



english as a second language

General objectives

This program gives you the skills needed to continue into higher education and prepares you to work and live in an environment into which you will be more than capable of integrating yourself as a speaker of this second language. The program is divided into 9 levels: Beginner (1, 2, 3), Intermediate (1, 2, 3) and Advanced (1, 2, 3). Each level lasts two months. The program is composed of 80% self-paced learning and 20% real-time learning.

- 9 levels
- Length: 2 months per level
- 10 hours of coursework per week, including 2 hours in the virtual classroom
- Total of 80 hours per level

Minimum recommended equipment

- Computer with Pentium IV 1,5 Ghz+ processor
- Operating system: Windows 2000 Professional, XP or Vista
- 512 MB RAM
- 40 GB free hard disk space for installation
- High-speed Internet access
- Web browser: Internet Explorer 6.0
- 1024 x 768 resolution VGA monitor
- Sound card
- Speakers or headphones and microphone
- Application software and peripherals required for the course

Overview of levels

Basic

In the Basic levels learners access and make use of oral and written information needed for daily communication through a variety of media and text types. Learners are exposed to and take part in oral interactions on familiar topics in everyday situations. Oral and written texts in each Basic level course contain simple vocabulary and basic syntactic structures relevant to that level and text type.

Intermediate

In the Intermediate level courses learners access and make use of oral and written information needed for fluent communication through a variety of media and text types on a wider range of topics. Learners are exposed to and take part in oral interactions on less familiar topics in a range of situations. Oral and written texts in each of the Intermediate courses contain richer vocabulary and more complex syntactic structures relevant to the level and text type.

Advanced

In the Advanced level courses learners access and make use of more in-depth oral and written information needed for effective communication through a variety of media and text types. Learners are exposed to and take part in oral interactions on less familiar, more abstract topics in a wide range of situations. Oral and written texts in each of the Advanced courses contain rich vocabulary and complex syntactic structures relevant to the level and text type.

Basic

Section: Reading

Objectives: Students will come to understand the main ideas and supporting details in texts, draw inferences from simple information, understand factual information and use the information in the texts to fill in reports, sort items according to categories, order events in the correct sequence, and answer questions.

Section: Listening

Objectives: Students will learn how to access information such as the general meaning and significant details in a passage, understand the main ideas and supporting details, and draw inferences. They use the information to answer questions, and complete ads, forms, scripts and letters.

Section: Speaking

Objectives: Learners will practice speech functions such as asking for and providing information, expressing opinions, making decisions, ordering food, making appointments, saying goodbye, etc.

Section: Grammar

Objectives: Students will learn structures and tenses such as: the verb "Be," present simple, present and past progressive, future, adverbs, gerunds, nouns, articles, past simple, imperatives, modals, etc. They practice using them in multiple choice, cloze and fill in the blank exercises.

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Intermediate

Section: Reading

Objectives: Students will learn to understand the main ideas and supporting details in texts, draw inferences, identify points of view, apply knowledge of discourse markers to obtain information and understand logical relationships in texts. They will use this information to fill in reports, complete letters, email messages and summaries, follow instructions, and answer questions, etc.

Section: Listening

Objectives: Learners come to understand the main ideas and supporting details, implicit and explicit information, draw inferences, identify and understand points of view, and apply knowledge of discourse markers to obtain information and understand logical relationships in oral texts. They will use this information to fill in reports, complete letters, and summaries, follow instructions, and answer questions, etc.

Section: Speaking

Objectives: Learners will practice more advanced speech functions such as: expressing uncertainty, apologizing, expressing hope, issuing/declining invitations, give a warning, etc.

Section: Grammar

Objectives: Students will learn structures and tenses such as: present perfect, passive voice, relative clauses, reported speech, conditionals, past perfect, past form of modals, etc. They practice using these tenses in multiple choice, cloze and fill in the gap exercises.

Advanced

Section: Reading

Objectives: Learners come to understand the main ideas and supporting details in texts, draw inferences, understand idiomatic expressions, identify points of view and writer's attitude, apply knowledge of discourse markers to obtain information and understand logical relationships in texts. They learn to use the information in texts to fill in newspaper reports, notes, complete letters of reply and summaries, and answer questions.

Section: Listening

Objectives: Learners come to understand the main ideas and supporting details, implicit and explicit information and idiomatic language, draw inferences from visual information, infer and understand points of view, and apply knowledge of discourse markers to obtain information and understand logical relationships. They use this information to fill in reports, complete letters and summaries, follow instructions, and answer questions, etc.

Section: Speaking

Objectives: Learners will practice advanced speech functions such as complaining, offering sympathy, expressing an opinion, giving advice, disagreeing, expressing worry, asking for a favor, interrupting, insisting, etc.

Section: Grammar

Objectives: Students will learn and consolidate knowledge of structures and tenses such as: future perfect and progressive, clauses of result, phrasal verbs, participles, logical connectors, common errors, subjunctive, and negation.

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