

# Advanced Level

## Listening...

The Advanced level is all about “polishing” the students’ English. The hard work has mostly been done and now it’s a matter of adding those little pieces that bring the student closer to native-like proficiency. Students at this level can participate in conversations on any topic except those outside of their knowledge or experience, much

like native speakers. Various accents may cause difficulty – Scottish or Welsh for example – as they would for native speakers, and slang or technical jargon will also cause confusion. Periods of listening are also similar to that of native speakers – movies and TV programs, lectures and presentations for example.

## Speaking...

Advanced level students are now very comfortable speaking English and feel very natural doing so. It is now “their” language, not a strange language that requires effort to use. Students can participate easily in conversations on any topic including complex topics

such as politics, society, global issues, etc, much like native speakers. Unknown words are explored using English and pronunciation is moving towards near-native like fluency.

## Reading...

At this level, students have the ability to read any text type they may be exposed to, including magazine or blog articles, novels, news stories, and academic papers, depending on the field. Unknown words and phrases are still found but present minor obstacles that are

easily dealt with in the same way that native speakers would. Students can utilise the same reading strategies that they would use in their own language. Exposure to authentic (real) reading material is still beneficial but now commonplace.

## Writing...

For those students who continue on to the Advanced level, writing still presents a challenge but continues to improve quickly. Writing includes any type of text up to and including academic texts, depending on the individual student’s pathway, similar to native speakers.

At this stage, students still have difficulties, however, these are more about structuring the various text types in the correct way rather than confusion with the actual language.

## Grammar...

- Time expressions with past simple & present perfect
- Relative clauses with prepositions
- Patterns with “it”
- Future phrases
- Reflexive pronouns
- Adverbials
- Impersonal report structures
- Subject/verb agreement
- Cleft sentences with “what” & “if” clauses
- Participle clauses
- Inversion
- Talking about the future in the past
- Formal vs informal comparisons
- Past verb forms with present or future meaning
- Conditionals

Advanced level students are very confident communicating with the world in English and are now using it on a daily basis, either for work or study. New vocabulary continues to come from multiple sources, although unknown words are no longer common in daily speech. Unknown vocabulary that is encountered comes from further study or conversations, reading or watching something about an unfamiliar and complex topic. New vocabulary is dealt with in much the same way that native speakers deal with it, and as such, it presents minimal obstacles. Pronunciation of new vocabulary is similarly dealt with.

**At the completion of this level, students will be able to use the following:**

## Vocabulary...

- Colloquial language
- Prepositions & phrases
- Intensifying adverbs
- Connotation
- Euphemisms
- Near synonyms
- Metaphors
- Prefixes with multiple meanings
- Words with different but related meanings
- Idiomatic phrases
- Productive suffixes
- Idioms & sayings
- Adjective word order
- Phrasal verbs about health
- Collocations about news
- Newspaper language
- Verb-noun collocations
- Phrasal nouns
- Suffixes