LANG SKILLS

Online English for International Mobilities e-learning course

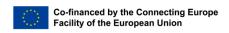## ABOUT THE COURSE

For Self-access users

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The e-learning course Online English for International Mobilities has been developed to provide the students with hearing loss with an accessible English language course which provides them with authentic material. The course represents an opportunity for students with hearing loss to improve their English language skills with a focus on the academic environment and to simulate the experience of going to study at a foreign university.

1. THE LANGSKILLS PROJECT

(Language Skills of Deaf Students for EU Mobility)

This course was created under the LangSkills project. The LangSkills project wishes to encourage Deaf, deaf, and hard of hearing higher education students to take part in international mobilities and study abroad programmes.

You can read more about the project here: www.teiresias.muni.cz/langskills.

2. A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE COURSE

Online English for International Mobilities is an e-learning course created for learners with hearing loss. It will help you practise and improve your English language skills.

- **It is designed for B1–B2 users of English.**

- **It is accessible to Deaf, deaf and hard of hearing learners both regarding the content and form.**

- **It simulates the experience of going to study at a foreign university.**

- **It is free of charge.**

- **It is stored on OpenMoodle.**

- **It uses authentic materials from lectures, information leaflets, videos and study materials.**

- **It takes between 30–40 hours to complete it.**

- **It contains mostly automatically corrected tasks.**

- **It includes useful Study tips.**

3. WHO IS THE COURSE FOR

The course was originally designed for university students with some degree of hearing loss who are planning to study abroad. However, you don't need to be a university student and you don't need to be travelling on an Erasmus+ to use this course.

Your English should be about B1 or B2.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

During the course you will:

- **Improve your English language communication skills in the academic context;**

- **Learn new vocabulary related to studying at university and studying abroad;**

- **Develop better understanding of lecture transcripts;**

- **Learn how to contribute more effectively in seminars and group tutorials;**

- **Practise your reading and writing skills and strategies;**

- **Improve your language learning and study strategies.**

You will practise:

- **your reading: you will work with leaflets, transcripts of lectures, captioned videos, study materials, etc.**

- **your writing: you will write essays, notes, fora messages, formal and informal emails, etc.**

- **your grammar skills**

- **learn new vocabulary related to higher education and study abroad**

You will also learn some useful tips to improve your language learning (check out the **Study tips**), ie. how to use a dictionary or how to take better notes.

We recommend you find a friend with whom you can send messages in English to practise everyday English as well or practise speaking.

5. REGISTRATION

The course is free of charge but you need to register in the OpenMoodle platform and then log in the course. Consult the Technical Guide for more information [here](#).

6. COURSE MAP

(Structure of the course)

There are seven units in the course.

- **Unit 1 and Unit 7 consist of Part A only.**

- **Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 consist of Part A and Part B.**

You can follow the order of the units and activities as they go in the course, or you can choose the sequence of units and activities according to your own needs and interests.

Unit 1
BEFORE WE BEGIN
(Part A)

Vocabulary: Important course vocabulary

Grammar tip: Downloadable practice test book with a key

Grammar: Questions

Study tip: How to check spelling and grammar in your assignments

Social interaction: Forum discussion – Discussing the reasons to go on an exchange

Unit 2
KNOW YOUR WAY AND MEET PEOPLE
(Part A and B)

Vocabulary: Exchange programmes, buddy systems

Grammar: Prepositions

Writing: Informal email

Functions: Making appointments; understanding and giving directions

Social interaction: Getting to know you game, Live chat – Pair work activity

Unit 3
UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
(Part A and B)

Vocabulary: Services and adjustments for students with a hearing loss

Grammar: Tenses

Writing: Formal letter

Study tip: How to use a dictionary effectively

Functions: Communicating with the International Relations Office / Special Needs Centre

Social interaction: Forum discussion – Discussing the services offered at your university or in your home country

Unit 4
SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ON A WEBSITE
(Part A and B)

Vocabulary: Useful academic vocabulary

Grammar: Comparatives and superlatives

Writing: Compare and contrast essay: comparing two courses

Study tip: How to make your reading more effective: scanning and marking the text

Functions: Comparing and contrasting

Social interaction: Forum discussion – Find your flatmates

Unit 5
MAKE NOTES AND STUDY BASED ON A LECTURE
(Part A and B)

Vocabulary: Note taking

Grammar: Active & Passive voice

Writing: Practical note-taking tasks

Study tip: How to take notes more effectively

Functions: Note taking strategies in the classroom

Social interaction: Forum discussion – Your note taking experience

Unit 6
FOLLOW A SEMINAR DISCUSSION AND CONTRIBUTE TO IT
(Part A and B)

Grammar and vocabulary: Word formation

Functions: Expressing opinion, agreeing and disagreeing

Writing: Opinion essay

Social interaction: Forum – Join the course discussion

Unit 7
REVISION AND COURSE EVALUATION
(Part A)

Vocabulary: Revising the vocabulary items studied in previous units

Grammar and vocabulary: Word formation - revision

Social interaction: Forum discussion – Overall course reflection

Writing: Self-evaluation task

7.   UNIT STRUCTURE

Each unit contains the following elements:

7.1.   WRITTEN INPUT

This is usually a **text**, a **captioned video** or a **speech to text report of a lecture**. This input is further developed in activities focusing on comprehension and vocabulary.

