



VIU ESL Achievement Scale

ESL 0230 Low Beginner Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- make simple present statements and questions with regular and irregular verbs
- talk about present activities using the present progressive verb tense
- introduce themselves and others
- use possessive pronouns
- demonstrate comprehension of short recorded conversations consisting of modified, slow speech about everyday topics
- recognize the main ideas and details of a highly modified recorded conversation
- produce third person singular -s and plural -s endings

ESL 0235 Low Beginner Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- write simple sentences using beginner level grammar and vocabulary, including “be” verbs, the simple present and the present progressive verb tenses
- distinguish parts of speech
- edit simple text for capitalization and punctuation
- preview, read, and identify the main idea and key details in a paragraph comprised of simple, basic level vocabulary and structures

ESL 0330 Beginner Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- expand vocabulary by using a dictionary to find parts of speech, use synonyms to add variety to speaking, and use context to guess meaning
- use the simple past verb tenses including regular and irregular verbs and future with 'be going to' in statements and questions
- discuss essential topics using elementary level structures and vocabulary
- listen for and take notes on main ideas and specific information in modified listening passages at a beginner level
- recognize reduced forms of speech, including reduced vowels
- pronounce –ed endings of words and use correct intonation in questions

ESL 0335 Beginner Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- plan, revise, edit and rewrite a well-structured, simple paragraph using the simple past with regular and irregular verbs
- find and identify the main idea and key details in a four to five paragraph article on a beginner level topic
- identify pronoun referents
- write compound sentences with *and*, *but*, *so*, and *because*

ESL 0430 Elementary Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- listen and take notes on main ideas and details in listening passages at an elementary level
- listen for exact words and phrases in an elementary level listening passage
- listen for intonation, word stress, and sentence stress to understand meaning and the speaker's attitude
- prepare for and participate in a group discussion and role play on specific topics
- ask for and give examples, ask for and give clarification, and express an opinion
- utilize prior knowledge of vocabulary and understand relationships between verbs and nouns
- correctly use modals of possibility, imperatives, comparative and superlative adjectives, and the future tense with '*will*'

ESL 0435 Elementary Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- write sentences using the present tense with adverbs of frequency
- write sentences about the future using '*will*'
- understand meaning from the context in elementary-level modified texts of $\frac{3}{4}$ page to one-page length
- find and identify the main idea and key details in a $\frac{3}{4}$ to one-page modified article on a cultural topic
- use a writing process to write well-structured descriptive and opinion paragraphs using simple sentences
- identify an author's purpose
- distinguish between fact and opinion

ESL 0530 Low Intermediate Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- comprehend main ideas and details of authentic listening passages, such as radio interviews and news reports using vocabulary and structure
- briefly summarize the main ideas and supporting points in listening passages
- interact in pairs and groups to give advice, make suggestions, ask for clarification, and offer explanations
- give a short, structured presentation using confident posture, making eye contact with the audience, and pausing to check for understanding
- identify and use correct syllable stress, intonation to show feelings, and linking sounds

ESL 0535 Low Intermediate Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- read and comprehend short non-simplified academic materials
- find and identify the main idea and key details in a $\frac{3}{4}$ to one-page academic article
- learn 10-20 academic words each week and use them in appropriate contexts
- use simple past, *used to*, and present perfect tenses
- use a writing process to write well-structured paragraphs with complex and compound sentences, avoiding run-on sentences and fragments
- use punctuation for complex and compound sentences
- use some cohesive devices to develop paragraph unity
- interpret visual information on authentic graphs, charts, and maps

ESL 0630 Intermediate Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- stress syllables correctly before suffixes
- predict content, comprehend, and take notes on a variety of authentic listening passages, including a PowerPoint presentation, a group discussion, and conversations between classmates
- use adjectives such as *enough*, *not enough*, and *too* + *nouns* as well as *so* + *adjective* + *that* correctly in sentences
- use indefinite pronouns with correct subject-verb agreement
- explain causes and effects
- offer suggestions using modals of advice
- prepare, practice, and deliver a timed, short presentation using a visual aid
- make comparisons with *as ... as*
- distinguish between the simple past, past progressive, and present perfect verb tenses and use them appropriately

ESL 0635 Intermediate Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- read and comprehend short non-simplified academic material and identify main ideas and rhetorical purpose
- learn 10-20 academic words each week and demonstrate an ability to use them in appropriate contexts
- find and identify the main idea and key details in a 1 ½ to 2-page authentic academic article
- structure paragraphs correctly according to purpose and write simple 3-5 paragraph essays, to express comparisons-contrasts, opinions, and causes and effects
- write complex sentences with dependent clauses using appropriate punctuation and connectors

ESL 0720 TOEFL & Academic Listening

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- identify the topic and main idea of conversation and lectures
- listen for details
- take notes on main points of listening passages
- determine attitude and purpose of a speaker
- make inferences and predictions
- categorize information
- summarize a process
- determine vocabulary from context
- use key TOEFL vocabulary words

