



Intensive English

LEVEL 1 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESL 014

Clock Hours: 50

Students in this beginning level are introduced to the basic elements of English grammar, starting with the most common regular and irregular verbs. Students also study basic tenses, question forms, prepositions, and noun forms. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESL 024

Clock Hours: 50

Students in this low-intermediate level expand their understanding of the basic elements of grammar, starting with an in-depth study of the common verb tenses. Students also focus on question forms, nouns, sentences, and modals. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESL 134

Clock Hours: 50

Students in this intermediate level study a variety of grammar elements, including those that are useful for academic work. Students focus on the passive voice, conjunctions, articles, and count/noncount nouns, as well as grammar points that are useful for everyday English, such as comparatives. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESL 144

Clock Hours: 50

Students in this low-advanced level refine their understanding of important grammar points, especially verb tenses, nouns, and modals. Students also work with grammar elements that are necessary for academic work, such as the passive, articles, and subject-verb agreement. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESL 154

Clock Hours: 50

Students in this advanced level concentrate on some of the subtler points of English grammar, such as the use of gerunds and infinitives and conditionals. In addition, students practice using noun, adjective, and adverb clauses for a variety of purposes. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

LEVEL 1 READING

Course Number: ESL 011

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 1 gain skills in both practical and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Each week, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and provided supplementary word list. Level 1 consists of basic, introductory content with an aim toward building foundations for future learning. Students are exposed to short texts, including fiction and nonfiction, and materials related to daily life.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 READING

Course Number: ESL 021

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 2 gain skills in both practical and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Level 2 expands on introductory content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and cultural interactions. Students are exposed to short- to medium-length texts and materials related to personal and social needs. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and provided supplementary word list each week.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 READING

Course Number: ESL 131

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 3 gain skills in practical, professional, and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Level 3 expands students' exposure to both familiar and challenging subjects while incorporating critical thinking and original work. Students begin to work with intermediate materials related to professional, educational, and daily life. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 READING

Course Number: ESL 141

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 4 gain skills in academic reading, with an emphasis on specialized vocabulary building. Level 4 seeks to broaden students' interactions with more in-depth and advanced materials, including specialized vocabulary and documents. Students begin working more independently as they connect texts and ideas through analysis and abstract thinking. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 READING

Course Number: ESL 151

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 5 gain skills in academic reading, with an emphasis on specialized vocabulary building. Level 5 challenges students to interact with advanced authentic materials through abstract and critical thinking. Students engage in self-directed inquiry, connecting ideas, and using targeted skills effectively. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

LEVEL 1 WRITING

Course Number: ESL 012

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 1 will gain skills in both practical and academic writing, with a special emphasis on literacy skills and sentences. Level 1 consists of basic, introductory content with an aim toward building foundations for future learning. The simple present and the simple past are used almost exclusively. Students will explore forms of written communication and express their ideas on common topics while accurately applying key grammar concepts introduced in Level 1.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 WRITING

Course Number: ESL 022

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 2 will gain skills in both practical and academic writing, with a special emphasis on sentences and paragraphs. Level 2 expands on introductory content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and practical tasks. Simple, progressive, and future time frames will be used in everyday contexts. Students will employ the writing process to explore different paragraph styles while accurately applying key Level 2 grammar concepts.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 WRITING

Course Number: ESL 132

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 3 will gain skills in both practical and academic writing, with a special emphasis on longer compositions. Level 3 expands students' exposure to both familiar and challenging content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and practical tasks. Past, present, and future time frames will be used, including simple and progressive aspects. Students will expand the writing process from paragraph to essay while applying key Level 3 grammar concepts.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 WRITING

Course Number: ESL 142

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 4 will gain skills in academic writing, with a special emphasis on longer compositions. Level 4 seeks to broaden students' interactions with more in-depth and advanced materials. A range of time frames will be used, including progressive and perfect aspects. Students will expand the writing process from paragraph to essay while applying key Level 4 grammar concepts.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 WRITING

Course Number: ESL 152

Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 5 will gain skills in academic writing, with a special emphasis on longer compositions and research. Level 5 challenges students to interact with advanced, authentic materials while conducting research and refining core skills. Control of all time frames will be reinforced, in addition to some use of passive voice. Students will apply the writing process to essays and a research paper while employing key Level 5 grammar concepts.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

