



Welcome to our
WORLD OF ENGLISH



A2

Pre-intermediate
course overview

Dear student

Welcome to the British Council!

We hope you enjoy your course with us. In order to help you make the most of your classes with us, please take time to read through this information.

What are lessons like?



All the lessons are based around a main speaking or writing task. There are many different types of speaking tasks, for example problem-solving discussions, role-plays, presentations and telling stories. The tasks may be done in groups, pairs or presented individually. The writing tasks include writing formal emails, job application letters, reports and short stories. In addition to the main task, lessons include some listening and/or reading and language work. The language work can be grammar, vocabulary, functional language, pronunciation or a combination of the four.

Which lessons should I go to?



You can choose which lessons to attend based on the times that suit you and the lesson topics and descriptions that most interest you. You can book lessons online or on our app – available through Apple App Store or Google Play. You can also attend Virtual lessons with our teachers and other students via videoconferencing. The classes are face-to-face, live and allow you to participate fully, talking to the other students and the teacher.

How will I know I'm progressing?



During the lessons the teacher will provide correction and give you feedback on how well you carry out the tasks. Every tenth speaking lesson you will be formally assessed by the teacher. The teacher will assess your performance in the task and give you feedback through the Portal. The teacher will assign grades to the assessment criteria and give you a written comment so you know what you need to work on. At the end of the lesson the teacher will also ask you to reflect on your performance in the class and make some notes. This will help you identify what you can do well and areas you need to improve on. Refer to the CEFR performance criteria that you have been given which show you the objectives you are working towards at each level. All writing compositions that are produced as a result of a writing lesson are marked and graded by our teachers. You can access your marked composition, scores and an overall comment on the portal. It's a good idea to read the writing assessment criteria carefully so that you know exactly what the marker is looking for.

Can I talk to my teacher about my progress?



Yes. You can talk to your teachers about your general progress. Alternatively, you can book an appointment, myAdvisory, with one of our academic advisors on the Portal.

Can someone help me plan my learning?



Some of you may have specific goals for your learning while others may want to improve and gain confidence in using your English more generally. If you do have specific goals, or would like to formulate some, you can book a myAdvisory appointment to speak to one of our academic advisors on the Portal. They will talk to you about your objectives and help you create a Personalised Study Plan to guide your learning. For example, they can suggest which lessons may be most useful, give you tips on effective learning and ideas on how you can best help yourself learn outside class. This service is free of charge.

What can I do outside class?

In order to build your confidence and speed up your progress, there are lots of things you can do outside class.



- ⇒ Review your lesson notes. For example, read through the material again, note any new language items, and complete any exercises or tasks that were not done in class. Your teacher may also set homework that you can check yourself.
- ⇒ Use the online resources (A1-C1) on the Portal to practise your skills. Check out our website [LearnEnglish: http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/](http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/)
- ⇒ Download the free apps LeanEnglish Audio and Video, LearnEnglish Podcasts and LearnEnglish Grammar.
- ⇒ Read in English – if you are a keen reader, you can borrow a range of books for many different levels from the British Council. Reading extensively is an excellent way for you to improve your range of vocabulary. You can also read any number of newspapers, stories or other kinds of texts online.
- ⇒ Listen to English– listening to English TV, radio, films, podcasts and DVDs provides you with more practice in listening and can help you learn more about British culture.
- ⇒ Keep a vocabulary notebook – building up a range of vocabulary from your classes and from work you do outside class can also be a very useful tool: you can refer back to new words and phrases as often as you need to.

Who can I speak to if I have questions or need advice?



Speak to one of our Customer Services & Sales team and they will then put you in touch with the right person depending on the type of question you have. Alternatively, email myclassAcademic@britishcouncil.fr.

We really hope you enjoy your course!



Contact us

www.britishcouncil.fr
[01 49 55 73 00](tel:0149557300)

Pre-intermediate course overview A2

At Pre-intermediate level, lessons are based on a range of motivating themes to help develop your confidence in communicating in a variety of real life situations. The tasks are designed to help you meet the performance criteria for A2 level.



