



## Acronyms in TESOL

Acronym	Meaning	Usage
BICS	Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills	Cummins' (1979) description of social language
CALP	Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency	Cummins' (1979) description of academic language
EAL	English as an Additional Language OR English as an Academic Language	Replacing "ESL" in some contexts; the dual meanings occasionally cause confusion
EAP	English for Academic Purposes	Often used for secondary and postsecondary study that is specifically oriented toward preparation for university studies in English
EFL	English as a Foreign Language	English learning in countries which do not have English as a national or dominant language; English is typically learned as a foreign language subject in school
ELL or EL	English Language Learner or English Learner	Used to refer to students of English, especially in ESL contexts
ELT	English Language Teaching	Can be used to refer to the field of study, as in "a conference on ELT"; more prominent in EFL contexts
ENL	English as a New Language	Replacing "ESL" in some places, in recognition that for many students English is not a second, but a third or fourth language
ESL	English as a Second Language	English learning in countries which have English as a national or dominant language; English is typically learned by children in school or by adults in programs for immigrants

ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages	A term that can be used instead of both “ESL” and “EFL”; thus, it is increasingly used when speaking of all English learning contexts
SIOP	Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol	An instructional planning and observation template for sheltered instruction
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language	Can be used to refer to the field of study, as in “Certificate in TEFL”
TESL	Teaching English as a Second Language	Can be used to refer to the field of study, as in “Certificate in TESL”
TESOL*	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	Used to refer to the field of study, as in “Master’s degree in TESOL”
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language	An English test that is usually taken by foreign students to gain entrance into American universities
ZPD	Zone of Proximal Development	Vygotsky’s (1978) theory that development happens through interaction with a more proficient interlocutor

\*Note that *TESOL International Association* is an international professional organization of English teachers, based in the United States. It is sometimes referred to simply as “TESOL,” and it stands for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.

## ■ ■ ■ References

Cummins, J. (1979). Cognitive/academic language proficiency, linguistic interdependence, the optimum age question and some other matters. *Working Papers on Bilingualism*, 19, 121–129.

Vygotsky, L. S. (1978). *Mind in society*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.