



Arak University
Faculty of Humanities
Department of English Language and Literature
General English Syllabus

I. Course Information

Course Name: General English

Instructor: Masoud Moshayedi

Class Hours: Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 15:30 to 19:15

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II. Objectives:

The purpose of this course is primarily to develop the students' reading skill in general so as to help them comprehend the English materials. This course will also pave the way for further readings of the authentic English materials related to the students' majors in future. Although the main focus would be on reading, it doesn't imply the ignorance of other skills in favor of it. To have a good command of English, an integrated mastery over the four major language skills is required but it seems to be a tall order in case of general English classes due to so many reasons ranging from high number of students within each class, heterogeneity of their English knowledge and insufficient time. In spite of these barriers, the other skills aren't to be skipped and at the same time that reading is being practiced, listening, speaking and writing will also be dealt with in different parts of the course. In other words, all the four skills go hand in hand in each session but with a high priority over reading. Upon the completion of the course, the students are expected to read and understand the general texts by means of the acquired knowledge accompanied with the reading techniques.

III. Source description

The main source is "Enjoy Reading; A General English Textbook". This book contains 14 units. Each unit is composed of 3 parts. The first and also the most important part is a Reading Passage. The passages in the body of the book cover a variety of topics and are pedagogically arranged in such a way that as the book proceeds, they become longer and more difficult. After each passage, there are some relevant questions in various types.

The second part of each unit deals with one or two grammar points followed by a few grammatical questions. Different parts of speech of the words already used in the reading passage form another part of the grammar section of each unit.

The last part of each unit named “Let’s have a break” includes a funny story, a joke and some proverbs or idioms. The role of this part is both as refreshment and at the same time as a learning activity. Psychologically, students are usually attracted by the things they like. Funny parts draw their attention and motivate them to get the point. Consequently, the words mentioned in this part may stick in their minds better, so the purpose behind this section is not mere fun but teaching English through fun. Proverbs also teach students morality. They reflect the way of life, thinking, attitudes, culture, etc. So as a learning strategy, the learners here learn some valuable statements and at the same time they become familiar with the English vocabulary embedded within the statements.

In addition to this source, some other supplementary materials will also be introduced and practiced based on the students’ competence.

IV. Teaching Method

The class is mostly run in English provided that the students are competent. In each session, one unit including READING, GRAMMAR and LET’S HAVE A BREAK will be covered. The students should read each unit in advance and ponder upon the topics to be able to actively participate in class discussions. Since the discussions are in English, so pronunciation ,listening and speaking skills are prerequisites.

V. Weekly schedule and Topics

Number of units	Topics	Activities	Due Date
	preliminaries	Course introduction, Class norms and Expectations	Week 1
1	Reading	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 2
2	Money	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 3
3	The World's Oldest University	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 4
4	Plastic Surgery	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 5
5	Which English Will We Speak?	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 6
6	You Are Amazing; You Are Human!	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 7
	Mid Term Exam	Mid Term Exam	Week 8
7	Silver	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 9
8	Are You Getting Enough Sleep?	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 10

Number of units	Topics	Activities	Due Date
9	How Did Language Begin?	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 11
10	Europe	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 12
11	Stupid Criminals	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 13
12	The United Nations	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 14
13	Pollution	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 15
14	Satellites	Reading, grammar, exercises	Week 16

VI. Class Norms and Expectations

The students are obliged to take the course seriously, to take part in class discussions and to do their utmost to carry out the assignments. Punctuality, honesty, interest in team work, cooperation and developing a good rapport with others, critical thinking concerning the issues raised and respecting other opinions are of great value. The students are supposed to attend the classes regularly and there would be zero tolerance for those who miss the classes more than three sessions.

VII. Grading system

Mid Term Exam: 4 points

Class Activities: 2 points

Final Exam: 14 points

VIII. Sources

a. Main source:

Moshayedi, Masoud. 1394. *Enjoy Reading: A General English Textbook*. Qom: Eram Publications.

b. Further readings:

Ackert, P. and L. Lee. 2005. **Concepts and Comments (3rd ed.)** New York: Thomson Heinle.

Anderson, Neil, J. 2007. **Active Skills for Reading: Book 1**. Canada: Heinle.

Anderson, Neil, J. 2007. **Active Skills for Reading: Book 2**. Canada: Heinle.

Day, Richard and J. Yamanaka. 2007. **Cover to Cover 2: Reading Comprehension and Fluency**. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.

Dehghan, Rahim and H. Yadegari. 1394. **Selected Readings for General English(2nd ed.)** Arak: Jahad-e-Daneshgahi.

Jalalipour, J. , et. al.1392. **Basic English Grammar for University Students**. Tehran: Shahid Rajaei University Publication.

c. Some useful sites and online dictionaries

<http://www.languageguide.org/english/>

<http://easyworldofenglish.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/>

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english>