much more. youtube.com/user/vsauce

National Geo. — Beautiful natural imagery and documentary style films. Inspiring people to care about the planet, National Geographic brings us closer to the natural world both literally and figuratively. youtube.com/user/nationalgeographic

COURSES

Futurelearn — Offers a diverse selection of courses from leading universities and cultural institutions from around the world. Freemium model with most courses available for six weeks. futurelearn.com

Coursera — Build skills with courses from top universities like Yale, Michigan, Stanford, and leading companies like Google and IBM. Offering massive open online courses (MOOC) specializations, and degrees. coursera.org

edX — edX is a global nonprofit founded by Harvard and MIT. It is home to more than 20 million learners, the majority of top-ranked universities in the world, and industry-leading companies. edx.org

Khan Academy — Short video lessons and courses for a range of subjects including math, science, engineering, programming, history and more. Also provides supplementary exercises and materials. khanacademy.org

Alison — A well-designed and comprehensive platform offering free online courses for a variety of subjects including IT, science, language, health, humanities, business, marketing and more. Over 15 million learners in 195 countries. alison.com

Class Central — Aggregator of different free online course providers which offers both speciality and technical courses, as well as more broadly accessible options. Nicely designed and easy to use. classcentral.com

EFFECTIVE THINKING

Clearer Thinking — The clearer thinking website helps people and organizations to make better decisions, and, as the name suggests, think more clearly. With an evidence-based approach, it uses gamified, engaging interactive tools and quizzes to help us to be more rational. clearerthinking.org

Your Fallacy Is — Logical fallacies are flaws in reasoning that are often very sneakily used by politicians and the media to fool people. Don't be fooled! This website has been designed to help you identify and call out dodgy logic wherever it may raise its ugly, incoherent head. yourfallacy.is

Your Bias Is — We have evolved to use shortcuts in our thinking, but a cognitive bias means there's a kind of misfiring going on causing us to lose objectivity. This site helps us to identify some of the most common and pernicious biases. yourbias.is

Wisecrack — This YouTube channel explores big ideas like philosophy and critical thinking through the lens of movies, TV shows, video games, current events, books, and more. Check out the 8-bit Philosophy and Thug Notes series in particular. youtube.com/user/thugnotes

Bad News — Bad News is an online game, where you take on the role of fake news-monger, and drop all pretense of ethics to build a media empire. This fun, gamified approach helps us to more readily identify the tricks used to manipulate us. getbadnews.com

Kialo — The Kialo website features interactive public debates with a unique and engaging system to visualize argument structures, and allow participants and viewers to vote on the strength of each argument for or against a claim. kialo.com

PROGRAMMING

Code — A non profit that teaches programming and computer science with a comprehensive, free, widely used and validated platform. Utilized by over 1m teachers around the world, and features excellent design and engagement. code.org

The Odin Project — An open source online curriculum for learning web development. This visually engaging platform is designed to "fill in the gap for people who are trying to hack it on their own but still want a high quality education." theodinproject.com

Codecademy — Codecademy is an online interactive platform that offers free coding classes in 12 different programming languages including Python, Java, JavaScript, Ruby, SQL, C++, Swift, and Sass, as well as markup languages HTML and CSS. codecademy.com

Khan Computing — A series of courses with easy-to-follow introductory guides on subjects such as web programming, animation and game development, computer science, and more. khanacademy.org/computing

edX Computer Sci. — Includes free courses from places like Harvard and Microsoft on everything from front-end web development through to blockchain and cyber security. edx.org/course/subject/computer-science

The Coding Train — This YouTube channel features a very charismatic host which makes learning the basics of programming languages like JavaScript, as well as a bunch of other stuff like machine learning, substantially more fun than it would otherwise be. youtube.com/user/shiffman

PODCASTS

Hardcore History — Dan Carlin's passion for history creates an engagement factor that's difficult to match. Many of the shows are many hours long and deep dive into some of the most interesting and relevant times in history. dancarlin.com/hardcore-history-series

Reply All — A show about the internet, which is really a show about modern life. The two hosts are disarmingly candid, and, while you'll learn a lot about various corners of the internet, the real appeal of this show is just how very engaging it is. gimletmedia.com/shows/reply-all

This American Life — As well as learning much about the world in which we live, empathy, different perspectives, and insights into so many different aspects of life, as the king of all podcasts it is also a demonstrated masterclass in the art of storytelling itself. thisamericanlife.org

Radiolab — Beautifully produced science-based podcast. The sound production and narrative forms of this podcast make it highly engaging, such that learning new things is a true joy. wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab

99% invisible — Roman Mars does a splendid job of helping us to understand how and why design underpins so many different things, from product design, through architecture, graphic design, and much more. 99percentinvisible.org

The Daily — This not-very-cryptically-named podcast from the New York Times delivers a daily insight into current events in an accessible yet journalistically robust style. nytimes.com/column/the-daily

BOOKS

Goodreads — While online learning is great in so many ways, books are still (in our opinion) the best learning resource in the world and this is the world's biggest and best hub for book recommendations. goodreads.com

Manybooks — ManyBooks has more than 50,000 free online books available, and offers neatly categorised sections of texts in different genres. The site hosts a varied collection of books formatted for eReaders in formats such as EPUB, MOBI, PDF, TXT, etc. manybooks.net

LibriVox — LibriVox offers a large selection of free audio books to download. All of LibriVox audiobooks are in the public domain (in the USA) and have been recorded by volunteers to contribute to the project. librivox.org