7.2.   VOCABULARY PRACTICE

The vocabulary is related to a particular topic in each unit. You will practise your vocabulary skills twice in each unit: for the first time in Part A, and then again in revision exercises in Part B. This strategy helps you remember better the new words.

You will practice:

- **Unit 1 Classroom language**

- **Unit 2 Exchange programmes, buddy systems**

- **Unit 3 Services and adjustments for students with a hearing loss**

- **Unit 4 Using English at college and university**

- **Unit 5 Note taking**

- **Unit 6 Word formation**

- **Unit 7 Revising the vocabulary items studied in previous units**

> **Feedback provision**
> **The vocabulary tasks are corrected automatically by Moodle.**

7.3.   WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

The course includes different types of texts that are typically related to the academic environment and those that are useful when arranging a study stay abroad.

You will practice:

- **Unit 1 Questions**

- **Unit 2 Prepositions**

- **Unit 3 Tenses**

- **Unit 4 Comparatives and superlatives**

- **Unit 5 Active & Passive voice**

- **Unit 6 Word formation**

- **Unit 7 Word formation – revision**

Process approach to writing

We encourage you to consider writing as a several step process.

- **First,** there are tasks and activities to get you ready to start writing such as practising relevant vocabulary or revising the rules of the particular form (e.g. formal/informal email, notes, etc.).

- **Second,** you draft and hand in the first version of your assignment. The teacher gives you feedback to help you understand what needs to be improved.

- **Then,** based on the feedback, you should try to rewrite the first draft and hand it in to the teacher for the second time. The teacher gives feedback again.

- **Finally,** if necessary, you use the second feedback to prepare the final version of the assignment.

> **Feedback provision**
> **Moodle cannot provide individualized feedback on your essays. If you wish to get feedback, you can find a local English teacher or ask a friend who is proficient in English.**

7.4. STUDY TIPS

Four units of the course contain useful **Study tips**. They give you tips and recommendations on different study tools and strategies, such as using dictionaries more effectively. These tips are provided by way of videos, practical illustrations, examples, etc.

You will practice:

- **Unit 1 How to check spelling and grammar in your assignments**

- **Unit 3 How to use a dictionary effectively**

- **Unit 4 How to make your reading more effective: scanning and marking the text**

- **Unit 5 How to take notes more effectively**

7.5. GRAMMAR

This course focuses on developing writing and reading skills in the first place. Grammar is practised as part of the written assignments. However, there is at least one grammar exercise in each unit. If you want to work more on your grammar knowledge, you can download the recommended practise book with a key.

You will practice:

- **Unit 1 Questions**

- **Unit 2 Prepositions**

- **Unit 3 Tenses**

- **Unit 4 Comparatives and superlatives**

- **Unit 5 Active & Passive voice**

- **Unit 6 Word formation**

- **Unit 7 Word formation – revision**

> **Feedback provision**
> **The vocabulary tasks are corrected automatically by Moodle.**

7.6. SOCIAL ELEMENTS: CHATS AND FORA

There are chats and fora in this course but you won't use them much if you study alone.

Try to find an English speaking friends (they don't have to be native speakers of English) and send them messages in English to practise everyday English. You can watch videos and tutorials on YouTube, play PC games, join a Facebook group and contribute to it, etc. to practise your language skills in different contexts.

8. TASK CORRECTION

There are three types of tasks in this course assessment-wise:

1. Automatically corrected tasks

Most tasks, such as Task 1.1, are corrected automatically so you know your score right after doing it. You should try to achieve 60 % correct or more. If not, go back, revise and try again. Usually there are three attempts to take the task.

2. Written assignments

In each unit there is a written assignment with instructions. However, Moodle can't give you individualized feedback. You can either look for a private teacher or ask a friend who is proficient in English. Make sure you look at your teacher's/friend's comments carefully and prepare a second, edited version.

3. Tasks with no error correction

The exercises based on promoting social interaction are not marked because they aim to encourage fluency over accuracy. Use this opportunity to interact freely with other English users and don't worry too much about grammar.

9. EXPECTED STUDY TIME

The course takes between 30–40 hours but it depends on how long you spend with each activity. You can skip some tasks and make it shorter but you can also look for extra materials and spend longer with the course.

The majority of students who did the pilot runs studied twice a week for 2 to 3 hours. The first and the last unit are shorter and you'll need half the time.

10. CONTACT US

If you want to access the course, we recommend you look at **the technical guide** first. There is a video you can watch and see how to log in the course.

If you have any questions, please contact the coordinating team at **langskills@teiresias.muni.cz**.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.