



WOLLONGONG COLLEGE AUSTRALIA

A College of the University of Wollongong

General English

English Studies 4

(CRICOS course codes: 057131G, 057140F)

Student Course Outline

ITC Education Ltd trading as
Wollongong College Australia
CRICOS 02723D
ABN 14105312329

English studies 4

Broad aims of course

The English Studies [ES] course is designed to prepare students for a world where English is a medium of international communication. The course is topic based and designed to improve all macroskills with particular emphasis on speaking, listening, and associated microskills, including vocabulary development and pronunciation.

Course structure

ES is a full-time program of 20 hours per week with each cycle being of 5 weeks duration.

Attendance

Refer to the Student Handbook for attendance requirements.

Prerequisites and articulation

All students sit a WCA placement test on entering the College.

- No minimal entry to English Studies 1
- Minimal entry to English Studies 2 is English Studies 1 or 3.0 IELTS or equivalent.
- Minimal entry to English Studies 3 is English Studies 2 or 3.5 IELTS or equivalent.
- Minimal entry to English Studies 4 is English Studies 3 or 4.0 IELTS or equivalent.
- Minimal entry to English Studies 5 is English Studies 4 Stage 1 and 2 or 4.5 IELTS or equivalent.

Course description

All ES courses run in five-week cycles. ES has five levels (ES1–ES5), which contextualise language skills within high-interest topics with an international perspective. A full range of language skills are programmed at each of the levels with the emphasis on speaking skills (discussion and conversation), phonology and listening skills. Grammar and functions in ES are presented within the context of a topic. To meet the interests and needs of students, the time spent on topics may be adjusted.

English studies 4

Specific objectives

Speaking

At the successful completion of this level students can:

- use phonemic script to check the correct pronunciation of new vocabulary with the aid of a dictionary.
- initiate conversation and sustain a conversation using a variety of conversational gambits.
- initiate and participate in a range of formal and informal situations showing awareness of register.
- understand and give a series of complex spoken instructions .
- express opinions using a limited range of modality and the language of speculation.
- take part in discussions and debates of current issues in the media.
- use word stress and sentence stress correctly enough so as not to strain comprehension.
- present short talks on pre-prepared topics.

Writing

At the successful completion of this level students can:

- write in a variety of formal and informal registers.
- use a range of linking words and cohesive devices to write sentences with a fair degree of fluency.
- use a range of cohesive devices to write short paragraphs.
- use pronouns and reference words.
- show evidence of having mastered the conventions of spelling and punctuation (full-stop, capitalisation, comma and full stop).
- express ideas in the form of journal writing and use this to self-edit work.

Listening

At the successful completion of this level students can:

- answer factual questions following a brief news item presented on video or audio tape.
- listen for references to past, present and future.
- listen to detailed descriptions and comparisons.
- listen to an interview and identify opinions and factual information.
- identify topic shift in casual conversation.
- identify contracted and weak forms in spoken language.
- interpret a speaker's attitude.

Reading

At the successful completion of this level students can:

- construct questions which the learner believes the article will be about and quickly scan the article for answers and confirmation of predictions.
- infer meaning of words using derivatives and grammatical clues to a limited extent.
- understand unfamiliar key words in context with limited assistance of an English-English dictionary.
- quickly skim an authentic magazine or newspaper article for gist.
- make detailed prediction of content from headings and sub-headings and pictures.
- identify the writer's purpose and bias in a newspaper or magazine article.
- make inferences based on material read.
- identify topic sentences.

Course outline in weeks

Modules in ES4 provide a core of grammar, vocabulary, functions and skills. To reinforce learning, these modules are revised throughout the cycle. Modules in ES4 are based on the text Cunningham, S & Moor, P 2005, *New Cutting Edge – Pre-Intermediate*, Longman, UK. The series includes a teacher's book, a classroom book with CDs, and a self-study workbook with answers and CDs. Purchase of this text is compulsory for this course.

Supplementary exercises for further practice of the grammar covered in each module are given as homework. These exercises are from the textbook Murphy, R. 1994 *English Grammar in Use – Intermediate*, Cambridge University Press.

Teachers and classes will work together to decide which modules will be studied each cycle according to class interest and needs. Each module will be studied over a one-week period and will include a short informal assessment.

Module 1 Leisure and Lifestyle

Language skill	Talking about sport & leisure activities Interviewing a classmate
Language focus	Simple present Revision of question forms/tag questions Subject and object questions Using “going”, “playing”, “doing” for sports Adverbs of frequency
Pronunciation	Using stress in questions Stressed / unstressed syllables in words Using phonemic script
Writing	Compiling a fact file about a classmate
Focus on Australia	Popular Australian sports Beach safety and surfing

Module 2 Important Firsts

Language skill	Expressing positive & negative feelings Telling a story
Language focus	Past Simple Time phrases used in the past: at, on, in, ago
Pronunciation	Focus on “ed”

Writing	Writing a recount of the excursion Linking ideas in a story using but, so, because, then
Focus on Australia	“Aussie” excursion Australia’s native animals

Module 3 At rest, at work

Language skill	Talking about daily routines & jobs Identifying the most important qualities for getting a job Asking & responding to questions in a job interview
Language Focus:	Expressing obligation in the present using should / shouldn’t, have to / don’t have Expressing ability / permission using can / can’t
Pronunciation	Using polite intonation to ask & answer questions
Writing	Preparing a personal job resume
Focus on Australia	Australian culture

