

Language Proficiency Objectives by ESL Level: Grammar

Beginning Literacy	Beginning Low	Beginning High
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of the simple present. b. Use and discriminate between common forms of "to be." c. Maintain subject/verb agreement across simple sentences. d. Use common "to be" verb contractions (He's, She's, I'm, They're, Isn't, Aren't). 2. Nouns <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms of singular and plural nouns and subject pronouns. b. Maintain noun, pronoun, and possessive noun agreement across simple and compound sentences. 3. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Place adjective and adverb phrases in correct sequence. 4. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select appropriate function words in correct sequence and order including articles, prepositions of time, demonstratives (this, that, these, those). 5. Sentence Structure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Construct simple sentences. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of the simple present, present continuous, simple past, and simple future with "be going to" verb tenses in all forms (imperative, declarative, interrogative, and negative). b. Use basic modals: "can," "could," (polite questions) "have to." c. Use expletive construction: "There is," "There are," "It is." d. Maintain subject-verb agreement across simple and compound sentences. e. Use common contractions. 2. Nouns <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms of singular and plural nouns including irregular plural nouns, possessive nouns, proper nouns. b. Maintain noun, pronoun, and possessive noun agreement across simple and compound sentences. 3. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Place adjectives, adverbs, adjectival phrases and adverbial phrases in correct sequence and order including adverbs of frequency and time order (Present simple with "always, usually, every...") 4. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select appropriate function words in correct sequence and order including quantifiers (many, a few, a lot of), intensifiers (very, so, really), prepositions of location, demonstratives, and conjunctions. 5. Sentence Structure 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of the simple present, present continuous, simple past, and simple future with "be going to" and "will" verb tenses in all forms (imperative, declarative, interrogative, and negative). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be verb • Irregular verb conjugation • Stative/dynamic • Phrasal verbs • Infinitives after high frequency verbs • Modals • Reflexives b. Maintain subject-verb agreement across simple sentences. 2. Nouns <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms of singular and plural nouns including irregular plural nouns, count and non-count nouns, possessive nouns and pronouns, subject and object pronouns, collective nouns, reflexive pronouns. b. Maintain noun, pronoun and possessive noun agreement across sentences. 3. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Place adjectives, adverbs, adjectival phrases, and adverbial phrases in correct sequence and order including time expressions, frequency, and possessive adjectives. 4. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select appropriate function words in correct sequence including quantifiers, intensifiers, partitives and definite versus

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Construct simple sentences. b. Identify parts of speech and correct versus incorrect sentence structures. c. Place parts of speech in appropriate sequence. 	<p style="text-align: right;">indefinite articles (very basic), prepositions, and conjunctions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Clauses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use independent clauses in simple and compound sentences. 6. Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Construct simple and compound sentences. b. Combine multiple simple verb sentences in a single narrative. c. Correct errors on learned and prerequisite grammar points. d. Identify when to change simple verb tenses based on time reference. e. Differentiate between correct use of common homonyms (“They’re,” “There,” and “Their”).

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Intermediate Low	Intermediate High	Advanced Low
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verb tenses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of Present Perfect, Present Perfect Continuous, Past Continuous (imperative, declarative, interrogative and negative forms). 2. Modals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shall/should, can/could, will/would, may/might, must (affirmative, negative and interrogative forms) b. Phrasal modals (be able to, have to, used to/be used to) 3. Phrasal verbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Separable vs. inseparable 4. Nouns & Pronouns <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms of count and non-count nouns with correlating qualifiers. b. Use correct forms of direct and indirect objects and pronouns, reflexive pronouns. 5. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use participial adjectives, comparative (“as + adjective + as” constructions) and superlative adjectives and adverbs. 6. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use definite and indefinite articles. b. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. 7. Gerunds and Infinitives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Verbs followed by gerunds b. Verbs followed by infinitives 8. Conditionals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms of present real and future real. 9. Sentence type 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verb tenses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of Past Perfect, Past Perfect Continuous (imperative, declarative, interrogative and negative forms). 2. Modals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Past modals: “could have,” “should have,” “would have” 3. Nouns & Pronouns <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use correct forms in context of indefinite pronouns (someone, anyone, something, anything) and reflexive pronouns. 4. Passive Voice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Present Simple and Continuous b. Past Simple and Continuous c. Future Simple d. Present and Past Perfect 5. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs. b. Use and differentiate between participial adjectives. c. Use adverbs of time with correct verb tenses and time frames. 6. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use appropriate function words in correct sequence and order including definite versus indefinite articles. 7. Gerunds and Infinitives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. After specific correlating verbs as objects b. With verbs that can take both without changing meaning c. With verbs that can take both with a change of meaning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verb Tenses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select correct forms of all verb tenses learned. 2. Modals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Past modals: “should have,” “could have,” “would have,” “might have,” “must have” b. Modals: “would” in all uses c. Tag questions d. Phrasal verb 3. Passive Voice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Modals b. Past modals (“It should have been done.”) c. Infinitives (“It is important to be informed.”) and gerunds (“I hate being told what to do.”) 4. Adjectives and Adverbs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Utilize and place adjectives, adverbs, adjectival phrases, and adverbial phrases in correct sequence and order including time order and signal words. b. Use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs. c. Use adverbs of time with correct verb tenses and time frames. 5. Function Words <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use adverbs of time with correct verb tenses and time frames definite versus indefinite articles. b. Use paired conjunctions (either...or, neither...nor, not only...but also). 6. Gerunds and Infinitives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use gerunds and infinitives as subject of sentences and after specific nouns (“It

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Intermediate Low	Intermediate High	Advanced Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adverbial clauses of time and reason (complex sentences) b. Direct speech c. Exclaiming or exclamatory sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. After prepositions e. After adjectives 8. Clauses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use noun clauses as subject and object. 9. Sentence structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify when to change tense based on time reference. b. Avoid use of double negatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seems like the thing to do”). 7. Conditionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use real and unreal future conditionals. b. Use past conditionals. 8. Clauses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and use various clauses to make complex and compound-complex sentences including. b. Adjective and relative clauses and reduced relative clauses c. Noun clauses (as subject and object with “that,” “what,” “whoever,” “which”), adverb clauses, reporting clauses 9. Sentence Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Construct simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences. b. Correct errors on learned and prerequisite grammar points. c. Identify when to change tense based on time reference. d. Avoid use of double negatives. e. Use indirect questions (“Where is Jack?” -> “I was wondering if you know where Jack is?”). f. Use reported speech. g. Use the subjunctive mood at a basic level.