



Intensive English Program Course Description

English Now!

The goal of English Now!'s Intensive English Program is to increase students' English language proficiency in a highly personalized and supportive environment. Our classes have a maximum of six students, so students benefit from instruction that supports their unique goals and learning styles. We think that our maximum class size of six may make our Intensive English Program classes the smallest in the United States. We invite you to experience how such a small class size can increase your comfort level speaking with your classmates and instructor, and help you succeed academically.

Levels of English Proficiency. The program enrolls students from High Beginner to Advanced levels. Students enrolling in the program must complete a placement test, and students are placed in groups with other students who are working at a similar level of English proficiency.

Curriculum. During class, your teachers will explore all dimensions of language learning – speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will develop their conversation skills as they learn new grammatical constructions and expand their vocabulary. Our instructors use textbooks from the American Headway series and Top Notch/Summit textbook series, selecting the level of textbook appropriate to their classes. A given “level” in these textbook series takes three to four months to complete, but a student may progress more quickly (or more slowly) depending on his or her learning style and individual pace.

Afternoon Special Topics Workshops. English Now!'s Intensive English Program added Special Topics Workshops in 2014. Special Topics workshops focus on specific skill areas and topics, and introduce students to other instructors, to create a well-rounded and comprehensive overall experience. See below for more information about this dynamic addition to our curriculum.

Homework. Homework is assigned on a daily basis and reinforces the learning that takes place in the classroom. Morning instructors may ask students to preview vocabulary or reading material, which will be discussed in class the next day. They may also assign workbook exercises, which are best done independently at each student's own pace. Afternoon special workshop instructors may give students longer-term assignments, such as writing a paragraph or essay, or preparing for a presentation.

Assessment. At the end of each term, teachers assess student progress and provide students with feedback on their strengths and challenge areas. Some teachers administer a written test to students at the end of the month. Other teachers prefer to check student progress more informally. All forms of student assessment are part of the learning process and provide students with valuable

information about their progress. Students have the option to ask for additional testing if they would like more detailed feedback at the end of a term.

Progress from Month to Month. Students enrolling in the program must enroll for at least three weeks, but the average student in the program joins us for three to four months. Groups are restructured at the beginning of each term to reflect student progress. Typically students continuing in the program will be with some classmates from prior months but will be joined by some new classmates. Each month we survey students to ask whether they will continue in the Intensive English Program or pursue other options, such as Conversation Classes or Private Lessons. Specialty classes, such as TOEFL preparation and English for Professionals, are popular with students who have reached the Advanced levels.

Program Calendar & Schedule. Our Intensive English Program is offered year-round, in four-week terms with 64 hours of instructional time. Visit our website or contact us regarding the next available start date. Also, sometimes it is possible for students to start in the program before the next start date. Classes meet Mondays through Thursdays, from 9:30am until 2:00pm.

Fridays at English Now! The Intensive English Program does not meet on Fridays, but students have many optional ways to extend their learning on Fridays:

- **Outings.** On Fridays, students may participate in optional group activities, visiting Washington, DC-area museums, monuments, and cultural destinations, in groups led by one of our instructors.
- **Optional Workshops.** Students can enroll in several specialty workshops on Friday mornings:
 - o Pronunciation – Weekly lessons for students who speak the same native language or share similar challenges with letter sounds and word stress.
 - o Parent Talk – English conversation for parents or caretakers with their preschool-aged children.
 - o Writing Workshops – Focused writing instruction, such as academic writing, creative writing, or autobiographical writing, for students who have specific reasons for improving their writing. Sessions may be held in the afternoons or on Fridays.

Monthly Highlights. The English Now! Intensive English Program has several special features each month. These include:

- **Icebreaker.** On the first day of each term, we gather all of our students together for a typical American snack and a special activity designed to help everyone meet someone new.
- **Neighborhood Walk.** Each month, we invite students who are new to the area to join us for a walk around the neighborhood, so they can feel comfortable using resources in our local community.
- **Lunch Time Talks.** Once a month we offer an extended lunchtime, during which students join another class to participate in a special discussion led by a member of our staff. Topics vary, but often coincide with holidays or special events for the season.
- **Potluck lunch.** The second Thursday of each month is a very special day at English Now! Students and staff all bring food from around the world to share with each other.
- **Pancake breakfast.** On the third Thursday of the month, our director serves students a typical American breakfast of blueberry pancakes!

- **Meeting with the director.** During the third week of classes, our director meets with each student individually to discuss his or her progress and plan for the following month.
- **Assessment of student progress.** At the end of each term, students receive an assessment of their progress from their main instructor.

A Day in the English Now! Intensive English Program

Mornings. In the mornings from 9:30-12:15, students work with their main instructor on a wide variety of language skills. Students learn and practice new grammatical constructions in the context of interesting readings and listening activities from their textbooks. They also expand on themes that are introduced, such as history and popular culture, and use new vocabulary in lively conversations with each other students. Instructors engage students by checking for understanding throughout their lessons and encouraging equal participation from all students.

Break and Lunch. Students take a break from class from 11:00 until 11:15am. Then, students break for lunch from 12:15 until 12:45pm.

Afternoons. After a lunch break, students return to class for daily afternoon workshops, from 12:45-2:00. These workshops give students an opportunity to practice their skills in a new context and to become comfortable experiencing English with another teacher. Afternoon workshop instructors deliver a rich and diverse curriculum. In the afternoon workshops, students:

- gain exposure to a variety of print and web-based resources to increase vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and understand the writing process.
- learn strategies for retention of word meanings through focused attention on vocabulary development.
- discuss important issues in the news.
- express opinions local, national and world news.
- develop presentation skills as they share their writing products.
- integrate writing skills with speaking and listening to improve overall fluency.
- learn pronunciation skills to help them understand the difference between sounds and makes their speech easier for others to understand.

Our instructors in the Intensive English Program work together as a team to serve our students' needs.

With Questions or to Enroll. Visit us at the school, email us at info@english-now.com, or call us at +1 301 718 3575. We look forward to meeting you and would be glad to have you take a proficiency test – with no cost and no commitment – to learn more about your language background and to enable us to talk to you about placement.