Clarity Guide

to online English

2019

Placement testing
IELTS prep
Grammar
Reading
Writing
Study skills
Pronunciation
Teacher support

Clarity English since 1992

www.clarityenglish.com
**Technical Support Pledge**

My aim is to ensure you have smooth, trouble-free use of any ClarityEnglish programs you subscribe to. Therefore guarantee to find a fast and effective solution to any technical problems related to ClarityEnglish, or provide a refund.

---

**ICT for English since 1992**

---

**ClarityEnglish Blog**

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 blogposts:

- “Your test isn’t accurate!” – A test designer responds
- “No more marking – how it 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?”

---

**Support Materials**

- Posters
- Flyers
- User manuals
- Syllabus
- Usage statistics
- Teacher activities
- Web images
- Facebook
- Videos

---

**Overview**

- **Page 2**: Road to IELTS
  - 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.

- **Page 4**: Practical Writing
  - Practical Writing helps learners with a range of tasks from essays to emails to textspeak. Runs on desktops, tablets and (from April) mobile.

- **Page 6**: Tense Buster
  - Break through the grammar barrier! Tense Buster helps your learners understand 33 key grammar areas. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

- **Page 8**: Clear Pronunciation 1 (Sounds)
  - Clear Pronunciation helps students recognize the IPA and produce the 40 sounds of English. (iPad and tablet friendly).

- **Page 8**: Clear Pronunciation 2 (Speech)
  - In Clear Pronunciation 2, students put those sounds together in natural everyday speech by working on word and sentence stress, intonation, consonant clusters and topic.

- **Page 10**: Study Skills Success
  - A thorough course on academic study skills, including critical thinking and independent learning. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.

- **Page 12**: Active Reading
  - Tackles the whole range of reading skills and sub-skills at six levels, from A2 to C1. Runs on desktops, tablets and (from September) mobile.

- **Page 14**: Dynamic Placement Test
  - Use ClarityEnglish’s Dynamic Placement Test to find your learner’s levels quickly, easily, economically and accurately. Runs on desktops, tablets and mobile.
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 Tutorial Videos: experts describe the best strategies for preparing for IELTS.
3. Practice Zone: candidates practise 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 does help candidates perform significantly better.

Give your candidates the unique advantage they deserve — with the British Council’s Road to IELTS.

Chansophorn Khem ★★★★★
Very good app. I would recommend it to anyone who wishes to take the IELTS test. Thank you so much for this useful app. I love it!

Ahmed Mansoor ★★★★★
I was facing a login problem, I emailed the support and received prompt and accurate reply. Very impressive indeed. As for the app, it is a great tool for the people (like me) who have less time on PC and more time on devices due to travelling, etc.

Majed Al-Dalami ★★★★★
All that you need before the exam. Very helpful.

2018 upgrades
- Mobile friendly so learners can study on the go
- Detailed update of the Listening session, new Reading activities
- No more Flash, no app download — just run the URL
- New and updated Study Guides and Study Planner

Total number of sessions last year
4.5m+
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.

- Essays: for and against
- Job applications: your online profile
- Emails: asking for information
- A short report: graphs
- Reviews: hotels and restaurants
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Taking notes
- Essays: descriptive
- Textbook
- Official letters

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 vocabulary app they can use to pre-learn new vocabulary. Practical Writing is systematic, engaging and intensely relevant.

"A fuller structured writing programme than anything I've seen before."
British Council ELT Awards 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
Vocab app
Interactive activities
Study sheets
A teacher explains the learning objectives of the unit — for example, to build an online profile and proofread it.
Learners can use the phone app to pre-learn vocabulary for the unit through study cards and games. It's fun and convenient.
In each unit, learners work through 12 interactive activities: exercises, quizzes, tests and writing assignments. There's lots of practice!
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 networks and browsers, 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 contents**

**Elementary**
- Am, is, are
- Simple present
- Questions
- Have got*
- Countable nouns
- Negatives

**Lower Intermediate**
- Simple present
- Simple past
- Present continuous
- Present perfect
- Present continuous
- Present perfect
- Present perfect

**Intermediate**
- The passive
- ‘Will and ‘going to’
- Past continuous
- Conditionals
- Present perfect
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Equality
- Relative clauses
- G konditlions

**Upper Intermediate**
- Past continuous
- Conditionals
- Present perfect
- The future
- Adjectives and adverbs

**Advanced**
- Reported speech
- Phrasal verbs
- Nouns
- Articles
- Past perfect
- The passive
- Articles

* 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 drift, and interactive activities to keep students focused, and their interest levels high.

Clear Pronunciation 1 (Sounds) 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.

Clear Pronunciation 2

In Clear Pronunciation 2 (Speech), students learn to put the sounds of English together in natural, everyday speech. This program covers:

- Word stress
- Sentence stress
- Connected speech
- Intonation
- Consonant clusters

* Clear Pronunciation 2 is available on desktop/laptop.

Sounds practised in Clear Pronunciation 1

- Vowels
- Consonants
- Diphthongs
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 the challenges 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:

1. Speaking out
2. Giving opinions
3. Giving a presentation
4. 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 diets, to Internet posts on online gaming, to ecoclimates. 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.

Which reading skills does Active Reading help with?

- Dictionary work
- Understanding referencing in a text
- Choosing words to learn
- Synonyms and near-synonyms
- Identifying your reason for reading
- Using ‘high-pest’ 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

Worksheet downloads included

2019 upgrade

- A new, mobile friendly version will be released in September 2019.
The Dynamic Placement Test enables you to sort your students into CEFR bands quickly, easily, economically — and above all, accurately.

This is how it works:
1. You decide the test time, and who will do it.
2. The system emails test takers.
3. At the time you chose, the test begins on their devices.
4. Results appear automatically in the Admin Panel.

This 30-minute test is both adaptive and randomised, so that students sitting next to each other will see different questions. It focuses on vocabulary, grammar, listening and reading to place test takers in their correct CEFR band, further refined with a Relative Numeric score between 0 and 120.

It is a new approach to placement testing. Find out more at www.clarityenglish.com/dpt

Try a sample test here!

Get in touch

- info@clarityenglish.com
- www.clarityenglish.com
- Hong Kong office: +852 2791 1787
- UK office: +44 (0) 7907 026 700