

English language 1

Prof. Catherine Mary Cronin

Aims

- The aim of this course is to consolidate and develop students' English language skills both in production (speaking and writing) and in comprehension (reading and listening), in order to reach a B2 level.
- In recognition of different levels of linguistic competence in a first-year class, a prime objective is to eliminate language lacunae and enable all students to achieve greater accuracy in both grammar and lexis.
 - With the experience of the academic year 2024/25 and in order to avoid the difficulties encountered by some students during the first exam sessions, this year more attention will be given to those students who did not achieve the minimum requirement in the entrance exam who have significant gaps in their knowledge of grammar. Furthermore, during lessons greater emphasis will be placed on helping to improve the spoken English of students who are more reluctant to speak in English.

However, there is the ongoing need to provide a stimulating classroom experience for those students who have already attained a B2 or, in a few cases, a C1 level.

As a response to the students' request to begin compiling a glossary from year 1, focus will be placed on lexical groups which are relevant to specific study areas, e.g. tourism..

- By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the main ideas of complex text, be able to produce clear, detailed text themselves and have the confidence and skills needed to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts and interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity.

Contents

Main grammar topics

Review of tenses:

Expressing the past with focus on perfect tenses, simple and progressive

Expressing the future, including perfect and continuous forms.

The passive voice inc. passive with 2 objects and basic impersonal forms.

Modal Verbs

Conditionals sentences & related structures

Expressing comparison

Expressing Quantity

Vocabulary

Word formation

Synonyms and Antonyms

Countable and uncountable nouns
Introduction to Phrasal verbs
Introduction to collocations

In addition to focusing on the above items in class, with detailed explanations and examples, class-time is also devoted to reading and listening to selected texts in order to familiarise students with English syntax and morphology whilst at the same time stimulate class discussion. Grammar and vocabulary exercises plus reading and writing tasks are also given for homework.

Exam

Written & Oral test

Bibliography

Coursebook :

Michael Vince (2014) Language Practice for First - 5th edition with Key Macmillan ISBN no. 978-0-230-46375-2

Additional photocopied material to be handed out during lessons. All material is uploaded to Google Drive .

Recommended (for reference)

- *Practical English Usage (2005) Michael Swan*
- *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English , Pearson*
- *Or Collins COBUILD Advanced Dictionary , Collins Cobuild*

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