Oral production

Can give a simple description or presentation of people, living or working conditions, daily routines, likes/dislikes, etc. as a short series of simple phrases and sentences linked into a list



Oral interaction

Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters to do with work and free time. Can handle very short social exchanges but is rarely able to understand enough to keep conversation going of his/her own accord.



These are some of the themes and tasks:

Communicate with confidence in public

- interview a colleague about their job
- take part in a discussion about a project
- make requests and ask others for permission at work
- take part in conversations with friends, colleagues and strangers

Describing the world around us

- describe someone's physical appearance
- select somebody for a job
- describe a city to win 'City of the Year'
- describe an object to persuade others to buy it

Discussing options

- interview people about their companies and decide which one would be best to work for
- take part in a meeting between a HR manager and an employee
- interview and advise someone about a suitable job
- take part in a meeting to talk about improving staff morale

Travel and culture

- present a festival
- describe and answer questions about events in your life
- compare your culture to the UK
- ask and answer about aspects of life in your country

Collaboration and presentation

- effective presentations
- group projects
- gathering and presenting information
- presenting on health and safety

Letting people know about yourself

- talking about work
- talking about change
- talking about fashion in your country
- places I know well

Language focus



Language focus forms part of the lessons. You will learn new vocabulary and phrases, work on pronunciation and explore some grammar structures to help you expand the range of language you use and improve your accuracy. Your teacher will give you feedback on your speaking to help you improve to meet the performance criteria for A2 level.

General linguistic range



Can perform and respond to basic language functions, such as information exchange and requests and express opinions and attitudes in a simple way. Can socialise simply but effectively using the simplest common expressions and following basic routines. Can make and respond to invitations, suggestions, apologies, etc.

These are a few of the language areas you will learn and practise at Pre intermediate level:

- Asking for and giving opinions
- Comparative language
- Adjectives to describe jobs
- Questions to ask about people's jobs
- Making and responding to requests and asking for and giving or refusing permission
- Starting, maintaining and closing conversations with friends, colleagues and strangers
- Polite question forms
- Health words and phrases
- Adjectives for describing products
- Defining relative clauses and pronouns
- Shop names and shopping items
- Countable and uncountable nouns and quantity words
- Shopping phrases
- Phrases for making complaints
- Phrases for apologising
- Food vocabulary
- Comparatives
- Phrases for asking for and giving preference
- Useful phrases for booking a holiday
- Vocabulary related to holiday packages
- Places / buildings in a town or city
- Phrases for giving directions
- Verb and noun collocations for hobbies and sports
- Asking questions about habits
- Past tenses (simple, continuous, perfect)
- Expressions with money
- Adverbs of frequency
- Phrases to describe causes
- Imperatives

Methodology



We use a task-based approach: this means that in each lesson you will take part in a communicative task based on a real life topic of interest. The task is usually done in pairs or groups. The teacher sets up the task and provides appropriate language input and feedback on your performance to help you develop range and accuracy of language use at word, sentence and text level.

Assessment



You will be formally assessed by the teacher every ten lessons. The teacher will look at your performance in the task and give you feedback. We also ask you to self-assess your performance after each lesson and identify areas that you have done well in and what you need to work on.

