

The list of finalists for the British Council's ELTons – 'the Oscars of ELT' – is now out. Sponsored by Cambridge Language Assessment and Macmillan Education, the ELTons celebrate innovation and excellence in English language teaching. There are awards in six categories: Excellence in Course Innovation; Innovation in Learner Resources; Innovation in Teacher Resources; Digital Innovation; Local Innovation; and the Macmillan Education Award for New Talent in Writing.

This year's shortlisted entries once again feature a mixture of the giants of ELT publishing

Honouring ELT innovation

Matt Salusbury runs through the nominations for this year's ELTon awards – the 'Oscars of ELT'

rubbing shoulders with some self-published one-person bands. Along with coursebook series by global brands such as Macmillan, Express Publishing, National Geographic/Cengage, Richmond, Cambridge University Press (CUP), Oxford University Press (OUP) and Helbling, there are several entries from small presses

in Spain, some self-published ebooks and one item from Nik Peachey's Peachey Publications.

There are also phone apps, an ELT video game for smartphones, two ELT podcast channels, some blended learning courses, a series of 'multimedia posters' and a mobile learning tool developed by a university foundation programme

in the United Arab Emirates.

A panel of judges – their identities a closely guarded secret – only get to see each other's unattributed comments on the various entries submitted for the ELTons. Even they don't know who has won until the awards ceremony in June.

And the finalists are...

Innovation in Learner Resources

Honouring any product or service aimed at learners

Academic Presenting & Presentations *Peter Levrai & Averil Bolster* A research-based course designed to help students cultivate presentation skills and deal with the various presentation tasks they may face at university

young learners, including an interactive student ebook, it aims to engage students and parents outside the classroom with video and images

Literacy for Active Citizenship *Learning Unlimited Ltd* Graded readers for Esol featuring funny, personal and less typical stories about life in the UK, written by Esol learners and volunteers who befriended them

Richmond Business Theories *Richmond ELT* A series of online products at four levels teaching business ideas and giving students practice in using them through animated lectures

The Thinking Train *Helbling Languages* A 'carefully graded' picture-book series focusing on developing children's thinking skills through the use of stories

Explore Our World Clil Readers *Express Publishing* A six-level series of non-fiction EFL graded readers for young learners aged 7+, employing themes from England's national curriculum. Topics covered include cross-cultural myths and legends

Grammar Checker *Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia* An online tool for EFL students at A2–C2 level who wish to improve their writing

Guess What! *CUP* A six-level coursebook for EFL

Digital Innovation award

Honouring a digital product or service that enhances learning through the innovative use of technology

Connections *J. Balanyk, J. Bidal & R. Radwan, Zayed University, UAE* An ebook aimed at engaging Emirati school leavers and developing critical thinking skills

Movies: Enjoy Languages *Archimedes Inspiration a.s.* Films adapted for iPad, translated with original transcript and translation in columns running simultaneously

EssayJack *EssayJack Inc.* A web app that helps structure English-language student essays by providing sentence stems and tips for academic writing

The Listening Post *Paul Driver* A collection of interactive multimedia posters for classrooms or around a school, featuring images, vocabulary or tips on a particular theme

Learn British English with Luke Thompson *Luke's English Podcast* A free audio service for English language learners, with maximum exposure to authentic spoken English

Wibbu English: The Game *Wibbu* An ELT video game for smartphones and tablets aimed at secondary schools and Spanish-speaking adults

Local Innovation award

Honouring an EFL product or service developed at a local, national or regional level

Creative English Family Learning: 12 Sessions for Families with Pre-school Children *FaithAction* Resources include suitcases of puppets

Teaching English in Africa *East African Educational Publishers Ltd* A practical guide for primary and secondary school English language teachers

Read On! Mobile Class Library Project for Italy *OUP* A project providing teacher training around mobile class libraries for Italian schools

The Little English Library *The Little English Library* A non-profit library of English children's books for children in the Netherlands

Teacher Trainer Academy *DOS-ELTea* An intensive 74-hour blended teacher training programme

The Macmillan Early Learning Path (MELP) *Macmillan Education* A coursebook and resource pack for parents to use at home

Innovation in Teacher Resources

Honouring any complete courses in any media, or multimedia courses, whether in the form of coursebooks, teachers' books, audio, CD-Roms or websites

