

# TEX ESL TEACHER TRAINING OVERVIEW

TEX stands for Teaching English with Excellence

by

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Under the leadership of Literacy ConneXus and Baylor Center for Literacy, this training was developed for new teachers in faith-based ESL ministries. It strives to prepare volunteers to teach English to International adult students. It is designed for volunteers who have no teacher certification or no experience and do not speak the language or languages of their students. The main criterion for prospective teachers is a willingness to be trained and to step forward with a desire to help Internationals in the name of Jesus. "International" is used as an umbrella term for any person from another country who has come to the USA for whatever purpose and for whatever period of time.

The TEX new teacher training includes about 25 hours of instruction that uses the adult education participatory model. It was developed keeping in mind the results of a survey of ESL directors of church ministries that was done in the fall of 2004 by the Baylor Literacy Center at Baylor University and on-site visits to ESL ministries. Many expressed a desire for teacher training that was flexible in length and content. Therefore, TEX may be presented in any amount time sessions the host chooses. TEX is divided into many segments of 5 minutes to an hour in length that may be combined in a variety of ways to meet this need. In fact, it's recommended that training not be done in sessions longer than about 6 instruction hours. New ESL teachers have difficulty assimilating the vast amount of new knowledge in long periods of training.

The most common choice of host churches or organizations has been an 8-12 hour **INITIAL, BASIC TEX NEW TEACHER TRAINING** spread over 2-3 days. This basic training is viewed as the first step in an on-going process of teacher learning.

Because the majority of Texas ESL adult students in church ministries are beginners, the emphasis of this initial, basic new teacher training is on teaching the beginner level. Due to time restraints, and the confusion that ensues when teaching multiple levels are presented at one time, references to higher levels are limited. But many of the same techniques used for beginners are also appropriate for the higher levels. The content of these first hours includes walking through a beginner lesson plan with the participants experiencing about 20 teaching activities. Emphasis during the basic training is on listening and speaking skills. Depending on the length of the training, reading and writing may also be covered. Participants are encouraged to move their classes from teacher guided/teacher talk to student led/student talk lessons while using a variety of activities to address the many different learning styles. The lesson planning process covers new language presentation, moving to guided practice, resulting in the students engaging in communicative practice. Also depending on the length and content, trainees may be asked to write a lesson plan with a partner or small group.

TEX doesn't use any specific ESL textbook series or ESL book. However the methods, techniques and activities of the training are found in most ESL texts. Trainees receive a three ring notebook TEX training manual which contains the pages they will need for the specific training they're attending. Additional pages of the manual are given to trainees at future extended TEX trainings.

After the initial basic training, teachers may attend additional **EXTENDED TEX TRAININGS**.

Currently the extended TEX trainings available include 3-5 hour sessions on pronunciation for all levels, higher level students, cross-cultural witnessing and writing English lessons from the Bible. Again the subjects, number of hours and times are decided by the church hosting the training I consultation with the TEX trainer.

*TEX is training for new teachers of established OR new ESL ministries.* TEX includes only teacher training subjects. It doesn't contain anything about the organizational or administrative side of ESL ministries such as how to get a new ESL ministry started or how to register and test ESL students. Those issues are best addressed in the months before teacher training. Classes may then start as soon after training as possible - while the new learning is fresh and the new teachers enthusiastic about what God has in store for them. New ministries may be guided through the "how to begin" process at any time by phone, email or meetings with the help of ESL ministry consultants affiliated with Literacy ConneXus. An organizational guide on how to start an ESL ministry called Ministries of Excellence (MOE) is available from the Literacy ConneXus ESL Coordinator. Sessions on starting ESL ministries are also offered at faith-based ESL conferences. Established ministries may consider ways to improve by going through a self-study available from Literacy ConneXus or the ESL Coordinator.

There isn't one answer as to the cost of TEX trainings. Most **initial, basic trainings** cost between **\$20 & \$40**. Many factors determine the cost so it may vary from place to place or host to host. An estimated **cost for the materials** for each trainee at an initial basic training is **about \$20**. That material cost includes the notebook training manual and handouts. **Additional expenses are added** to that amount for things such as refreshments and housing and travel for the volunteer TEX trainer. The final cost of each TEX training is determined by consultation between the host church and the TEX trainer. The host church has hosting responsibilities, but effort is made so they won't have any monetary expenses other than for their own teachers. Guidelines on what is involved in hosting training can be sent to those who request them.

The cost for **extended TEX trainings** (those 3-5 hour follow ups listed above) also varies, but usually is **\$10-\$20**. That amount includes **between \$5-10 for materials plus** whatever is needed for refreshments and trainer costs. Teachers who have taken the basic TEX training may get a material discount for extended TEX trainings because they already have a TEX notebook training manual which contains some of the materials needed.

If you have more questions about the TEX new teacher training or how to start or improve your ESL ministry, please feel free to email or call:

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## TEX SECTIONS SYNOPSIS

1. Introduction: Overview of training, introduction of participants, acronyms
2. Language Learning: Student needs, adult/child learner characteristics, learning styles
3. Lesson Planning: Overview of lesson plan components, choosing topic & objectives, TX standard/benchmarks, warm-up/review teaching activities
4. Teaching Activities: A walk through a sample lesson plan experiencing many teaching activities
5. Pronunciation: Basic sounds of English, stress, intonation and rhythm
6. Reading and Writing: Letter/sound relationships, teaching written words and dialogs

7. Cross Cultural Witnessing: Definition of culture, examination of American culture, how to learn about other cultures and religions and how to share one's faith
8. Higher Levels: Emphasis on needs and teaching activities for levels above the beginner student