Project Gutenberg — Project Gutenberg is a volunteer effort to digitize and archive cultural works, to "encourage the creation and distribution of eBooks". The design looks like it's from the mid-90s, but functions well enough, and has multiple ereader formats. gutenberg.org

Free-eBooks — This website features neatly organized categories and filters to find ebooks in various formats. The interface is quite clean and clear, and while there's not as many ebooks as other platforms, the quality seems to be overall better than most. free-ebooks.net

Hathitrust — HathiTrust Digital Library is a large-scale collaborative repository of digital content from research libraries including content digitized via Google Books and the Internet Archive digitization initiatives, as well as content digitized locally by libraries. hathitrust.org

LANGUAGES

Duolingo — Gamified interactive language learning via a website and mobile app. Thoughtfully and beautifully designed, and offers comprehensive coverage for many languages. Over 300 million active users. duolingo.com

Memrise — Memrise is a language learning app with gamified elements, and a clean and intuitive interface. Founded in 2010, it has grown to help more than 40 million people in 189 countries learn new languages. memrise.com

Busuu — Busuu is a very nicely designed, AI-powered language learning platform on web, iOS and Android which allows users to interact with native speakers from around the world. busuu.com

Google Translate — Google Translate uses a mixture of traditional translation with powerful AI algorithms. A lesser-known feature is the app's ability to translate live text using your phone's camera, such that you are able to read a foreign menu, for example. translate.google.com

Forvo — Forvo is the largest online reference for pronunciations with a database of nearly 6 million words pronounced in over 390 languages – all created and maintained by native speakers. forvo.com

Hellotalk — HelloTalk connects you with native speakers to chat with for free. The app provides a good set of features to help facilitate learning, and is easy to use. hellotalk.com

MUSIC

MusedLab — This resource creates interactive and engaging ways to fuse music and technology. It effectively lowers barriers for people to start experimenting with music creation and understanding music theory, with beautifully designed apps and experiences. musedlab.org

Justin Guitar — With over a thousand video guitar lessons and millions of students, Justin Sandercoe is one of the most effective guitar teachers in the world. Recommended by guitar masters such as Mark Knopfler and Steve Vai. justinguitar.com

Ableton Learning — This super simple interface allows you to explore the fundamentals of electronic music production with a fully interactive browser-based web app. Play with beats, melodies, chords, basslines, & song structures in an intuitive way. learningmusic.ableton.com

Soundation — Enjoy fantastic interface and user experience design on this freemium-model online music making, and learning, application. Entirely browser-based, but sports many of the features of a full-fledged music production app. soundation.com

PBS Kids Music — This interactive site lets your kids learn about music and play games with characters like Elmo, Arthur, the Cat in the Hat, and Daniel Tiger. There's been a lot of thought and love put into the illustrations, animation and code. pbskids.org/games/music/

Paul Davids — This YouTube channel is suited to more intermediate-and-up guitar players as opposed to beginners. It features many tips, tricks, and fun, nerdy guitar things. youtube.com/user/luapper

GENERAL

Wait But Why — One of the most mind-blowing websites you'll ever read, covering subjects from artificial super-intelligence to quantifying how many weeks you have left to live. The author writes in an uncannily entertaining and accessible way. waitbutwhy.com

TED — Ideas worth spreading, with short talks on fascinating subjects. Ken Robinson's TED talk on how schools kill creativity was one of the inspirations for the creation of our own non profit. ted.com

Info. is Beautiful — Despite having an annoyingly long name that stuffs up people's poster layouts, this is one of the most useful and, unsurprisingly, beautiful sites you'll find. Be sure to check out the 'Snake Oil Supplements' interactive infographic. informationisbeautiful.net

Medium — A non-ugly way to enjoy bloggers and writers from around the world. It democratizes opinion pieces and information generally, and the clean and intuitive interface, as well as the sheer amount of content, make it one of the world's best writing platforms. medium.com

Wikipedia — The world's free, crowd-sourced encyclopaedia. Wikipedia is one of the most useful and amazing repositories of human knowledge ever assembled. Although anyone can edit, there is also an army of fact-checkers helping to correct misinformation. wikipedia.org

Visual Capitalist — If, like almost all human beings, you find processing visual information easier than reading walls of text, then this is the site for you. Lots of well-presented infographics, and their email newsletter is also worth signing up to. visualcapitalist.com

HOW TO

Wikihow — WikiHow uses step-by-step simple instructions with visually engaging and helpful illustrations to create the biggest, and likely best, database of how-to guides available for just about any subject. wikihow.com

Make Use Of — MakeUseOf is a technology website, focused on all aspects of computer technology, from hardware, to software, internet, mobile and more. You'll find helpful article-style how-to guides and insightful information into various areas of tech. makeuseof.com

Lifehacker — A blog-style website full of useful tips, tricks, hacks and listicles focussing mainly on tech, but also many other aspects of modern life and how to make it that little bit better and easier. lifehacker.com

Instructables — This is a website for makers, tinkerers, inventors, and DIY handypeople to help make, well, almost anything. Step-by-step instructions, a clean interface, and downloadable instructions make it easy to use. instructables.com

How Stuff Works — HowStuffWorks has a lot of stuff. There's dozens of categories and subcategories with explainers, how-tos and articles on subjects such as tech, money, culture, and more. howstuffworks.com

Snap Guide — Snapguide is a free iOS app and web service for those that want to create and share step-by-step "how to guides." The service provides easy to understand instructions for a wide array of topics. snapguide.com