## **100 Hand-picked Freebies for Learning Experience Designers from The eLearning Coach**



Ten sets of ten freebies for the wonderful instructional design community. Some require registration to download. *Please be careful when downloading freebies to be sure there is nothing malicious. Also, read license agreements when appropriate.* 

# 1. Keep Learning

- 1. Instructional Design Starter Kit: Introduction to Instructional Design
- 2. <u>Creating eLearning that Makes a Difference (Kit)</u>: Instructional Design help with a focus on interactions
- 3. <u>Understanding the Adult Learner's Motivation and Barriers to Learning</u>: A research overview at what motivates adult learners
- 4. <u>Blended Learning Today:</u> A look at how to do blended learning in today's environment
- 5. Implementing Mobile Learning: What to consider in this space
- 6. <u>Understanding Mobile Learning</u>: eBook discusses why there is growth in mobile learning and what areas are best suited for mLearning
- 7. <u>Chapter from Billion Dollar Graphics</u>: Good introduction on how to turn text and graphics into a focused and persuasive design
- 8. <u>How to Ensure Website Accessibility:</u> How to apply accessibility guidelines
- 9. <u>HTML5 with Javascript:</u> Download of free Dummies book
- 10. How to Be Creative: 26 Tried and True Tips

BONUS: List of Free eLearning and Instructional Design Books

## 2. Graphic Assets

- 1. <u>LA County Museum of Art</u>: 20,000 free images. Click image and if it displays "Download Image," then it's in the public domain.
- 2. <u>The Getty</u>: 4600+ art images in the public domain.
- 3. Public Domain Image Resources: Extensive list on Wikipedia
- 4. <u>eLearning Brothers</u>: Click Freebies in the menu bar and sign up for their free membership for a variety of assets
- 5. <u>NuggetHead Studioz:</u> Hand-drawn curved arrows by Kevin Thorn
- 6. <u>Articulate Community:</u> Free templates, graphic elements and fonts. Registration required.
- 7. 65 Cutout People: From an architectural visualization site
- 8. <u>eLearning Art:</u> Check out their eLearning asset library free for 7 days
- 9. Open Clip Art: All kinds of free clip art
- 10. eLearning Asset: Download several office characters

BONUS: eLearning and PPT templates from Trina Rimmer

#### **3. Icons and User Interface Elements**

- 1. <u>IconFinder</u>: Possibly the best site for variety of free icon choices.
- 2. Hand-drawn Icons: Within the IconFinder site, there's a great set of hand-drawn icons
- 3. IconDock
- 4. Clean Black Icon Sets
- 5. IconShock: Bright and colorful
- 6. <u>600 Free Icons:</u> Small icons good for mobile and other uses
- 7. <u>Modern UI Kit</u>
- 8. Flat UI Kit
- 9. Flat UI and Icons
- 10. <u>UI for Gadgets and Devices</u>

Bonus: The Noun Project: Added by popular request

#### 4. Backgrounds

If any of the backgrounds are small tiles, you need to bring them into a graphic program and repeat them to the size of your choosing. For a web page, they will repeat automatically.

- 1. Grunge Textures
- 2. <u>Subtle Grunge Textures</u>
- 3. Blurry Textures
- 4. Seamless Paper Patterns
- 5. <u>Fabric Textures</u>
- 6. Metal Textures
- 7. <u>149 Free Paper Textures and Backgrounds</u>
- 8. <u>Subtle Backgrounds</u>
- 9. <u>Abstract Backgrounds</u>
- 10. <u>6 Colored and Textured Tiles</u>

#### 5. Fonts

- 1. Favorite Fonts from Font Squirrel
- 2. <u>dafont</u>
- 3. Urban Fonts
- 4. <u>Type Depot</u>
- 5. Lost Type: Donation
- 6. Impallari: Donation
- 7. Open Font Library
- 8. <u>12 Hand-written Fonts</u>

- 9. <u>Fontcab</u>
- 10. Adobe Edge Web Fonts

## 6. Audio

- 1. <u>Ardour:</u> Audio editing and recording for Mac.
- 2. <u>Audacity:</u> Cross-platform audio editor and recording software.
- 3. <u>Levelator</u>: Evens out the audio levels *within* an other audio file for variations from one speaker to the next.
- 4. <u>NaturalReader</u>: Converts written text to spoken words.
- 5. <u>Wavosaur</u>: Audio editing and recording for Windows.
- 6. <u>Brainy Betty:</u> Limited selection of free music and sound effects.
- 7. <u>Freesound</u>: A collaborative database of Creative Commons Licensed sounds to download and share.
- 8. <u>Jamendo:</u> Several hundred thousand tracks to download.
- 9. <u>Musopen:</u> Public domain library of music from a nonprofit.
- 10. <u>Soundjay:</u> Selection of well-recorded sound effects.

### 7. Variety of Design/Development Tools

- 1. Inkscape: Open source vector graphics editor
- 2. Gimp: Popular free image editor
- 3. <u>Scorm Cloud</u> (10 uses): Hosted version of a SCORM player.
- 4. Storyboard Depot: Free visual and text-based storyboard templates
- 5. <u>ScreenLeap</u>: Instantly share your screen to help others learn.
- 6. <u>Handbreak</u>: Media conversion for all platforms
- 7. <u>XnView:</u> Cross platform media browser, viewer, converter
- 8. <u>Gliffy:</u> Create diagrams and charts
- 9. Adobe Story: For creating scripts
- 10. <u>Flash Roll Over Tool</u>: A little app that makes rollovers in case your authoring tool doesn't.

BONUS: eLearning Character Chart: A way to flesh out the details of an eLearning character

### 8. Authoring Tools and Learning Management Systems

- 1. MyBrainShark
- 2. <u>CourseLab Free</u>
- 3. authorPoint Lite
- 4. <u>Udutu</u>
- 5. Jing: Screen recording and capture
- 6. Free Quiz Maker from iSpring: Flash-based quizzes

- 7. Classmarker: Web-based quizzes
- 8. <u>Moodle:</u> Most popular free LMS
- 9. Coursesites: Free LMS (up to 5 courses) from Blackboard
- 10. <u>eFront LMS:</u> Open source

BONUS: 13 Tutorials for Learning Udutu

#### 9. Social Media for Learning

- 1. <u>Google Hangouts:</u> You know about the hangouts. Now use them for small discussion groups.
- 2. <u>Skype:</u> Record podcast interviews
- 3. <u>Blog Talk Radio:</u> Broadcast your own radio show
- 4. Buffer: Schedule social media
- 5. HootSuite: Schedule social media
- 6. <u>LaterBro:</u> Schedule Twitter and Facebook updates.
- 7. <u>Twubs:</u>Enter a hashtag and start chatting.
- 8. Poll Everywhere: Collect feedback from learners
- 9. Elgg: Open source social networking engine
- 10. <u>Wikispaces:</u> Collaborative way to build/share content

### **10. Get Things Done**

- 1. Kindle Reader: Read Kindle books on your PC or Mac
- 2. Trello: For organizing projects
- 3. <u>timeEdition</u>: Desktop platform independent time management tool
- 4. <u>Yast:</u> Modern online time tracker
- 5. <u>Rescue Time:</u> Shows how you spend your time on the computer
- 6. <u>Asana:</u> Shared team task list
- 7. <u>AutoHotkey</u>: Automate repetitive tasks by sending keystrokes and mouse clicks.
- 8. <u>Doodle</u>: Simplifies scheduling
- 9. <u>Dropbox:</u> Sync files on all devices or just use for backup storage
- 10. LastPass: Password Management