LEVEL 1 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 013

Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level will develop skills necessary for communicating at school and in the community. In Level 1, students will be exposed to a variety of listening materials and communicative activities, with an aim toward preparing

students for common, everyday interactions. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in the previous level.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 023

Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level will expand their speaking and listening skills to prepare for a range of communication tasks. In Level 2, students will develop general communication skills while also being introduced to basic academic tasks. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 133

Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level will engage with a wide range of practical and academic tasks. In Level 3, students will be introduced to more authentic content while developing presentations and group discussion skills. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 143

Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level will develop academic skills in speaking and listening. In Level 4, students use an advanced range of grammar, vocabulary, and conversation skills to complete individual and group tasks. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 153

Clock Hours: 50

Level 5 provides a strong focus on academic tasks, with an aim toward preparing students for speaking and listening tasks in a university setting. Students will develop advanced skills in group work, presentations, and research. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

English Basics

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC ENGLISH

Course Number: ESL 001

Clock Hours: 100

Introduction to Basic English introduces true-beginner students to the basic forms of English. The main goal of the course is to prepare students with limited exposure to English to enter Level 1. Students gain familiarity with rudimentary elements of English, such as the alphabet, numbers, and simple tenses.

USING BASIC ENGLISH

Course Number: ESL 002

Clock Hours: 100

Students in Using Basic English apply concepts acquired in Introduction to Basic English, with an emphasis on vocabulary, everyday situations, communication, and interactive approaches. Students gain confidence with English by engaging in role plays, participating in community excursions, and exploring authentic contexts.

Language Foundations

READING

Course Number: ESL 171

Clock Hours: 33

The undergraduate Language Foundations Reading course provides academic and language support for first-year non-native English speaking students entering undergraduate studies. This course explores reading skills as they apply to success in university coursework while also providing language and academic support for other courses that students are taking concurrently.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of ESL 151, ESL 152, ESL 153, and ESL 154 and adviser approval.

SPEAKING & LISTENING

Course Number: ESL 172

Clock Hours: 33

The undergraduate Language Foundations Speaking and Listening course provides academic and language support for first-year international students. This course explores verbal communication and comprehension skills as they apply to success in university coursework while also providing language and academic support for other courses that students are taking concurrently.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of ESL 151, ESL 152, ESL 153, and ESL 154 and adviser approval.

WRITING

Course Number: ESL 173

Clock Hours: 33

The Undergraduate Language Foundations Writing course provides academic and language support for first-year non-native English speaking students entering undergraduate studies. This course explores writing skills necessary in university undergraduate coursework while also providing English language and academic support for other courses that students are taking concurrently. Students with a score above 79 on the Compass exam will take WR 221 concurrently.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of ESL 151, ESL 152, ESL 153, and ESL 154 and adviser approval.

GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

Course Number: ESL 174

Clock Hours: 33

The undergraduate Language Foundations Grammar and Vocabulary course provides academic and language support for first-year non-native English speaking students entering undergraduate studies. This course explores methods to apply advanced grammar forms while identifying areas in need of improvement in personal work. Additionally, students will learn vocabulary management and study techniques needed for undergraduate-level coursework.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of ESL 151, ESL 152, ESL 153, and ESL 154 and adviser approval.

Volunteering and Service Learning

SERVICE LEARNING

Course Number: SL 001

Clock Hours: 60

The Service Learning course prepares students to volunteer in a U.S. non-profit organization. During the course, students discover professional, social, and linguistic skills required in U.S. workplace settings and develop tools to support their volunteer experiences. Additionally, students explore their attitudes toward work, social issues, and volunteering through a series of personal reflections and group work.

Prerequisite(s): Intermediate-level English

Note: Additional volunteering hours are required for this course.

