

General English - Essential courses *(untutored version)*

Study Guide 2012

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1. The levels

General English courses	Council of Europe framework	University of Cambridge ESOL exams	IELTS	TOEFL (paper)	TOEFL (computer)	TOEIC
Advanced (C1)	C1 Proficient user	CAE (BEC 3)	6.0 - 7.0	560 - 600	220 - 250	900+
Pre-Advanced (B2+)	B2+ Independent user		5.5 - 6.0	520 - 560	190 - 220	800 - 900
Upper Intermediate (B2)	B2 Independent user	FCE (BEC 2)	5.0 - 5.5	480 - 520	160 - 190	725 - 800
Mid-Intermediate (B1+)	B1+ Independent user			440 - 480	130 - 160	605 - 725
Lower Intermediate (B1)	B1 Independent user	PET (BEC 1)		400 - 440	100 - 130	405 - 600
Elementary (A2)	A2 Basic user	KET				255 - 400
Pre-Elementary (A1)	A1 Basic user					

2. The structure of Net Languages courses

Each level contains 10 Units and a mid and end-level test (a test after unit 5 and a test at the end of unit 10). Each level is divided into 2 parts: Part A (units 1 - 5) and a mid-level test and Part B (units 6 - 10) and an end-of-level test.





Each unit is divided into 13 sections.










Each unit is developed around a topic. Here is an example of an index of the different sections of a unit:



Unit 3 - Wildlife

Contents

-  1. Start
Check what you know about rare animals.
-  2. Reading
Read about a rare bird.
-  3. Vocabulary
Learn some animal words and ways of talking about size.
-  4. Grammar
Study *can/can't*, present simple, short answers and articles.

- 
5. Listening
 Listen to an interview with a conservationist.
- 
6. Mid-Unit Review
 Review what you have studied so far.
- 
7. Forum (OPTIONAL)
 Share opinions about threatened animals. (This is an optional activity designed to give you extra writing practice.)
- 
8. Takeaway English
 Practise finding out how to get information about the size of things.
- 
9. Pronunciation
 Learn how to say numbers and fractions.
- 
10. Net Search (OPTIONAL)
 Discover more about endangered species. (This is an optional activity designed to give you extra reading and writing practice.)
- 
11. Review
 Review the work in the unit.
- 
12. Test
 Test what you have studied in this unit.
- 
13. Feedback
 Send us your feedback on this unit.

Unit Sections

Start

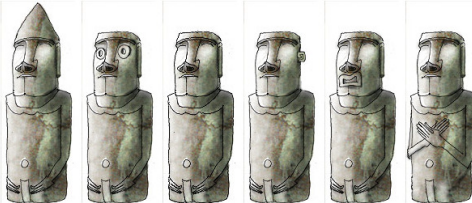
- 
1. Start
 In this section you will find out what you know about Easter Island.

1 2

2. The statues (continued).

Read this description of an Easter Island statue and choose the picture that best matches it.

The statues are more or less standardised and do not seem to be portraits of individual people. Each one consists of a broad, flat, legless body, with the arms at the sides, surmounted by a large, flat-topped head. The face is angular, with a low, overhanging brow; no obvious eyes, long, shapeless ears; a long, upwardly curved nose with enormous nostrils; and thin, slightly protruding lips above a massive and sharply marked chin.



This is an introduction to the topic of the unit, and may introduce some useful vocabulary as well. Typical exercise types include quizzes and questionnaires.

Reading

2. Reading

In this section you will read three diary pages.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. Dear diary...

Read these three diary pages. Choose the picture that goes with each one.

1. Sheryl's diary.

Tuesday, 23 May

It was the best day of my life. I got up early. I was so excited. I had breakfast in the garden of the hotel. It was a lovely day. It was a special day. I was in Hawaii, on an **island** called Kauai. It was my wedding day!

After breakfast I got ready. I got dressed. I went to the **hairstyler's**. Chuck phoned me at 11. "Are you ready?" he asked. "I love you," he said.

At **midday** Chuck and I got married. We got married by a waterfall. It was beautiful. Lots of our friends and family were there. The photographer took lots of photos. After lunch we all went for a boat ride. We drank champagne and watched the sunset. I was in **heaven!**



1.  2. 

