



## Center for Applied Linguistics and Language Studies - English Language Program

### Course Description

Course Name: Low Intermediate Online

#### What is the level of this course?

This course aims at the A2 and B1 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Students at A2 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.

Students at B1 level can:

- understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.
- deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.
- produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.
- describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

#### 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"><li>○ Talk about people's behavior and personality</li><li>○ Describe friends and people you admire</li><li>○ Talk about people's habits</li><li>○ Talk about your secret dreams</li><li>○ Discuss experiences you have and haven't had</li><li>○ Talk about human wonders like buildings and structures</li><li>○ Describe natural wonders and features</li><li>○ Talk about gripes people have about family members and household rules</li><li>○ Talk about your memories of growing up</li><li>○ Describe your eating habits</li><li>○ Talk about healthy eating</li><li>○ Discuss different ways to cook and prepare food</li><li>○ Talk about the future: plans, facts, predictions, and schedules</li><li>○ Offer advice and solutions to problems</li><li>○ Discuss phone habits</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Talk about friendships</li><li>○ Discuss dating</li><li>○ Talk about relationships with neighbors</li><li>○ Talk about how you wish your life were different and why</li><li>○ Discuss how to deal with everyday dilemmas</li><li>○ Discuss gadgets and technology</li><li>○ Ask for and offer help with technology problems</li><li>○ Discuss your social life</li><li>○ Talk about different kinds of movies</li><li>○ Recommend books, CDs, movies, and shows</li><li>○ Speculate about people and situations</li><li>○ Talk about feelings and reactions</li><li>○ Talk about events in the news</li><li>○ Talk about extreme weather and natural disasters</li></ul>
--	---

--	--

**Grammar:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Manner adverbs vs. adjectives</li> <li>○ Adverbs before adjectives and adverbs</li> <li>○ Adjective prefixes</li> <li>○ Present perfect statements</li> <li>○ Present perfect and simple past questions and answers</li> <li>○ Superlatives</li> <li>○ Questions with How + adjective . . . ?</li> <li>○ Verbs let, make, help, have, get, want, ask, and tell</li> <li>○ Used to and would</li> <li>○ Review of countable and uncountable nouns</li> <li>○ Quantifiers a little, a few, little, and very few</li> <li>○ Too, too much, too many, enough</li> <li>○ The future with will, going the present continuous, and the simple present</li> <li>○ Use had better, ought to, might want to to say what's advisable</li> <li>○ Use have got to and going to have to to say what's necessary</li> <li>○ Use would rather to say what's preferable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Subject relative clauses</li> <li>○ Object relative clauses</li> <li>○ Phrasal verbs</li> <li>○ Use wish + past form of verb to talk about wishes for the present or future</li> <li>○ Conditional sentences with if clauses about imaginary situations</li> <li>○ Questions within sentences</li> <li>○ Separable phrasal verbs with objects</li> <li>○ how to + verb, where to + verb, and what to + verb</li> <li>○ Present perfect continuous vs. Present perfect</li> <li>○ Since, for, and in for duration</li> <li>○ Already, still, and yet with present perfect</li> <li>○ Modal verbs must, may, might, can't, or could for speculating</li> <li>○ Adjectives ending in -ed vs. adjectives ending in -ing</li> <li>○ The simple past passive</li> <li>○ The simple past passive with by + agent</li> <li>○ Adverbs with the passive</li> </ul>
--	---

**Writing:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Write a short description of yourself</li> <li>○ Learn useful expressions to include in a biography or personal profile</li> <li>○ Write a blog describing an exciting experience</li> <li>○ Use adverbs like fortunately, unfortunately, and amazingly to show your attitude or feeling</li> <li>○ Write a paragraph about a human or natural wonder in your country</li> <li>○ Add information about a place or thing</li> <li>○ Write a blog about a memory from your childhood</li> <li>○ Use past and present time markers</li> <li>○ Write a short article about a snack food or traditional dish for a tourist pamphlet</li> <li>○ Introduce examples with like, for example, and such as</li> <li>○ Write a question about a personal clutter problem, and write a reply to a classmate's question</li> <li>○ Link ideas with as long as, provided that, and unless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Write a short article about three friends and the things you have in common</li> <li>○ Use both, both of us, and neither of us to talk about things in common</li> <li>○ Write an article on the changes you would make if you could live last year over again</li> <li>○ Use adverbs of certainty in affirmative and negative statements</li> <li>○ Write a short article giving dos and don'ts for keeping personal information safe</li> <li>○ Plan your article</li> <li>○ Write a review of a book, CD, movie, or show</li> <li>○ Introduce contrasting ideas with although, even though, and even if</li> <li>○ Write a letter to the editor</li> <li>○ Use expressions for giving impressions, reactions, and opinions</li> <li>○ Write a report on class survey results about keeping up with the news</li> <li>○ Learn useful expressions for writing about statistics</li> </ul>
---	---

