

Intermediate Level

The Intermediate level continues the development of the core foundation of English. In Intermediate, students are exposed to new, more complex language that builds on Pre-Intermediate. In this level, students can now participate relatively comfortably in conversations on a

broad range of topics, although deeper, more complex topics may require clarification. Gestures and body language are rarely necessary. Periods of listening are longer – around ten minutes – depending on the topic. **At the completion of this level, students will be able to:**

Listen & understand...

- Discussions about emotions & feelings
- Discussions about different free time clubs
- Discussions about working conditions in different countries
- Sleeping habits
- The tourism industry
- Interviews about tourism
- Stories about adventure travel
- Linked words
- Opinions & generalisations
- Detailed comparisons of houses
- Descriptions of memorable birthdays
- Fillers in conversations
- Conversations about life decisions
- Wedding traditions
- Discussions about superstitions
- Sentence stress
- Social networking habits
- Conversations about natural disasters
- The news
- Different accents

At the Intermediate level, students continue to break away from reliance on their first language and are much more comfortable speaking in English. Listening comprehension is only slightly more advanced than speaking ability and the gap is much closer. Students can now participate easily in conversations about their daily life, free time activities and so on, and can also express deeper ideas on society, global issues, etc. Translation is

still used for unknown words but is no longer a crutch vital for conversation as it was before. Pronunciation is still influenced by the student's first language as an accent but continues to improve. Fluency continues to increase dramatically with much less time required to think about which words and structures to use. **At the completion of this level, students will be able to:**

Speak to express ideas about...

- Interesting journeys
- Discussions about free time & happiness
- Different degrees of likes & dislikes
- Conversations at a party
- Working conditions
- Conversations about problems & advice
- Discussions about travel experiences
- Conversations about holiday options & recommendations
- Great life experiences
- Health & medical issues
- Discussions about museums & galleries
- Expressing opinions
- Discussions about housing options
- Conversations about future plans
- Childhood experiences
- Discussions about superstitions
- Conversations about goals & achievements
- Social networking

The broader range of vocabulary and structures introduced at this level allow students to read a much wider and more complex range of texts. Unknown words and phrases present minor obstacles to comprehension but students generally have strategies to deal with this by now. Students can now utilise direct comprehension along with some inferring and “reading between the lines”. **At the completion of this level, students should be able to:**

Read to Comprehend...

- Articles about achievements & success
- Texts about happiness & free time
- Complex descriptions of likes & dislikes
- Health benefits of different activities
- Descriptions of food & festivals
- Questions about tourist destinations
- Guide books
- Facts about holiday destinations
- People’s life experiences
- Descriptions of different types of housing
- Descriptions of tv dramas
- Texts about tv shows
- Articles about social issues
- Descriptions of natural disasters
- Travel advice
- Articles about healthy habits
- News articles
- Texts about the body
- Advice for job interviews

Writing still lags behind as the weakest skill at the Intermediate level, mainly because unlike speaking, meaning and understanding are communicated without the assistance of body language, facial expressions and context. Writing requires the writer to build the context and use words only to convey meaning. Also, errors are “permanent”, that is, they are unable to be changed or

adjusted immediately as can be done when speaking. At this stage, direct translation from the student’s first language may still persist, but much less than before. Students write longer and more varied texts with more complex sentences, however, the large range of tenses and structures learnt can cause some confusion. **At the completion of this level, students will be able to:**

Write...

- Description of a memorable birthday
- Questions with prepositions at the end
- Questions with question tags
- Rules at work or school
- Descriptions of eating habits
- A survey
- Questions in the present perfect simple or continuous
- Questions with “used to”
- A description of an interesting experience in the past
- Descriptions and comparisons of different types of housing
- Sentences about wishes & regrets
- Sentences with “if”, “unless”, “might”
- About social networking & the internet
- Descriptions of ability
- Indirect & passive questions
- Descriptions of frightening or exciting experiences
- Travel warnings & advice
- Sentences making deductions
- Descriptions of weddings
- Reported statements & questions

Intermediate continues to add a lot of structures, building further on the foundation established in Pre-Intermediate. Students are introduced to further complex structures enabling them to use a variety of ways to express their ideas and experiences. Students are getting used to communicating in English at this stage and so there is much less reliance on their first language grammatical rules. Confusion now comes more from the multitude of English tenses and structures they are learning rather than from first language interference. **At the completion of this level, students should be able to use the following:**

Grammar...

- Second conditional
- Subject, object, open, closed questions in various tenses
- Able to, supposed to, allowed to
- Present perfect continuous
- Present perfect simple vs present perfect continuous
- Past simple vs past continuous
- Past perfect
- Comparatives & superlatives
- Will, going to, present continuous for future
- Zero conditional vs first conditional
- Third conditional
- The passive – past & present
- Quantifiers
- Relative clauses
- The passive – present perfect
- Was/were going to/supposed to
- Reported speech – sentences
- Reported speech – questions
- Requests & imperatives

Vocabulary continues to expand rapidly at the Intermediate level as student confidence grows. The world of English really starts to open up and new vocabulary comes from multiple contexts and situations. Unknown vocabulary presents a minor obstacle to communication that is removed by simple explanation by the speaker. Pronunciation of new vocabulary is also much easier due to the familiarity with the sounds of English. **At the completion of this level, students will be able to use the following:**

Vocabulary...

- Verb patterns
- Weekend activities
- Prepositions with adjectives
- Work collocations
- Food & ways of cooking
- Travel phrasal verbs
- Music collocations
- Suffixes for adjectives & nouns
- Guessing meaning from context
- Types of houses
- Word families
- Make vs do
- Reflexive pronouns
- Goals & achievements
- Computers & technology
- Weather & natural disasters
- News collocations
- Describing people
- Things done at work
- Informal words & phrases