ESL 0722 TOEFL & Academic Reading

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- skim reading passages to determine the main idea and overall organization of ideas
- determine vocabulary from context
- recognize and understand 35 new academic words per week from the list at <http://www.uefap.com/vocab/select/awl.htm>
- recognize referents
- simplify meanings of sentences
- recognize topic sentences and supporting sentences and their placement in a reading passage
- find factual information
- make inferences from stated facts
- infer rhetorical purpose
- select appropriate summaries of reading passages

ESL 0730 High Intermediate Speaking, Listening and Pronunciation

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- comprehend and take notes using an outline on a variety of academic listening passages
- use restrictive and nonrestrictive adjective clauses to provide extra information
- express encouragement, surprise and approval in an academic discussion
- refute an argument in an academic setting using examples as support
- Prepare, practice, and deliver a well-structured academic presentation using research to support main ideas
- understand and use English intonation patterns and word stress

ESL 0735 High Intermediate Reading, Writing, and Grammar

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand and apply basic principles of the academic writing process such as brainstorming, outlining, drafting, citing sources and revising in a five-paragraph academic essay
- control most kinds of sentence structures and grammatical forms, including gerunds, infinitives, past, present, and perfect verb tenses as well as complex noun phrases
- demonstrate comprehension of a variety of multi-page, non-simplified academic passages
- learn 15-20 academic words each week and demonstrate an ability to use them in appropriate contexts
- paraphrase and use quotations to avoid plagiarism
- identify the main idea and key details in a two to three-page academic article
- write a five-paragraph essay demonstrating basic organizing elements such as a thesis statement, topic sentences, summary, and transitions with clearly stated main ideas and supporting points while using words from the academic word list

ESL 0800 Public Speaking & Presentation Skills

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate effective physical delivery skills such as eye contact, gestures, stance, movement, and voice inflection
- prepare an effective visual aid as part of a presentation
- cite research sources using APA and incorporate researched material into a presentation
- prepare for a presentation by brainstorming, outlining, and practicing
- use language expressions to present visuals, to introduce different parts of a speech, to connect parts of a speech, and to introduce research
- evaluate speakers' organization, delivery, and effectiveness of presentations, both in self and others

ESL 0802 Accent Reduction

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- distinguish between strong and weak syllables and proper pronounce them
- link words together while speaking
- use important sound contrasts in their speaking
- develop a greater awareness of syllables
- learn the intonation and rhythm of English through communicative practice with sentences
- use proper mouth placement while speaking

ESL 0806 Academic Writing & Research Skills

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- use common academic prefixes, suffixes, and roots to determine meaning
- select a topic, outline, research, write, edit, and revise a five to seven-page academic research paper
- write an annotated bibliography
- paraphrase, quote, summarize and cite eight to ten sources in APA format

ESL 0810 Grammar Workshop & Editing

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate mastery of English verb tenses
- use passive and active voice appropriately
- punctuate sentences using commas, colons, semicolons, apostrophes, periods, and question, exclamation, and quotation marks
- self-edit writings for grammatical accuracy, parallel structure, redundancy, mechanics, and formatting

ESL 0817 Critical Thinking through News around the World

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- read a variety of newspaper articles while maintaining objectivity
- understand the importance of looking at all sides and collecting all available evidence
- raise critical questions and challenge the underlying assumptions of oneself as well as the writer
- develop and improve vocabulary, word recognition skills, and reading comprehension strategies
- compare and contrast various interpretations of the same event
- distinguish facts from opinions
- summarize and synthesize ideas from multiple sources
- discuss various current events and their impact on various global economic, social, political, and environmental issues

ESL 0821 TOEFL Speaking

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- plan their response for free-choice and paired-choice questions
- note the main points of the given reading passages
- note the main points of the listening passages
- use their notes to provide responses to various topics
- use a topic statement, supporting statements, and transitions to how the ideas are related

ESL 0823 TOEFL Writing

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- read and take notes on the main points of selected academic passages in a short period of time
- listen and take notes on the main points of selected academic passages
- review the notes they have taken on the reading and listening passages and describe how the ideas in each of the passages are related
- write an outline
- write a topic statement and supporting paragraphs
- produce 5-paragraph essays with a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- review and edit their own writing

ESL 0840 English for Business Professionals

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- communicate orally using American English on topics of a global business nature in a variety of situations
- deliver structured presentations
- appropriately use terms and expressions related to international business
- initiate and participate in structured conversations about business
- develop and apply the basic skills, including listening, speaking, interacting, and negotiating, to effectively participate in business meetings
- develop cultural sensitivity and understanding that will lead to effective global business communications
- write workplace emails, common types of business letters, memos, and short reports using appropriate vocabulary and level of formality

ESL 0850 IELTS Preparation

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a solid understanding of the format of IELTS
- be familiar with general and academic topics discussed in IELTS
- effectively answer common IELTS writing topics
- express their opinions with supporting details on IELTS speaking topics
- utilize various test-taking strategies to answer test questions
- answer all sections of IELTS test under timed conditions