

English Language Institute Curriculum



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Core Courses

English Structure and Usage (Grammar)

- **Low Beginning:** Basic structures of English.
- **High Beginning:** Improved communication using basic forms, especially verbs and new vocabulary.
- **Low Intermediate:** Complex grammar like infinitives, gerunds, modals, and complex sentences.
- **High Intermediate:** Conditionals, perfect tenses, and adjective clauses.
- **Low Advanced:** Complex sentences, noun clauses, and phrasal verbs.
- **High Advanced:** Refinement of previous skills in the context of Reading/Writing.

Writing and Composition Skills in Multiple Rhetorical Modes

- **Low Beginning:** Simple sentences, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- **High Beginning:** Paragraph writing with topic sentences and supporting ideas.
- **Low Intermediate:** Longer paragraphs, genres of writing, and spelling.
- **High Intermediate:** Multi-paragraph essays, simple research, and vocabulary development.
- **Low Advanced:** Use of external sources in essays, control over language and tone.
- **High Advanced:** Essays with abstract ideas, organization patterns, argument, and response writing.

Academic Reading Skills and Vocabulary Development

- **Low Beginning:** Basic text comprehension.
- **High Beginning:** Identifying topics, finding information, and understanding connections.
- **Low Intermediate:** Reading unfamiliar topics, vocabulary in context, and word forms.
- **High Intermediate:** Academic reading, evaluating texts, and visual presentations.
- **Low Advanced:** Effective summaries and judging content of complex readings.
- **High Advanced:** University-level material, cultural references, and complex summaries.

Speaking Fluency and Listening Comprehension

- **Low Beginning:** Basic speech and conversational questions, likes, and dislikes.
- **High Beginning:** Common phrases, interview questions, and deeper conversations.
- **Low Intermediate:** Longer listenings, topic prediction, note-taking, and non-personal topic discussions.
- **High Intermediate:** Detailed notes, topic explanations, and error correction.
- **Low Advanced:** Academic listenings, complex presentations, and discerning fact from opinion.
- **High Advanced:** Prepared talks, academic discussions, research-supported opinions, and correct stress and intonation.

Elective Classes

Elective classes vary each term and may include games, conversation practice, and TOEFL preparation.

Assessment and Grading

Daily assignments are typical for all classes except electives. Frequent testing is conducted with grades assigned using a traditional A, B, C, F system. Students who do not show adequate improvement receive a grade of NP (No Promotion) and do not advance to the next level. Certificates of Completion are awarded at the end of each term.