This is a text with comprehension tasks; the text is used as a source for language work later in the unit; the comprehension tasks follow a progression from global, or gist, understanding, to a more detailed reading of the text. Vocabulary that is likely to be unfamiliar is linked to the Glossary, which provides a short, context-specific, definition of the word in question.

Vocabulary

3. Vocabulary


In this section you will study food and drink vocabulary, and some useful adjectives.

1 2 3 4 5 6

1. Food and drink.

Look and listen.

- coffee
- champagne
- sandwich
- orange juice**
- tea



This section focuses on vocabulary in the text, including areas such as word families, collocations, and word formation, as well as exercises designed to help learners deduce lexical meaning from context.

Grammar



4. Grammar

In this section you will practise verb patterns (*give me the brush* and *give the brush to me*), subject and object pronouns, and *can* for requests.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



1. Verb patterns: **give**.

Give is a verb that usually goes with the pattern **verb + noun + noun**:

Give me the brush.
I'll **give you a call.**

Give also takes the pattern **verb + noun + to + noun**:

This section develops two or three grammatical areas that emerge from the READING task. Grammar features covered typically include such areas as tense, aspect, modality, the article system, noun phrase construction etc. as well as syntax issues such as common verb patterns. This section has links to the GRAMMAR REFERENCE SECTION, that provides more comprehensive explanations of the grammar area under review.

Listening



5. Listening

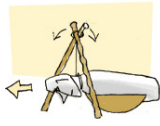
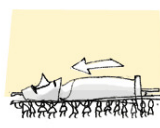
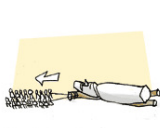
In this section you will listen to an illustrated talk about the Easter Island statues.

1 2 3 4 5

1. Did they rock them? (Part 1)

You will hear a short illustrated talk about how the Easter Island statues may have been constructed and erected. A number of theories are presented. Match each theory with the picture that represents it.

Listen to the first part of the talk and choose the best picture.



This comprises a sequence of listening tasks based on a recorded text – either monologue or dialogue – which develops the theme of the unit. The student can control the listening so that he/she can repeat the listening or a section of the listening as many times as is necessary.

Mid-Unit Review



6. Mid-Unit Review

In this section you will review what you have studied so far.

1

1. Do the test.

Choose the best option.

1. It was the best day of ____ life.
 the my me a
2. I got up early and ____ breakfast.
 take have had took
3. Yesterday Danny ____ me.
 phoned phones phone phoning
4. Yesterday ____ my birthday.
 was is did had
5. I took the bus into town and ____ shopping.
 go went do did
6. The bus was full of people; it was very ____.
 nervous frightened terrible crowded

This section is designed to encourage the student to reflect on whether he/she has learnt the points presented in mainly the vocabulary and grammar sections of the unit. There are 15 multiple choice questions.

Forum (Optional)



7. Chat

1. Family puzzles.

Look at these two [lateral thinking](#) puzzles about family members. Can you find a solution to them?

The twins.
 Identical twins go into a bar. They both order the same drink. One of the twins is very [thirsty](#) and drinks very fast, while the other twin drinks much more slowly. The twin who drinks slowly dies afterwards. Why?

Check Answer

The married couple and the plane crash.
 Alan and Carol are a very happily married couple. One day Carol takes Alan to the airport and watches as he [boards](#) the 8.30 plane to London. She then goes home to watch a film. The film is interrupted by a [news flash](#). The 8.30 plane to London has crashed killing all the passengers. Although Carol loves her husband very much, she doesn't react and continues to enjoy her film. What's the explanation?

Check Answer

Can you explain the two puzzles? Write your ideas and post them on the [Noticeboard](#) in the Study Room.

In this section learners are invited to respond to the topic of the unit and the content of the READING text, by asking and answering questions to other students on the course at their level. Questions and answers are placed on the level and unit-specific forum.

Takeaway English

8. Takeaway English

In this section you will practise finding out how to get information about the size of things.

1 2 3 4

2. Watch again.

Watch the video again, and write the missing words from the conversation.



This is the section that provides learners with useful functional and phrase book-type language, usually situationally based (e.g. At the doctor's; Booking an airline ticket), and is presented by means of a dialogue.

