



Center for Applied Linguistics and Language Studies - English Language Program

Course Description

Course Name: High Beginners Online

What is the level of this course?

This course aims at the A2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Students at this level can:

- understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment).
- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.
- describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

What are the learning outcomes of the course?

After successfully completing the course students will possess skills and knowledge as described below:

Topics/functions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ask questions to get to know your classmates○ Talk about yourself, your family, and your favorite things○ Show you have something in common○ Ask about people's interests and hobbies○ Talk about your interests, hobbies, and taste in music○ Talk about how to stay healthy○ Describe common health problems○ Talk about what you do when you have a health problem○ Talk about birthdays, celebrations, and favorite holidays○ Describe how you celebrate special days○ Talk about plans and predictions○ Talk about life events and memories of growing up○ Talk about school and your teenage years○ Ask and answer questions about places in a town○ Give directions○ Offer help and ask for directions○ Talk about stores and favorite places in your town○ Recommend places in your neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Talk about things you need to do before a trip○ Give advice and make suggestions○ Talk about travel and vacations○ Talk about where you keep things at home○ Talk about home furnishings Identify objects○ Talk about home habits and evening routines○ Tell anecdotes about things that went wrong○ Talk about accidents○ Respond to anecdotes○ Talk about different ways of communicating○ Compare ways of keeping in touch○ Manage phone conversations○ Describe people's appearances○ Identify people○ Talk about the future○ Talk about plans and organizing events○ Discuss different jobs
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Grammar:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of simple present and present of be in questions and statements ○ Responses with too and either ○ Verb forms after can / can't, love, like, etc., and prepositions ○ Object pronouns ○ Everybody, everyone, nobody, and no one ○ Simple present and present continuous ○ Joining clauses with if and when ○ Future with going to Indirect objects ○ Indirect object pronouns ○ Present continuous for the future ○ Review of simple past in questions and statements ○ be born ○ General and specific use of determiners ○ Is there? and Are there? ○ Pronouns one and some ○ Offers and requests with Can and Could 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infinitives for reasons ○ It's + adjective + to . . . ○ Ways to give advice and make suggestions ○ Whose . . . ? and possessive pronouns ○ Order of adjectives ○ Pronouns one and ones ○ Location expressions after pronouns and nouns ○ Past continuous statements ○ Past continuous questions ○ Reflexive pronouns ○ Comparative adjectives ○ More, less, and fewer ○ Questions and answers to describe people ○ have got ○ Phrases with verb + -ing and prepositions to identify people ○ Future with will, may, and might ○ Present continuous and going to for the future ○ Clauses with if, when, after, and before and the simple present to refer to the future
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Writing:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write an article giving advice on how to improve something ○ Review of punctuation ○ Write an e-mail message to one of the hobby groups on the Web page ○ Link ideas with and, also, especially, or, but, and because ○ Write a question asking advice about a health problem, and write replies to your classmates' questions ○ Commas after if and when clauses ○ Write an invitation to a special event, and add a personal note ○ Formal and informal ways to begin and end a note or letter ○ Write interview questions to ask a classmate about when he or she was younger, and reply to a classmate's questions ○ Link ideas with except (for) and apart from ○ Write a guide for a walking tour of your city or town ○ Expressions for giving directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write a postcard about staying at one of the hotels in the lesson ○ Format and expressions for writing a postcard ○ Write a short article about the evening routines of the people in your group ○ Order events using sequencing words ○ Write a letter to the newspaper column telling about something good that happened to you recently ○ Link ideas with when and while ○ Write a short article on the advantages and disadvantages of a means of communication ○ Structure of an article comparing advantages and disadvantages ○ Write a fashion article describing the current "look" ○ Expressions to describe new trends ○ Write an article about how one of the predictions will make our lives better or worse ○ List ideas with First, Second, Next, and Finally
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Conversation strategies:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Start a conversation with someone you don't know ○ Use actually to give or "correct" information ○ Say no in a friendly way ○ Use really and not really to make statements stronger or softer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respond to suggestions ○ Use I guess when you're not sure ○ Ask politely for permission to do things with Do you mind . . . ? ○ Ask someone politely to do something with Would you mind . . . ?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage people to say more to keep a conversation going ○ Show surprise ○ Use “vague” expressions like and everything ○ Give “vague” responses like I don’t know and ○ Maybe when you’re not sure ○ Correct things you say with expressions like Well; Actually; and No, wait ○ Use I mean to correct yourself when you say the wrong word or name ○ Repeat key words to check information ○ Use “checking” expressions to check information ○ Use “echo” questions to check information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agree to requests ○ React to and comment on a story ○ Respond with I bet . . . ○ Interrupt and restart phone conversations ○ Use just to soften things you say ○ Show you’re trying to remember a word or name ○ Use You mean . . . or Do you mean . . . ? to help someone remember something ○ Make offers and promises with I’ll and I won’t ○ Agree to something with All right and OK
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Reading:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to improve your conversation skills ○ A magazine article giving advice ○ A Web page for hobby groups ○ A leaflet about stress from the Department of Health ○ Time to celebrate! ○ An article about traditions in different countries ○ An interview with . . . Jennifer Wilkin ○ An interview with a woman who talks about her teenage years ○ A walking tour of San Francisco’s Chinatown ○ Pages from a walkingtour guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Somewhere different . . .An article about three unusual hotels ○ At home – How typical are you? ○ An article about home habits of typical Americans ○ Around town by Nelson Hunter ○ A newspaper column featuring letters from readers ○ C U L8R An article about text messaging ○ Hairstyles through the decades . . . ○ An article about hairstyles from the '50s through the '90s ○ What will life be like in the future? ○ An article with predictions about the future
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Listening:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Celebrations around the world ○ Listen to people talk about two festivals, and answer questions ○ Congratulations! Listen for details in two conversations about invitations, and fill in the blanks ○ I don’t remember exactly . . . ○ Listen for corrections people make as they talk about childhood memories ○ A long time ago Listen for details as a man talks about his teenage years ○ Finding your way around Match four sets of directions with the destinations by following the map ○ Tourist information Listen to conversations at a tourist-information desk, and predict what each person says next to check the information ○ What’s the question? Listen to answers and match them with questions ○ Sally’s party Listen to responses and match them to conversation starters; then listen for more information ○ Different hobbies Match four conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It’s good to travel. Predict what people are going to say about traveling, and then listen for the exact words ○ Recommendations Match advice about staying at three unusual hotels with pictures; then listen to a radio show to check your answers ○ Could I ask a favor? Listen to four onversations between roommates, complete their requests, and then check if each person agrees ○ Evening routines Listen to someone describe his evening routine, and number pictures in order ○ Funny stories Listen to four anecdotes, and match each with a response ○ Happy endings Listen to two anecdotes, and answer questions about the details ○ Sorry about that! Listen to three phone conversations to infer the reason for each call and for each interruption ○ Text messaging Listen to a teenager talk about text messaging, and check the opinions she agrees with ○ Celebrities Listen to descriptions of celebrities,
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<p>about hobbies with photos, and fill in a chart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Favorite Web sites Listen for details as two people talk about a Website ○ Unhealthy habits Predict what four people will say about their bad habits, and then listen for the exact words ○ Time to chill out Match four conversations about relaxing with photos, and listen for details 	<p>and match them with their photos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next year's fashions Listen to a fashion editor answer questions about next year's styles, and fill in a chart ○ Promises, promises Listen to two people organizing a class reunion, and identify what each of them says they'll do ○ I can't wait! Listen to two people discussing predictions, and identify which person says each is a good idea and why
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