ENGLISH AND VOLUNTEERING

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: 60

The English and Volunteering course provides students with opportunities to use English in authentic settings, explore socio-cultural issues, and serve local communities in need. Students volunteer as a group at different non-profit sites with other American volunteers. Each volunteering day begins with a brief introduction to the volunteer site with a teacher-led group discussion. Students practice methods of conducting conversations in English. Relevant vocabulary and structures, as well as cultural issues and expectations, are presented at this time. Following the site visit, students discuss the site's services and reflect on the day's activities and broader socio-cultural themes.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Course Numbers: CS 001 A and B

Clock Hours: 43

The Community Service course prepares students to volunteer at a U.S. non-profit organization for a short amount of time. During the course, students develop professional, cultural, and linguistic skills that they apply during their experience as a volunteer. There are three stages of study for the course, titled Stage One: Preparation and Placement, Stage Two: Introduction to American Workplace Culture, and Stage Three: Community Service.

Prerequisite(s): Intermediate-level English

Note: Stage Three occurs during a second term of Intensive English.

Test Preparation

TOEIC PREPARATION COURSE

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: 40

Students in the TOEIC Preparation Course gain familiarity with standardized English assessment, fine-tune their understanding of advanced grammar concepts, review the various constituent sections of the TOEIC exam, complete practice tests, and develop useful study and test-taking skills.

ESL TEST PREPARATION COURSE

Course Number: TEST PR

Clock Hours: 20 or 30

Students in the ESL Test Preparation course gain familiarity with common standardized English as a Second Language assessments (including IELTS and TOEFL), fine-tune their understanding of advanced grammar concepts, analyze the various constituent sections of standardized ESL assessments, complete practice tests, and develop useful study and test-taking skills.

GED PREPARATION COURSE

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: 30

Students in the GED Preparation Course gain familiarity with the General Education Development assessments, study relevant culturally specific topics, fine-tune their English language skills, acquire strategies for effectively reading and writing for the tests, complete practice tests, and develop useful study and test-taking skills.

Prerequisite(s): Intermediate-level English

Short-term English

MODULE A – SURVIVAL ENGLISH

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: variable

The Survival English module supports students who have recently arrived in the U.S. by practicing vocabulary and language structures used in common, everyday contexts. Additionally, this course prepares students to address new and unfamiliar situations by teaching them to identify and make use of available resources.

MODULE B – CONVERSATION SKILLS

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: variable

The Conversation Skills module focuses on discrete skills and strategies that can help students engage with speakers of English. Students build confidence in their speaking and listening skills as they apply these concepts in a variety of authentic activities.

MODULE C – U.S. CULTURE

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: variable

The U.S. Culture module provides an opportunity for students to learn about the lifestyles and interests of Americans through interactions with teachers, homestay families, and local community members. Students explore cultural themes while reinforcing listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills.

MODULE D – U.S. ACADEMICS

Course Number: N/A

Clock Hours: variable

The U.S. Academics module provides students with the opportunity to develop fundamental academic English skills for participating in opinion-sharing discussions, writing academic paragraphs, and exploring a variety of topics.

Experience America

EXPERIENCE AMERICA

Course Number: EA 001

Clock Hours: 46

This course supports students who have recently arrived in the U.S. by practicing vocabulary and language structures used in common, everyday contexts. Additionally, it prepares students to address new and unfamiliar situations by teaching them to identify and make use of available resources. It also focuses on discrete skills and strategies which can help students engage with speakers of English. Students can build confidence in their speaking and listening skills as they apply these concepts in a variety of authentic activities. The course also provides an opportunity for students to learn about the lifestyles and interests of Americans through interactions with teachers, homestay families, and local community members. Students explore cultural themes while reinforcing listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills.

EXPERIENCE AMERICA ACCELERATED

Course Number: EA 002

Clock Hours: 34

This accelerated course condenses the objectives of Experience America into three weeks. During this time, students practice vocabulary and language structures used in common, everyday contexts. Additionally, it prepares students to address new and unfamiliar situations by teaching them to identify and make use of available resources. It also focuses on discrete skills and strategies which can help students engage with speakers of English. Students can build confidence in their speaking and listening skills as they apply these concepts in a variety of authentic activities. The course also provides an opportunity for students to learn about the lifestyles and interests of Americans through interactions with teachers, homestay families, and local community members. Students explore cultural themes while reinforcing listening, speaking, and vocabulary skills.

Interactive Distance Learning Addendum

In the event that the campus is closed for an extended period of time, PIA employs an Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) approach. This means that students take classes online. The weekly schedule and course length remain the same. In order to participate in IDL classes, students must have access to a computer with a webcam and audio capabilities, as well as access to the internet.