Clarity Guide
to online English
2020 - 2021

Placement testing
IELTS prep
Grammar
Reading
Writing
Study skills
Pronunciation
Teacher support
My aim is to ensure you have smooth, trouble-free use of any ClarityEnglish programs you subscribe to. I therefore guarantee to find a fast and effective solution to any technical problems related to ClarityEnglish, or provide a full refund.

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ICT for English since 1992

Technical Support Pledge

The blog is full of fresh new ideas on technology-enhanced language teaching and independent learning. There are insights into using technology for IELTS preparation, a focus on placement testing and the CEFR, and news on all the Clarity programs: upgrades, enhancements to existing versions, updated support materials.

Here are some examples of recent blog posts:

• “Your test isn’t accurate!” — A test designer responds
• No more marking — how AI can give you back your evenings
• IELTS in Zambia: “I’ve been speaking English since Grade 1, why should an English test worry me?”
• Placement tests: Can your choice of device affect your result?

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Overview

Support Materials

ClarityEnglish Blog

Practical Writing

Road to IELTS

Clear Pronunciation

Study Skills Success

Tense Buster

Enquiries: info@clarityenglish.com

www.clarityenglish.com

Practical Writing helps learners with a range of texts from essays to emails to textspeak. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

Road to IELTS is your best possible online preparation and practice resource for IELTS. Co-published with the British Council. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

Clear Pronunciation helps students recognise and produce the 43 sounds of English. iPad and tablet friendly.

A thorough course on academic study skills, including critical thinking and independent learning. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

Break through the grammar barrier! Tense Buster helps your learners understand 33 key grammar areas. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

Your test isn’t accurate!” — A test designer responds
No more marking — how AI can give you back your evenings
IELTS in Zambia: “I’ve been speaking English since Grade 1, why should an English test worry me?”
Placement tests: Can your choice of device affect your result?

September 2020

New Version

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Road to IELTS is your best possible online preparation and practice resource for IELTS. With over 120 hours of interactive activities, advice videos from British Council experts and hints and tips on question types, as well as downloadable practice tests, it is comprehensive, up-to-date and aimed precisely at the challenges candidates face.

The four key elements are:

1. **Starting Out**: an ebook introduces each paper and explains the task types.
2. **Advice and Tutorial Videos**: experts describe the best strategies for preparing for IELTS.
3. **Practice Zone**: candidates practice tackling the whole range of question types.
4. **Test Practice**: candidates simulate the test experience with mock papers.

As candidates work through Road to IELTS, the Progress Report function enables them to monitor their activity across sessions, analyse the way they are spending their time and compare their performance with their targets. They can even predict their band scores in the Reading and Listening tests using an interactive Score Calculator.

Most candidates need all the help they can get while preparing for this crucial test. A recent study of more than 100,000 independent learners concludes that Road to IELTS helps candidates perform significantly better.

Give your candidates the unique advantage they deserve — with the British Council’s Road to IELTS.
Practical Writing is for students who need to use written English both at school and in their personal life. Whether they are writing a descriptive essay for their teacher or sending a text to a friend, Practical Writing helps them structure their message, find the right vocabulary and choose the most appropriate style.

While students work on these texts, they are learning a whole range of writing skills: topic sentences, signpost words, functional language, levels of formality and many more. And the program comes with an additional vocab app they can use to pre-learn new vocabulary. Practical Writing is systematic, engaging and intensely relevant.

“Practical Writing is one of the best implementations of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages I have seen. It addresses the need for a highly structured writing programme, covering a range of topics and giving the students the knowledge and practice they need to succeed in their future studies and careers. It is user-friendly, engaging, and offers a lot of variety in the tasks and activities.”

British Council ELTons 2017 Judging Panel

“Writing for School”

Alice

I know I need a lot of practice in writing in English. It’s not just the essays in my English course — I need to take notes in class, write reports and refer to my sources…

“Writing for Life”

Abdullah

My friends and I are looking for jobs, sorting out immigration issues — and trying to have a social life too. So I need a lot of help in my writing...

How will Practical Writing help students like Alice and Abdullah?

Teacher videos

A teacher explains the learning objectives of the unit — for example, to build an online profile and proofread it.

Vocab app

Learners can use the vocab app to pre-learn vocabulary for the unit through study cards and games. It’s fun and convenient.

Interactive activities

In each unit, learners work through 12 interactive activities: exercises, quizzes, tests and writing assignments. There’s lots of practice!

Study sheets

And there’s a resource bank of study sheets, transcripts and model writing. These are ideal as handouts in class, or for homework.
Tense Buster is Clarity’s most popular program. It has been developed, enhanced and refined for over 20 years, and is now available not just for computers and tablets, but also on mobile. Tense Buster helps students tackle 33 key grammar areas, from articles at Elementary level through to phrasal verbs at Advanced.