In the tool bar in the videos, the "cc" symbol will activate the subtitles.

Pronunciation

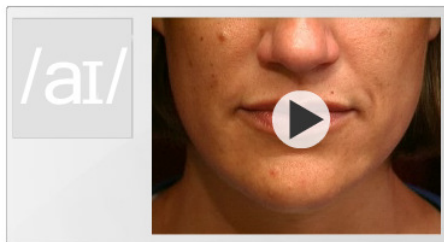
9. Pronunciation

In this section you will practise different pronunciations of the letter *i*.

1 2 3 4 5

1. The letter *i*.

Click and listen.



This section looks at specific features of pronunciation that have emerged in the LISTENING or TAKEAWAY ENGLISH sections. The focus is mainly on recognition – e.g. discriminating the difference between pairs of sounds.

Netsearch (Optional)

10. Net Search (OPTIONAL)


In this section you will find information about things you can make to help you survive in the wilderness. (This is an optional activity designed to give you extra reading and writing practice.)

1

Post and discuss in the Forum.

1. Search for information.

Look at these pictures. Imagine that you are lost in the wilderness (in the forest, mountains or desert) and you have these items. How could you make a fire with a drink can and a bar of chocolate? Use your imagination, and then search the Internet to find out if you are right.



Post your explanation of how to make a fire in the [Forum](#). Compare it with other students' explanations.

Here the learners are given guided tasks exploiting the information available on the internet. Tasks are specific to the theme of the unit, and may involve collecting information, comparing different sites, writing quiz questions etc, and posting their results for other students to read.

Review

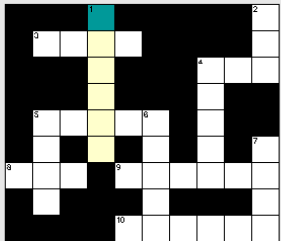
11. Review

In this section you will review the work in the unit.

1 2 3

3. Crossword.

1 - down
This is an Australian animal that comes out at night.



TIP: Try doing these exercises again and see if you can do better this time.

In this section the student can review some of the lexical and grammatical areas studied in the unit through exercise types such as crosswords, word ordering and gap-filling. Suggestions are also given as to which exercises in the unit the students could usefully re-do.

At the end of this section there is a link to a pdf document which contains a summary of the important language in the unit.

Language Review

[See and print the Language Review.](#)



Test



12. Test

In this section you will test what you have studied in this unit.

1

1. Do the test.

Choose the best option.

- What is the ____ of this computer?
 - way
 - weigh
 - weight
 - wait
- How big is the ____ on that computer?
 - screen
 - scene
 - plain
 - seen
- I'm interested ____ this laptop. Can you give me some information about it?
 - at
 - of
 - on
 - in
- How much does it ____?
 - way
 - weigh
 - weight
 - wait
- What is the ____ of this mobile?
 - price
 - prize
 - cost
 - value

In this section the student is tested on vocabulary, grammar and functional language practised in the unit. The student is awarded a mark out of 5 for vocabulary, a mark out of 5 for grammar and a mark out of 5 for functional language. The results of this test contribute to the student's final mark.

Feedback



13. Feedback

In this section you will send us your feedback on this unit.

- What did you think of this unit?
 - It was too easy.
 - It was too difficult.
 - It was about right.
- What did you think of the topics?
 - They were interesting.
 - They were not interesting.
- Did you like the following sections?

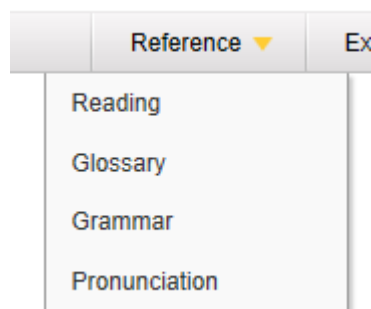
	Yes	No		Yes	No
1. Start	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	7. Forum (OPTIONAL)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Reading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	8. Takeaway English	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Vocabulary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	9. Pronunciation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Grammar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	10. Net Search (OPTIONAL)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Listening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	11. Review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Mid-Unit Review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	12. Test	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
- What is your evaluation of this unit?
 - Excellent
 - Very good

The format for this section is standard across units. It consists of a form that students fill in as feedback on the unit – the level of difficulty, enjoyment etc.