Digital Video – A manual for language teachers *Peachey Publications* An ebook manual to help teachers develop their digital skills and use video to build online courses or activities for their students

resources including videos and posters

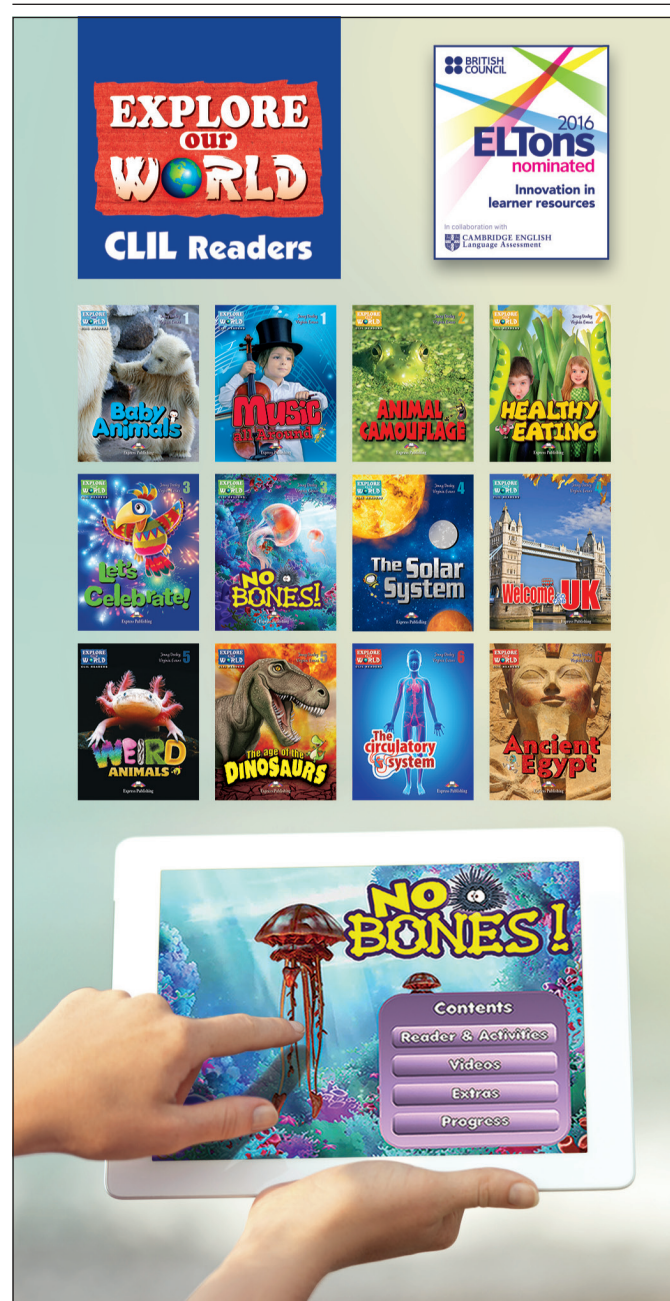
Language Learning with Digital Video *CUP* A resource book for teachers and trainee teachers on using video content in the language classroom, with activities suitable for a range of learners at different levels

Tefl Preparation Course *ELTCampus* An online course preparing candidates to start initial ELT qualifications such as Celta or CertTesol

The Tefl Commute *Lindsay Clandfield, Shaun Wilden & James Taylor* A podcast – currently in its second season – aimed at practising language teachers

Teachers Research! *latefl Research SIG* A teacher-friendly collection of research stories connected by hyperlinks to multimedia online

www.EFLTtalks.com *Rob Howard* A searchable database of ten-minute videos by education professionals, recorded on World Teachers' Day by fifty presenters restricted to ten PowerPoint slides



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Excellence in Course Innovation

Honouring an outstanding product or service aimed at teachers, including training, education or development

Eyes Open *CUP* A new four-level course (A1–B1+) for teenage learners that includes fresh approaches to exploiting video to tap into students' natural curiosity

Subject Projects 2: English *Ikaseltar Publishing* A Clil-based English course currently used by over 8,000 students as part of the curriculum of the Basque Country autonomous region in Spain

Keynote *National Geographic Learning/Cengage Learning* Keynote is a coursebook series featuring authentic language input from the TED Talks series

U Dare 9 *Areal Editores* A new coursebook aimed at motivating 14–15-year-olds at level B1 and demanding mixed-ability students

Macmillan Education Award for New Talent in Writing

Academic English for the 21st Century Learner *Aylin Graves* Two-part textbook series for non-native-speaker students

Advanced Phrases and Expressions *James Warwick* Self-study book accompanied by audio CD and online downloads

Clil in my classroom *Jelena Petrovic* A collection

of 'flipped classroom' lesson plans and Clil materials

My friend TED: Academic Listening with TED Talks *Naheen Madarbakus-Ring* A course of 25 lessons using listening materials around TED talks

Study Skills for Academic Reading *Ian Pemberton* A course book series that comes with PowerPoint presentations