

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES (ESP): AN INTRODUCTION

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is a learner-centered approach to teaching English as an additional language, which focuses on developing communicative competence in a specific discipline such as academics, accounting, agrology, business, IT, teaching, and engineering.

English for specific purposes (ESP) is a subset of English as a second or foreign language. It usually refers to teaching the English language to university students or people already in employment, with reference to the particular vocabulary and skills they need. As with any language taught for specific purposes, a given course of ESP will focus on one occupation or profession, such as Technical English, Scientific English, English for medical professionals, English for waiters, English for tourism, etc. Despite the seemingly limited focus, a course of ESP can have a wide-ranging impact, as is the case with Environmental English.

The Difference between ESP and General English

From a long time, people seem confused when it comes to ESP and General English. No doubt, this is a debate that cannot be finished, but somehow with the help of this guide, you will get your answer about the difference between ESP and General English.

1. Definition

ESP stands for English for Specific Purpose and can be described as to meet particular requirements of the learner. It makes the use of underlying strategies and different activities of the discipline it provides. Moreover, ESP is the central point of the language suitable to these activities in the terms of Lexis, Discourse and Genre, Register, Grammar and Study Skills. On the other hand, General English refers to the time in which the use of English was on peak. In fact, a movement occurs to promote the usage of English language all across the world as an official language, means mode of communication or conversation among two people belonged to different countries.

As per Hutchinson and Waters theory:

“ESP is an advance approach to language teaching in which all the choices related to content and strategy are supported on the learner’s reason for learning”.

English for Specific Purpose (ESP) use in particular teaching circumstances, it is an advance approach as compared to General English. The ESP Course has been designed for mature learners, either in an expert work situation or at a tertiary stage institution. ESP is usually designed for the students of intermediate and graduation level. The majority of ESP courses assume a few basic knowledge of the language system.

2. Characteristics

a. Characteristics of ESP

ESP must have below characteristics:

- It is all based on the learner's requirement. Inspiration related to job.
- It has particular use of vocabulary.
- It is taught with the help of presentation and negotiation.
- It uses different tactics to accomplish its target.
- It is all about learner need goal-oriented.
- It is often used for e-commerce or business communication purposes.

The main focus of ESP is how to teach English with proper and easy method for the specific goals. It does not emphasis on the language, but tries to highlight the need of a learner such as, English for the Engineers, Lawyers, Doctors and Tourists etc. To teach a tourist guide English for communication, the class of ESP will be all about developing communication capabilities instead of other skills. Obviously, in tourism, your communication is really important. Without communication skills, one cannot interact with others. Therefore, English will be taught in a distinguish way as per the field demands. ESP put more significance on the training and selection of suitable content. The objective can be to develop a restricted English Proficiency.

On the other hand, General English alludes to context the educating of the basics of grammar, of expression and in addition of phonetics and gives a more grounded or weaker premise for conceivable later dialect studies. Regardless the dialect instructor both at an auxiliary and at a higher school is responsible for the right utilization of the dialect by its learners. It is all the more helpfully considered as giving abroad establishment rather an itemized and particular determination of objectives like ESP. Case in point, English courses taught in schools, have syllabus planned by instructors by disregarding the needs of understudies. It

regularly concentrates on training; Course content is harder to choose. It is vital for the substance in the syllabus to have high surrender esteem.

b. Characteristics of General English

General English consist below characteristics:

- It is a free time task.
- It has more freedom as compared to the ESP Course.
- It offers a soothing environment.
- It uses literary texts to produce effectual skills in students.
- It permits learners to acquire and improve general writing skills.

3. Conclusion

While concluding the discussion, we can say that English for Specific Purpose is language in context. On the other hand, General English is language in seclusion. Both are important for students to attain various skills to move confidently in the modern world. General English purpose is to cover all the skills whereas; ESP put stress on the needs of learner. People should be aware of ESP and General English difference. In an ESP course, language is used as a service rather than a Subject.