

Institute of IT and Business Administration

Contemporary Foreign Languages. The English Language. Curriculum for B1 level (Intermediate)

I. Introduction:

The course of Contemporary English has the following aims:

- to provide the students with fundamental knowledge of phonetics, grammar, vocabulary and stylistics;
- to teach the students to conduct a talk giving proper reasons to support the point of view or to contradict;
- to teach the students to participate in different discussions, to start a conversation, to continue and to finish a conversation and how to take an initiative during a conversation;
- to train skills in implementing their knowledge for solving problems, explaining the gist of the problem;
- to teach the students to understand, to check, to share the information on different topics;
- to train the students to use the language to provide the listener with the correct information and to give instructions ;
- to prepare the students for an effective interview and for switching from one problem to another.
- to teach the students to write different kinds of letters showing their involvement and interest, to comment on the events and the topic under discussion.

The course is designed for the students:

- who want to master their skills of Contemporary English;
- who need English in everyday situations for communicating with foreign colleagues using spoken English and writing official letters;
- who have basic skills in phonetics, grammar and vocabulary (elementary level)

The course is developed according to existing rules of international communication. The course is divided into topics to study different aspects. Each

topic includes necessary lexical and grammar material, cultural notes, professionally-oriented texts for reading.

The main attention is paid to business communication and each topic includes a great number of dialogues, role games and practice tasks.

The course provides development of basic skills: listening, writing, reading, speaking.

The course is based on the main principles of teaching from the least difficult material to the most difficult. Texts for reading , listening and writing tasks, practice tasks and speaking activities vary according to their difficulty.

The course is based on student's motivation to study, self-consciousness, self-reflection, creative work, group and pair work and project work.

The classes are conducted in specially equipped classes.

The level of language competence at the end of the course:

- The student possesses sufficient vocabulary (from 2,750 to 3,250 vocabulary items) allowing them to describe different spheres of life, to express personal opinion without hesitation and searching for proper words. Can use complex syntactic constructions.
- Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered at work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
- Can understand straightforward factual information about common everyday or job related topics, identifying both general messages and specific details, provided speech is clearly articulated in a generally familiar accent.
- Can communicate with some confidence on familiar routine and non-routine matters related to his/her interests and professional field. Can exchange, check and confirm information, deal with less routine situations and explain why something is a problem. Can express thoughts on more abstract, cultural topics such as films, books, music etc.
- Communicates with reasonable accuracy in familiar contexts; generally good control though with noticeable mother tongue influence. Errors occur, but it is clear what he/she is trying to express.
- Has a sufficient vocabulary to express him/herself with some circumlocutions on most topics pertinent to his/her everyday life such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events.
- Shows sufficient control of grammar, avoids mistakes leading to misunderstanding and uses self-correction.
- Can produce statements of a certain length and fluency. Can show some hesitation choosing appropriate vocabulary or construction but the pauses are not long.
- Can start and finish conversations though they can be a little clumsy. Able to take part in conversations on familiar topics, invite other participants to take part in discussions.
- Uses a limited number of connectors to make a complete text. Switching from one topic to another can be noticeable.

II. Topics

1. Making a good first impression.
2. Comparing career paths and choices.
3. Effective speaking.
4. Presenting.
5. Talking about teaching and learning.
6. Describing cross-cultural experiences.
7. Business Travel.
8. Business Correspondence.
9. Final exam: Project assessment.

III. Bibliography

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19. Breaking News English. Available at: <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/>
20. Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

IV. Contents of the syllabus

#	Unit of study/ Topic	Number of academic hours
1.	Making a good first impression. Meeting new people. Introducing yourself to a group. Welcoming visitors. Tense review.	12
2.	Comparing career paths and choices. Discussing working practices. Talking about qualifications. Job responsibilities. Recognizing one's strengths and weaknesses. Modal verbs.	12
3.	Effective speaking. Body language. Developing conversations.	12
4.	Presenting. Being successful in presentations. Giving a formal presentation. Structuring presentations. Describing pie-charts, line graphs, bar charts. Comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, other ways of comparing. Numbers in presentations.	12
5.	Talking about teaching and learning. Higher Education. Assessment and examination, qualifications. Motivating learners.	12

6.	Describing cross-cultural experiences. Importance of cultural awareness. English as a global language. Language learning. Phrasal verbs.	12
7.	Business Travel. Plan travel. Reserving a flight, a train, a bus. Maps and directions. Itineraries. Reporting on a trip. Cardinal numbers. Distance and frequency. Prepositions of location and motion.	12
8.	Business Correspondence. Writing a formal letter / email. A letter/email of invitation /request/complaint. Transactional letters/emails. Register. Punctuation.	12
9.	Final exam: Project assessment.	4
	Total	100