



## Course Description: General English

### Who is this course for?

This programme is for students over the age of 16 and is suitable for students who wish to improve their general English for personal reasons, professional reasons, or for future studies in English.

The lessons cover all aspects of English: speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

There are 20 or 28 lessons (15 or 21 hours) of General English classes. At higher levels, the course can be combined with Exam Preparation classes (IELTS, FCE and CAE).

### What level classes are there?

The programme has five levels:

1. **Elementary** (CEFR Basic User A1 - A2: Lower) Can communicate with enough language for basic needs and simple situations but still finds normal day-to-day communication difficult.
2. **Pre-Intermediate** (CEFR Basic User A2: Higher) Can communicate with enough language for everyday practical needs. However, in more complex situations still finds it difficult to use appropriate language and to be fluent and accurate, so communication may break down.
3. **Intermediate** (CEFR Independent User B1) Can communicate effectively in most situations but may still have problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation. Sometimes has to

work hard to communicate effectively.

4. **Upper Intermediate** (CEFR Independent User B2) Can communicate effectively in most situations. May still have problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation but usually can easily re-phrase in order to be understood.
5. **Advanced** (CEFR Proficient User C1) Can communicate effectively in all but the most difficult situations. May still have some problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation but these only interfere with communication at a more sophisticated level.

We do not offer Beginner (CEFR A1) level classes except as individual tuition and we also do not normally offer Proficiency (CEFR C2) level classes.

### Course Objectives

Short courses aim to give students a language boost to help them increase their confidence and fluency, particularly in listening and speaking, and to motivate and inspire them to learn English.

Longer courses aim to help students improve the level of their English through a combination of language input and practice activities in all four skills.

Our courses aim to increase students' understanding of and sensitivity towards other cultures.

They also aim to help students develop the study skills that will enable them to continue to learn English after their course as part of a broader educational

process that equips students for lifelong learning.

### **Teaching Methods:**

We use the Communicative Approach to teaching. Students *use* English during the lessons to *learn* English. Students are expected to work together and participate in class activities. They are asked to work out rules for themselves and encouraged to become active learners. In general, more time is given to spoken English than written English, although all skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening are practised in the class.

Teachers choose the classroom activity to suit the needs of students and the aims of the student. As a result, lessons may include audio-visual materials, lessons, role plays and drama, letter and report writing, individual and group presentations, language games and competitions and practice tests.

### **Placement:**

Students' level of English will be formally assessed on arrival. This placement will be reviewed by the teacher and the student during the first week.

### **Assessment of Progress:**

There will be homework set two or three times per week. Students are expected to complete this in their free time, in the school or at home.

Teachers use regular informal progress tests to check and confirm students' learning and progress throughout the course. More formal skills tests assess their progress every month. Students also have monthly tutorials at which progress is discussed and targets set.

These tests and tutorials help decide if students are ready for the next level of classes, or need to study for more time at

the same level. For students who wish to join exam classes we have formal tests to help assess suitability,

### **Certification and Reports:**

All students receive an LTC certificate and leaver's report when they finish their programme, provided they have attended 80% or more of their lessons.

For students under 18 we are able to send progress reports and end-of-course reports to parents.

### **Books and Learning Materials:**

The schools loan the students a coursebook. LTC's self-study facilities have a range of student books, practice materials, graded readers and audio and audio-visual resources for students.

### **Examinations:**

The schools can arrange for students to take the IELTS test or the Cambridge Exams – KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE. (See Course Description: Exam Preparation Courses).

### **Progression:**

Students are able to move between levels after the start of their course only if their tutors agree. Students are able to move between classes based on the availability of classes. The schools offer advice on progression to further and higher education in the UK.

### **Level 1 Elementary (A1-A2 Lower) will help students:**

**Listen and respond** to spoken English, including simple stories, statements, questions and basic instructions.

**Speak to communicate** with the "survival English" they will need outside

class as well as giving basic information about feelings and opinions on topics.

**Read and understand** short texts on familiar topics.

**Read and get information** from common signs and symbols.

**Write to communicate** basic information.

### **Level 2 Pre-Intermediate (A2 Higher) will help students:**

**Listen and respond** to spoken English, including straightforward information, short narratives, explanations and instructions.

**Speak to communicate** information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics and to engage in discussion with one or more people to share understanding about familiar topics.

**Read and understand** short, straightforward texts on familiar topics.

**Read and obtain information** from short documents, signs and symbols.

**Write to communicate** information with some awareness of the person reading.

### **Level 3 Intermediate (B1) will help students:**

**Listen and respond** to spoken language, including straightforward information and narratives, and follow straightforward explanations and instructions, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

**Speak to communicate** information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

**Engage in discussion** with one or more people, making relevant points and

responding to what others say to reach an understanding about familiar topics.

**Read and understand** short, straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and without help.

**Read and obtain information** from a variety of everyday sources.

**Write to communicate** information and opinions with some adaptation to the intended audience.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for IELTS at this level.)

### **Level 4 Upper Intermediate (B2) will help students:**

**Listen and respond** to spoken language, including information and narratives, and follow explanations and instructions of varying lengths. Responses are adapted to speaker, and to context.

**Speak to communicate** information, ideas and opinions, adapting speech and content for the listener(s) and medium.

**Engage in discussion** with one or more people in familiar and unfamiliar situations, making clear and relevant contributions that respond to what others say and produce a shared understanding about different topics.

**Read and understand** straightforward texts of varying length on a variety of topics accurately and independently.

**Read and obtain information** from a wide variety of different sources.

**Write to communicate** information, ideas and opinions clearly using appropriate length, format and style for the purpose and audience.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for Cambridge First Certificate and for IELTS at this level.)

**Level 5 Advanced (C1) will aim to help students:**

**Read and understand** a range of texts of varying complexity accurately and independently.

**Read and obtain information** of varying length and detail from different sources.

**Write to communicate** information, ideas and opinions clearly and effectively, using length, format, register and style appropriate to purpose, content and audience.

**Listen and respond** to spoken language, including extended information and narratives, and follow detailed explanations and multi-step instructions of varying length, adapting response to speaker, medium and context.

**Speak to communicate** straightforward and detailed information, ideas and opinions clearly, adapting speech and content to take account of the listener(s), medium, purpose and situation.

**Engage in discussion** with one or more people in a variety of different situations, making clear and effective contributions that produce outcomes appropriate to purpose and topic.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for Cambridge First Certificate and for IELTS at this level.)

**Further Information:**

Further information on the fees, application procedures and the schools can be found on our website at [www.ltc-english.com](http://www.ltc-english.com)