**Conversation strategies:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use always with a continuous verb to describe individual habits</li> <li>○ Use at least to point out the positive side of a situation</li> <li>○ Keeping the conversation going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soften comments with expressions like I think, probably, kind of, and in a way</li> <li>○ Use though to give a contrasting idea</li> <li>○ Give advice using expressions like If I were you . . . , I would . . . , and You might want to . . .</li> </ul>
---	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use response questions like Do you? and Have you? to show interest</li> <li>○ Use short responses with really and sure to agree and to show you are a supportive listener</li> <li>○ Use superlatives for emphasis</li> <li>○ Give opinions with expressions like It seems like . . . and If you ask me, . . .</li> <li>○ Use expressions like exactly, definitely, and absolutely to agree</li> <li>○ Respond to suggestions by letting the other person decide</li> <li>○ Refuse offers politely with expressions like No, thanks. I'm fine.</li> <li>○ End phone conversations with expressions like I'd better go, I've got to go, and I'll call you later</li> <li>○ Use informal expressions like See you later to end friendly phone conversations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use expressions with That would be . . . to comment on an idea or suggestion</li> <li>○ Give a different opinion</li> <li>○ Use expressions like You know what I mean? to ask for agreement</li> <li>○ Ask for a favor politely</li> <li>○ Use All right and OK to move the conversation to a new phase or topic and to agree to requests</li> <li>○ Show you understand another person's feelings or situation</li> <li>○ Use You see to explain a situation</li> <li>○ Use I see to show you understand Introduce news with expressions like</li> <li>○ Did you hear (about) . . . ?, Guess what?, and You know what?</li> <li>○ Use the expression The thing is . . . to introduce issues</li> </ul>
---	--

**Reading:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Five things you didn't know about . . .A magazine article with biographies of four famous people</li> <li>○ Greetings from the Galápagos and I'm in Athens! Two travel blogs</li> <li>○ World records Fascinating facts from a book of world records</li> <li>○ Rhonda's Ramblings A blog recounting a girl's childhood experiences riding in the car with her brother</li> <li>○ Popular snacks around the world A magazine article about five popular snack foods</li> <li>○ Getting rid of clutter An article giving ideas on ways to manage clutter and offering solutions to readers' problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Web site chaperones classmate reunions A newspaper article about a Web site that reunites former classmates</li> <li>○ If I had my life to live over, . . . An article listing ways the writer's life would be different if it could be lived over</li> <li>○ Robbing you blind? A magazine article about identify theft and what can be done to avoid it</li> <li>○ Home entertainment A review of a movie and a CD</li> <li>○ A teen hero A magazine article describing an inspirational teen</li> <li>○ A new brand of journalism is taking root in South Korea A news article about a new way of reporting the news</li> </ul>
---	---

**Listening:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Best friends Listen to three conversations about best friends, and then fill in a chart</li> <li>○ I didn't know that! Match each person with a piece of information; then listen for more information about each person</li> <li>○ What have they done? Listen to three conversations to identify the main topic; then choose the correct response to three comments</li> <li>○ A traveler's adventures Listen to a conversation about a traveler's e-mail, and identify key information in the pictures; then listen and answer questions about the details</li> <li>○ What do you know? Take a quiz; then listen to a quiz show to check your answers and answer questions</li> <li>○ Travel talk Listen to a radio interview, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People I look forward to seeing Fill in the missing words describing three people; then listen for the reasons the speaker likes to see them</li> <li>○ Getting back in touch Identify the people the speaker wants to get back in touch with; then write the reason he lost touch with them</li> <li>○ A wish for today Identify the topics as four people talk about their wishes; then write the reasons</li> <li>○ Here's my advice. Compare the advice that three people give; then decide whose advice is most helpful</li> <li>○ What do you know about the Internet? Answer the questions about the Internet, and then listen to a conversation to check answers; then write</li> </ul>
---	--

<p>number photos in order; then listen and answer questions about the details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reasonable demands? Match each person with a parental demand; then listen and check your answers</li> <li>○ Family activities Listen to three people describe their memories, and number the pictures in order; then listen again for more information</li> <li>○ That sounds good. Listen to conversations, and number pictures in order; then match each picture with the best response</li> <li>○ Snack habits Listen to people talk about snacks, and number the pictures; then listen for details to complete a chart</li> <li>○ I hope you can come. Listen to three people responding to different invitations, and complete a chart</li> <li>○ What should I do with these? Listen to three people discuss unwanted items, and identify what they do with them</li> </ul>	<p>more information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The problem with technology Listen to two people giving opinions, and identify each person's opinions; then agree or disagree with two opinions</li> <li>○ A small favor Match four students with the favor each asks the professor; then decide if you agree with the professor's decision</li> <li>○ I'd really recommend it. Listen for details as two friends talk about a review of a show</li> <li>○ People and situations Match four people and their situations; then write a response with must to each</li> <li>○ People making a difference Match three people and the organizations they work with; then write what each organization does</li> <li>○ News update Listen to two news stories, and answer questions</li> <li>○ What do they say next? Predict the topic of four conversations; match their beginnings and endings; then listen to check your answers</li> </ul>
--	---