



Intensive English Program Course Description English Now!

The goal of English Now's Intensive English Program is to increase students' English language proficiency in a highly personalized and supportive environment. Our classes have a maximum of six students, so students benefit from instruction that supports their unique goals and learning styles. We think that our maximum class size of six may make our Intensive English Program classes the smallest in the United States. We invite you to experience how such a small class size can increase your comfort level speaking with your classmates and instructor, and help you succeed academically.

Levels of English Proficiency. The program enrolls students from High Beginner to Advanced levels. Students enrolling in the program must complete a placement test, and students are placed in groups with other students who are working at a similar level of English proficiency.

Curriculum. During class, your teachers will explore all dimensions of language learning – speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will develop their conversation skills as they learn new grammatical constructions and expand their vocabulary. Our instructors use textbooks from the American Headway series and Top Notch/Summit textbook series, selecting the level of textbook appropriate to their classes. A given “level” in these textbook series takes three to four months to complete, but a student may progress more quickly (or more slowly) depending on his or her learning style and individual pace.

Afternoon Special Topics Workshops. English Now's Intensive English Program added Special Topics Workshops in 2014. Special Topics Workshops focus on specific skill areas and topics, and introduce students to other instructors, to create a well-rounded and comprehensive overall experience. See below for more information about this dynamic addition to our curriculum.

Homework. Homework is assigned on a daily basis and reinforces the learning that takes place in the classroom. Morning instructors may ask students to preview vocabulary or reading material, which will be discussed in class the next day. They may also assign workbook exercises, which are best done independently at each student's own pace. Afternoon special workshop instructors may give students longer-term assignments, such as writing a paragraph or essay, or preparing for a presentation.

Assessment. At the end of each term, teachers assess student progress and provide students with feedback on their strengths and challenge areas. Some teachers administer a written test to students at the end of the month. Other teachers prefer to check student progress more informally. All forms of student assessment are part of the learning process and provide students with valuable information about their progress. Students have the option to ask for additional testing if they would like more detailed feedback at the end of a term.

Progress from Month to Month. Students enrolling in the program must enroll for at least three weeks, but the average student in the program joins us for three to four months. Groups are restructured at the beginning of each term to reflect student progress. Typically, students continuing in the program will be with some classmates from prior months but will be joined by some new classmates. Each month we survey students to ask whether they will continue in the Intensive English Program or pursue other options, such as Conversation Classes or Private Lessons. Specialty classes, such as TOEFL preparation and English for Professionals, are popular with students who have reached the Advanced levels.

Program Calendar & Schedule. Our Intensive English Program is offered year-round, in four-week terms with 64 hours of instructional time. Visit our website or contact us regarding the next available start date. Also, sometimes it is possible for students to start in the program before the next start date. Classes meet Mondays through Thursdays, from 9:30am until 2:00pm.

Fridays at English Now! The Intensive English Program does not meet on Fridays, but students have many optional ways to extend their learning on Fridays:

- **Outings.** On Fridays, students may participate in optional group activities, visiting Washington, DC-area museums, monuments, and cultural destinations, in groups led by one of our instructors.
- **Parent Talk.** English conversation for parents or caretakers with their preschool-aged children.

Beyond The Classroom. Several programs at our school help English Now! students engage, enjoy and thrive:

- **Student Interest Groups.** Students can join a weekly student-led conversation on a topic of interests with other English Now! students who are enrolled in any of our programs.
- **Office Hours.** Students who have questions about life in the United States can schedule time to talk with a member of our staff. Potential topics include professional opportunities, volunteering, understanding U.S. schools, and graduate school applications.
- **ENcompass.** Our quarterly newsletter features articles and creative writing by students, interviews with our staff, and special features about things to do in the area. We encourage students to share their ideas by writing an article for Encompass.

Monthly Highlights. The English Now! Intensive English Program has several special features each month. These include:

- **Icebreaker.** On the first day of each term, we gather all of our students together for a typical American snack and a special activity designed to help everyone meet someone new.
- **Neighborhood Walk.** Each month, we invite students who are new to the area to join us for a walk around the neighborhood, so they can feel comfortable using resources in our local community.
- **Lunch Time Talks.** Once a month we offer an extended lunchtime, during which students join another class to participate in a special discussion led by a member of our staff. Topics vary, but often coincide with holidays or special events for the season.
- **Potluck lunch.** The second Thursday of each month is a very special day at English Now! Students and staff all bring food from around the world to share with each other.
- **Pancake breakfast.** On the third Thursday of the month, our director serves students a typical American breakfast of blueberry pancakes!
- **Meeting with the director.** During the third week of classes, our director meets with each student individually to discuss his or her progress and plan for the following month.
- **Assessment of student progress.** At the end of each term, students receive an assessment of their progress from their main instructor.
- **Certificate of Completion.** Students who have completed their study with us receive a certificate from English Now! to officially recognize the number of hours they have studied in the Intensive English Program, or combined hours with other programs.

A Day in the English Now! Intensive English Program:

Mornings from 9:30-12:15. Students work with their main instructor on a wide variety of language skills. Students learn and practice new grammatical constructions in the context of interesting readings and listening

activities from their textbooks. They also expand on weekly themes, such as history and popular culture, and use new vocabulary in lively conversations with each other students. Instructors engage students by checking for understanding throughout their lessons and encouraging equal participation from all students.

Break and Lunch. Students take a break from class from 11:00 until 11:15am. Then, students break for lunch from 12:15 until 12:45pm. Break times are good opportunities for students to enjoy informal conversation in English with other students over coffee or lunch.

Afternoon Special Topics Workshops. After a lunch break, students return to class for Special Topics Workshops, from 12:45-2:00. These workshops give students an opportunity to practice their skills in a new context and to become comfortable experiencing English with another teacher. Workshop instructors deliver a rich and diverse curriculum. In the Special Topics Workshops, students:

- develop **presentation skills** as they explore topics of personal interest and share their ideas with their classmates or with students in other classes. One distinctive aspect of English Now!'s approach is for students to do small group projects in many classes. Culminating group presentations during week four have taken many formats including “talk shows” with international panel of experts on government, health, or education issues; “cooking shows” with explanations of food traditions from around the world; and “entertainment hours” with reviews of students’ favorite books or movies.
- learn **pronunciation strategies**, such as the *Color Vowel Chart*, to help them understand the difference between sounds, and make their speech easier for others to understand.
- discuss important **issues in the news** and express opinions about local, national and world news.
- learn strategies for retention of word meanings through focused attention on **vocabulary development** in the context of engaging texts.
- integrate **writing skills** with speaking and listening to improve overall fluency.
- gain exposure to a variety of **print and web-based resources** to increase vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and understand the writing process.

Our instructors in the Intensive English Program work together as a team to serve our students’ needs.

To Ask Questions or Enroll. Visit us at the school, email us at info@english-now.com, or call us at +1 301 718 3575. We look forward to meeting you and would be glad to have you take a proficiency test – with no cost and no commitment – to learn more about your language background and to enable us to talk to you about placement.