

Course Descriptor – Upper-Intermediate

By the end of your course, you should be able to:

<p>Speaking</p>	<p>Give clear, detailed descriptions and presentations on a wide range of subjects that interest you, giving relevant supporting detail when necessary</p> <p>Develop an argument systematically</p> <p>Can effectively 'talk around' gaps in vocabulary and structure</p> <p>Participate in extended conversation on most topics</p> <p>Contribute, account for, give an opinion, evaluate alternative proposals, as well as make and respond to hypotheses</p> <p>Express degrees of emotion and state why events and experiences are important</p> <p>Use a natural pronunciation and intonation patterns</p> <p>Outline an issue or problem clearly, speculating about the causes and consequences, and weighing advantages and disadvantages of different approaches</p>	<p>Use persuasive language to negotiate what you want, and clearly state the limits of any concessions you want to make</p> <p>Pass on detailed information reliably</p> <p>Can start a conversation, take your turn when appropriate and end conversation when you need to (although you may not always do this elegantly)</p> <p>Can use stock phrases (e.g. 'That's a difficult question to answer' to gain time and keep the turn while thinking about what to say.</p> <p>Give feedback on and follow up statements to help keep a conversation/discussion going</p> <p>Synthesise and report information and arguments from a number of sources</p> <p>Express yourself confidently and appropriately in formal or informal situations</p>
<p>Writing</p>	<p>Write clear, detailed texts on a variety of subjects that interest you, synthesising and evaluating information and arguments from a number of sources</p> <p>Write clear, detailed descriptions of events, experiences and a range of topics that interest you.</p> <p>Write an essay or report which develops an argument systematically with appropriate highlighting of significant points and supporting detail</p>	<p>Write letters expressing degrees of emotion and highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences</p> <p>Produce clear continuous writing which follows standard layout and paragraphing conventions</p> <p>Spelling and punctuation are reasonably accurate but may show signs of mother tongue influence</p> <p>Write in a suitable tone for your reader</p>
<p>Reading</p>	<p>Read independently, adapting the style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes</p> <p>Have a broad reading vocabulary, but you may find some idiomatic language difficult to understand</p> <p>Easily understand the essential meaning of correspondence</p> <p>Scan through long and complex texts in order to find the information you need</p>	<p>Quickly identify the content and relevance of news items, articles and reports on a wide range of topics, deciding whether you should study them further</p> <p>Understand the articles and reports about contemporary topics, and understand the opinion being presented</p> <p>Understand lengthy instructions in your field, including conditions and warnings, provided you reread more complex sections</p> <p>Summarise a wide range of texts, commenting on and discussing contrasting points of view about topics that interest you</p>

Listening	<p>Understand complex speech on concrete and abstract topics spoken in a standard dialect.</p> <p>Keep up with a lively debate between native speakers</p> <p>Follow linguistically complex talks, presentations and lectures</p> <p>Understand recordings in standard dialect that you will find in your social, professional or academic life</p>	<p>Understand most TV news and current affairs programmes</p> <p>Understand documentaries, live interviews, talk shows, plays and the majority of films in standard dialect</p> <p>Guess meaning from context</p> <p>Summarise extracts from news items, interviews or documentaries containing opinions, argument and discussion</p>
Grammar	<p>Understand and accurately produce the following grammatical patterns, easily correcting any mistakes you make:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question Formation • Auxilliary Verbs • Present Perfect (Simple and Continuous) • Adjective as nouns / Adjective order • Narrative tenses • Past Perfect Continuous • So / such ... that • Adverbs and adverbial phrases • Passive (all forms) • Future Perfect and Future Continuous • Conditionals and time clauses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past modals • Would rather / had better • Verbs of the senses • Gerunds and infinitives • Used to, be used to, get used to • Reporting verbs • Articles • Uncountable and plural nouns • 'Have something done' • Quantifiers • Structures after 'wish' • Relative clauses
Vocabulary	<p>Understand, use and spell words in the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality • Illness and treatment • Clothes and fashion • Air travel • Crime and punishment • Weather • Expressions with 'take' • Feelings • The body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Sleep • The media • Collocations • Towns and cities • Science • -ed / -ing adjectives and related verbs • Expressions with 'go' • Business and advertising • prefixes

To pass from one level to the next you must:

- **attend at least 85% of the classes**
- **get consistently good scores in your weekly tests**
- **work to a consistently high standard in class**

If you do not meet any of the criteria to pass the level, we may ask you to repeat the level.