3. Tools and resources available in the courses

i. Reference

In “Reference” you can find the following resources:



Reading

This link opens up a window with the text from the Reading section of the unit. This means that students can see language in context in other sections of the course.

Glossary

This link opens up a list of words with definitions which are linked to underlined words in the unit.

Grammar

The link to “Grammar” opens up a level-specific grammar reference for students to use at any time.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation netlanguages®

Click on the symbol once to hear the sound and the word.

i: sheep	ɪ ship	ʊ book	u: blue	ɪə ear	eɪ train	
e egg	ə banana	ɜ: bird	ɔ: walk	ʊə fuel	ɔɪ boy	əʊ boat
æ apple	ʌ money	ɑ: car	ɒ dog	ɔə chair	aɪ light	aʊ cow
p paper	b baby	t ticket	d duck	tʃ teacher	dʒ bridge	k cake
g goat						
f coffee	v driver	θ three	ð feather	s snake	z zebra	ʃ fish
ɜ television						
m mouse	n nose	ŋ ring	h horse	l ladder	r rose	w worm
j yacht						

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This opens up the phonemic chart. Students can click on each phoneme to hear the sound of the phoneme in isolation and in a word.

ii. Record yourself and Dictionary

Record yourself



Students have access to the “record yourself” tool which allows students to record themselves and save these files. This tool is designed to help students to improve their pronunciation. The student can listen to themselves and compare their recording to the original.

Dictionary



The dictionary is an online dictionary which allows students to translate words from English to other languages on the list.


iii. Extras



Interactive English

Interactive English netlanguages®

Current issue	Archive
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Interactive English – May 2012

Bid to use app to sweeten dreams

This month's Interactive English
 Sleep
 More about sleep
 Expressions with sleep
 Video discussion

PDF worksheets
 Print this month's Interactive English

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Additional Resources

Additional Resources netlanguages®

Online reading	Listening and video material
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In Additional Resources you can find links to useful listening and video material as well as online reading material suitable for language learners.

Listening and video material

For learners (intermediate +):

- **BBC Learning English**
Authentic listening material for learners of English, with transcripts and a glossary.
- **VOA Learning English**
American and international news and current affairs in simplified English.

General news:

- **BBC Radio**
British news, feature reports, interviews and more.
- **C-SPAN**
American politics and public affairs. Videos, articles and podcasts.

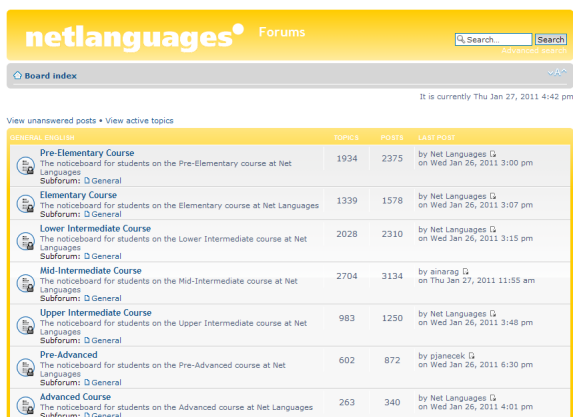
Videos and music:

- **YouTube**
User-created videos of all kinds, including music, interviews, humour and more.
- **Rolling Stone**
Video clips and interviews with rock and pop stars.

Radio selection:

- **BBC World Service**
Programmes from the United Kingdom designed for listeners around the world.
- **CBC Radio**
National radio from Canada.
- **NPR: Fresh Air from WHY**
Popular U.S. radio talk show of contemporary arts and issues.

Forums



The Forums are used for the Forum and Netsearch section tasks. You can also use the forums to contact other students studying the same level as you.

4. Assessment

Marks are awarded as follows:

Unit tests	Marks for each test
Vocabulary	50 (5 items per unit)
Grammar	50 (5 items per unit)
Functional language	50 (5 items per unit)
Mid-level exam (Reading and listening)	50 (25 points for Reading and 25 points for Listening)
End-level exam (Reading and listening)	50 (25 points for Reading and 25 points for Listening)
Total	250