Each unit begins with a presentation based on a dialogue, newspaper article or radio broadcast, where learners are encouraged to form theories about how the grammar works. Next comes a grammar rule where they confirm or correct their theories before moving on to practice activities. These focus on form and function, and each unit includes a pronunciation activity.

Units conclude with a randomised test enabling students to gauge their progress, and with suggestions for further study away from the computer. Throughout, the program includes detailed feedback in exercises to help students understand where they went wrong, so they can avoid making the same mistakes in the future.

Tense Buster has been adopted by the British Council worldwide, Ministries of Education in many countries, and by thousands of colleges, libraries and individual learners.

Help your students break through the grammar barrier — with Tense Buster!

**Tense Buster** will be a good addition to the digital collection of academic and public libraries that count non-native English speakers and their instructors among their patrons.^

Carrie Macfarlane, Widener Library, Harvard University.

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**Tense Buster contents**

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^ Available in the International English version only.
Just as you can’t get fit by doing a single press-up, you can’t develop good pronunciation without lots and lots of practice. Clear Pronunciation enables learners to listen to and repeat audio models again and again, to do activities as many times as they like, and to make mistakes without embarrassment.

And, in class, Clear Pronunciation provides teachers with both consistent pronunciation models to drill, and interactive activities to keep students focused, and their interest levels high.

Clear Pronunciation helps learners recognise and pronounce the 43 sounds of English: vowels, consonants and diphthongs. Students learn by watching videos (there are almost 200), working with audio clips (over 1,000) and by recording and listening to their own voice, using the integrated Clarity Recorder.

Learners also meet the target sounds in real-world contexts, and learn to use the IPA and to recognise phonemic transcriptions in dictionaries — a vital skill.
Critical thinking, independent learning, avoiding plagiarism... These are all academic study skills students need to develop as they move into post-16 studies at school, and on to higher education. Study Skills Success helps not just with the skills, but also with the English that underpins them.

Each unit begins with a video introduction where a teacher explains a challenge learners will face. In the Speaking unit, for example: “You’ll have to speak to tutors; you’ll have to speak in seminars; and you’ll certainly have to speak to other students about work — and socially.” The unit then takes learners through a series of teaching points and interactive activities in four areas:

- Speaking out
- Giving opinions
- Giving a presentation
- Discussing ideas

Students conclude by completing a learning record. The other nine units follow a similar progression.

Throughout Study Skills Success, there is extensive use of authentic texts: articles, websites, book extracts, a BBC lecture... And learners can download worksheets for use away from the computer.

Studying in English is a real challenge for many students. Study Skills Success can make life easier by helping them to develop more effective and efficient study strategies. For teachers, this program is an ideal source of supplementary activities for pre-sessional courses, or for use as a self-access resource.
Most teachers love reading, but it can be a challenge to generate the same enthusiasm in our students. This is what Active Reading sets out to achieve.

The starting point is to present texts which are relevant, stimulating and lively. Topics range from advertisements for homes, to Internet posts on online gaming, to ecotourism. Text types include newspaper and magazine articles, emails, poems, recipes, stories and press releases. There’s a lot of variety, and topics to appeal to every learner.

It is through these texts that students learn to identify their reason for reading, and then to deploy the most appropriate reading skills and sub-skills. The program helps them to predict, to skim, to scan and to use layout to find their way around a text. There’s a full list of skills on the right.

Active Reading comes at six levels from Elementary to Advanced, with ten units in each level. Each unit starts with a video introduction, moves through controlled practice and comprehension exercises and concludes with a freer activity which expands on the topic.

Learners can listen to a range of native speakers reading the texts, helping them to identify sense groups and develop their chunking skills.

You can use Active Reading for classwork, homework or self-access. The program integrates with Results Manager, enabling teachers to track student progress and generate reports. Whichever way you choose to use the program, Active Reading will help your students learn to love reading.

Dictionary work
Understanding referencing in a text
Choosing words to learn
Synonyms and near-synonyms
Identifying your reason for reading
Using ‘signpost’ words
Developing the reading habit
Reading aloud

Guessing from context
Using layout to help reading
Topic sentences
Inferring meaning in a text
Prediction
Scanning
Ignoring unknown words
Skimming

Which reading skills does Active Reading help with?

Worksheet downloads included

2020 upgrade

Runs on any device
New introductory videos for all units
New video transcripts and worksheets
Instant. Accurate. Reliable.

Quick to set up, easy to run — and it gives instant results. Let the online Dynamic Placement Test take the hard work out of placing each of your students into their correct class. All it takes is 30 minutes to find a learner’s CEFR level, fine-tuned with a numeric score. It’s instant. It’s accurate. It’s reliable.

Test learners from CEFR A1 to C2

Visit our website to request a free test

www.clarityenglish.com/dpt

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