# U.S.A Learns –

# A New Web Resource to Help Immigrants Learn English

## What is *U.S.A. Learns?*

*U.S.A Learns* (www.usalearns.org) is a free ESL instructional program developed primarily for immigrant adults with limited English language skills who cannot attend traditional classroom programs because of difficulty with schedules, transportation, or other barriers.

The *U.S.A. Learns* Web site consists of 3 unique programs:

**First English Course***:* 20 video-based, beginner-level units

**Second English Course***:* 17 video-based, intermediate-level units

**Practice English and Reading***:* 42 intermediate-level stories and activities

The site offers practice activities in listening, reading, writing and speaking skills as well as life skills necessary for success at work and in the community. All instructional materials are online; there are no videos, workbooks, or other materials for printing.

Learners can use *U.S.A. Learns* in an independent mode, registered or unregistered, or it can be used under the auspices of a tutor or teacher. The potential learner might work from home, a public library, or a workplace setting.

## Features of *U.S.A. Learns*

- High-quality video with topics, characters and situations that reflect the challenges of immigrants in U.S. society
- A wide variety of activity types offering rich media-video, images, and audio files
- Units organized by thematic topics
- Immediate feedback in comprehension checks
- Scoring and quizzes
- Simple navigation requiring little or no orientation
- Animated introduction narration available in English and Spanish
- Animated help screens
- Recordkeeping and bookmarking of a student's last activity
- Management site for teachers or tutors to monitor student progress

## Hardware Requirements

The *U.S.A. Learns* site is accessible from almost any computer with a fast Internet connection. *U.S.A. Learns* will not operate via a dial-up modem connection.

Learners need a computer with:

- A fast broadband Internet connection (384 Kbps or faster).
- An up-to-date Web browser with the Flash plug-in.
- A sound card.
- Speakers or headphones.

A microphone connected to the computer is recommended for speaking practice, but use of the microphone is optional.

The site has been designed as a distance learning Web site for use on home broadband connections and it is not recommended for use in school computer labs.

## Computer Skills Requirements

Learners do not need advanced computer skills to use *U.S.A. Learns.* Simple navigation through all the menus and activities makes it accessible to learners with basic computer skills and limited schooling in their native country.

Basic prerequisite computer skills:

- Mouse (click and scroll)
- Keyboard (letters, punctuation, backspace, shift key, space bar)
- Web browser (open a browser, navigate a basic Web site, click buttons and links)

## Additional Information for *U.S.A. Learns*:

For Individual Learners: www.usalearns.org

For Teachers: www.usalearns.org/teacher

For Students with Teachers: www.usalearns.org/class

Have questions or need help? Email: help@usalearns.org