A2 Oral and language CEFR descriptors

OP	Oral Production	Can give a simple description or presentation of people, living or working conditions, daily routines, likes/dislikes, etc. as a short series of simple phrases and sentences linked into a list.
01.	Sustained monologue: describing experience Can use simple descriptive language to make brief statements about and compare objects and possessions. Can explain what he/she likes or dislikes about something. Can describe his/her family, living conditions, educational background, present or most recent job. Can describe people, places and possessions in simple terms.	
02.	Sustained monologue: putting a case (e.g. in a discussion) Can briefly express his/her opinion and justify it simply with a reason.	
03.	Presenting information Can read a very short, rehearsed statement, e.g. to introduce a speaker, propose a toast.	
04.	Planning: Can recall and rehearse an appropriate set of phrases from his/her repertoire.	
05.	Spoken fluency Can construct phrases on familiar topics with sufficient ease to handle short exchanges, despite very noticeable hesitation and false starts.	
06.	Propositional precision: Can communicate what he/she wants to say in a simple and direct exchange of limited information on familiar and routine matters, but in other situations he/she generally has to compromise the message.	
07.	Compensating: Can use an inadequate word from his/her repertoire and use gesture to clarify what he/she wants to say. Can identify what he/she means by pointing to it (e.g. I'd like this, please).	
08.	Phonological control: Pronunciation is generally clear enough to be understood despite a noticeable foreign accent, but conversational partners will need to ask for repetition from time to time.	
OI	Oral Interaction	Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters to do with work and free time. Can handle very short social exchanges but is rarely able to understand enough to keep conversation going of his/her own accord.
01.	Understanding a native speaker: Can understand questions and instructions addressed carefully and slowly to him/her and follow short, simple directions.	
02.	Conversation: Can ask how people are and react to news. Can understand everyday expressions aimed at the satisfaction of simple needs of a concrete type, delivered directly to him/her in clear, slow and repeated speech by a sympathetic speaker.	
03.	Informal discussion: Can generally identify the topic of discussion around him/her when it is conducted slowly and clearly. Can discuss what to do in the evening, at the weekend. Can make and respond to suggestions. Can agree and disagree with others.	
04.	Formal discussions and meetings: Can exchange relevant information and give his/her opinion on practical problems when asked directly, provided he/she receives some help with formulation and can ask for repetition of key points if necessary. Can say what he/she thinks about things when addressed directly in a formal meeting, provided he/she can ask for repetition of key points if necessary.	
05.	Goal oriented co-operation: Can understand questions and instructions addressed carefully and slowly to him/her and follow short, simple directions.	

A2 Oral and language CEFR descriptors

OI	Oral Interaction	
06.		Transactions: Can get simple information about travel, use public transport: buses, trains, and taxis, ask and give directions, and buy tickets. Can ask about things and make simple transactions in shops, post offices or banks. Can give and receive information about quantities, numbers, prices, etc. Can make simple purchases by stating what is wanted and asking the price. Can order a meal.
07.		Information exchange: Can ask and answer simple questions, initiate and respond to simple statements in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics. Can ask and answer questions about themselves and other people, where they live, people they know, things they have. Can indicate time by such phrases as next week, last Friday, in November, three o' clock.
08.		Interviewing and being interviewed: Can make him/herself understood in an interview and communicate ideas and information on familiar topics, provided he/she can ask for clarification occasionally, and is given some help to express what he/she wants to. Can answer simple questions and respond to simple statements in an interview.
09.		Turn-taking: Can initiate, maintain and close simple, face-to-face conversation. Can ask for attention.
10.		Co-operating: Can indicate verbally when he/she is following.
11.		Asking for clarification: Can ask for clarification about key words or phrases not understood using stock phrases. Can say he/she didn't follow.
12.		Flexibility: Can adapt well rehearsed memorised simple phrases to particular circumstances through limited lexical substitution. Can expand learned phrases through simple recombinations of their elements.
13.		Thematic development: Can tell a story or describe something in a simple list of points that are logical and relevant.
14.		Coherence and cohesion: Can use the most frequently occurring connectors to link simple sentences in order to tell a story or describe something. Can link groups of words with a range of simple connectors like 'and', 'but' and 'because'.
GLR	General Linguistic Range	<p>Can perform and respond to basic language functions, such as information exchange and requests and express opinions and attitudes in a simple way.</p> <p>Can socialise simply but effectively using the simplest common expressions and following basic routines. Can make and respond to invitations, suggestions, apologies, etc.</p>
01.		Vocabulary range: Has a basic vocabulary repertoire of isolated words and phrases related to particular concrete situations.
02.		Vocabulary control: Can control a basic repertoire dealing with concrete everyday needs.
GA	Grammatical Accuracy	Shows only limited control of a few simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns in a learnt repertoire.
SA	Sociolinguistic Appropriateness	Can handle very short social exchanges, using everyday polite forms of greeting and address. Can make and respond to invitations, suggestions, apologies, etc.