Module 4 Special occasions

Language skill	Talking about special days Talking about different social customs
Language focus	Present continuous & simple present Present continuous for future arrangements
Pronunciation	Phrases for special occasions / polite intonation Dates: months / years Pronunciation of “th”
Writing	Writing an invitation
Focus on Australia	Important celebrations in Australia

Module 5 Appearances

Language skill	Describing physical appearance Talking about clothes and complimenting friends Asking for assistance in a shop
Language focus	Comparative & superlative adjectives Describing people: present and past continuous
Pronunciation	Comparatives & superlatives Using word stress
Writing	Describing a classmate

Focus on Australia

Class excursion: shopping questionnaire and survey to be completed in Wollongong. (This may be combined with art gallery excursion see Module 9)

Module 6 Time off

Language skill

Talking about holidays: interviewing a classmate

Booking a hotel

Discussing future plans

Language focus

Expressing intentions and wishes: going to, planning to, would like to, would rather

Making predictions: will & won't

Pronunciation

Using contractions

Australian slang and idioms

Writing

Writing a postcard

Group work: Writing a schedule for a day in a chosen destination in Australia eg a day in Sydney

Each group should present their schedule to the class.

Focus on Australia

Australia's favourite holiday destinations

Module 7 Ambitions and dreams

Language skill

Talking about past achievements

Talking about dreams and ambitions

Language focus

Present perfect and past simple with time words

Irregular verbs

Revision: expressing intentions and wishes: going to, planning to, would like to, would rather

Pronunciation

Regular / irregular verbs

Writing

Writing a short autobiography

Focus on Australia

Famous Australians in music: John Butler, Archie Roach

Australian popular music-watching and singing along with some famous Australian performers

Module 8 Countries and cultures

Language skill	Identifying geographical features Asking for & giving directions Using correct countries / nationalities / languages Participating in a class geography quiz
Language focus	Articles Quantifiers with countable & uncountable nouns
Pronunciation	Using polite intonation Word stress for countries & nationalities
Writing	Group work writing a treasure hunt
Focus on Australia	The map of Wollongong Watching and discussing an Australian news report from "Behind the News"

Module 9 Old and new

Language skill	Talking about the past Predicting / guessing the future Retelling a story
Language focus	Expressing possibility using may, might, will Present tense after if, when and before Past simple / past perfect
Pronunciation	Storytelling techniques: pausing and stressing for effect
Writing	Writing a traditional folk tale or legend
Focus on Australia	Aboriginal culture: art, religion and legends. The Stolen Generation: Discussion and excerpts from the video "The Rabbit Proof Fence" Excursion to Wollongong Art Gallery: Exhibition and lecture on Aboriginal art. (This may be combined with shopping excursion see Module 5)

Module 10 Take care!

Language skill	Talking about the body and health Conducting a lifestyle and health survey Describing symptoms to a doctor or health official Telephoning a health official for assistance
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Language focus	Past continuous Using “used to” to talk about past habits
Pronunciation	Answering questions clearly / asking for clarification
Writing	Writing about past habits
Focus on Australia	Watching and discussing an Australian news report from “Behind the News” Reading and discussing a current newspaper article relating to health

Module 11 The best things in life

Language skill	Talking about hobbies and interests Interviewing a partner about the most important things in life Giving opinions Starting conversations and socialising Using idioms and slang
Language focus	Using the “gerund” to express likes and dislikes Expressing a wish using “would like to”
Pronunciation	Using friendly intonation to start a conversation
Writing	Preparing a short talk on a hobby or interest to present to the class
Focus on Australia	Socialising at an Australian party or barbecue

Module 12 Got to have it!

Language skill	Talking about inventions and innovations Describing an everyday object Discussing buying habits-class survey Giving opinions and making suggestions
Language focus	Present simple passive Past simple passive
Pronunciation	Using polite intonation for making suggestions
Writing	Group work: Students should design a new invention / product and present it to the class Writing a description of the invention
Focus on Australia	Popular Australian products: case study “Billabong”

Module 13 Choosing the right person

Language skill	Describing people's personalities Asking questions about someone's work experience
Language focus	Present perfect continuous with how long, for & since. Present perfect continuous and present perfect simple
Pronunciation	Contracted forms: "ve"
Writing	Completing a job application form
Focus on Australia	Watching and discussing an Australian news report from "Behind the News"

Module 14 Money, money, money

Language skill	Talking about spending habits and attitudes to money Using and understanding numbers: large numbers, decimals, percentages, monetary amounts. (Pair dictation) Dealing with money: methods of payment and investment
Language focus	Past perfect Past time words: already, just, never, before
Pronunciation	Large numbers, monetary amounts
Writing	Group work to present to class: Completing a household budget
Focus on Australia	Renting a property in Australia Australian real estate-playing Australian Monopoly

Module 15 Imagine....

Language skill	Talking about the weather Listening to a weather report Talking about current global problems and possible solutions Hypothesising about the future Agreeing and disagreeing
Language focus	Conditional sentences using would Using will & would
Pronunciation	Contracted forms: of will & would
Writing	Group work: planning a space colony. What would you take and why?
Focus on Australia	Environmental problems in Australia

Assessment for ES4

At the end of each module there will be a test focusing on the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading & writing.

Students are also expected to participate in class. Additional informal assessments may include oral presentations, in-class tests and quizzes and homework tasks.

An end of cycle WCA 1-6 Report assessing the four macroskills is written for all students completing their studies at the College.