



# *U.S.A. Learns*

## *Curriculum Scope and Sequence*

First English Course

Second English Course

Practice English and Reading

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November 5, 2008





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## Introduction

The *U.S.A. Learns* Web site consists of three unique programs.

**First English Course** is designed for ESL beginner-level adult learners. The course uses a classroom-based teaching video, *Putting English to Work 1*, as the basis of the scope and sequence of the content. Twenty sequenced units of instruction are organized in thematic topics. Activities in each unit build upon previously presented content.

**Second English Course**, designed for ESL intermediate-level adult learners, is an extension and expansion of the popular online *English For All* series. The course uses the video stories from *English For All*, organized in five topics. Each topic uses a different video story with an instructive plot and interesting characters. The video story of each topic is unique; plots and characters do not overlap topics. The topic's story is presented in 4 consecutive units. All instructional activities are based on the language and actions of the video stories.

**Practice English and Reading** offers 42 readings based on real-life situations. These stories can be used to supplement and extend the intermediate students' curriculum. Each story contains a reading, vocabulary development, comprehension questions, and a writing prompt.

This document lists the vocabulary, main grammar, language functions, and life skills taught in each unit of the *First English Course* and the *Second English Course*. The *Second English Course* chart contains a synopsis of each unit story. The last section lists the topics, story titles and key vocabulary found in *Practice English and Reading*.



## First English Course

The First English Course uses the teaching video, *Putting English to Work 1*, developed by LAUSD, as a basis for each unit's content. The video follows an adult school ESL teacher and her class as they learn and practice new concepts in their classroom. The application of the language learned is viewed in short scenarios of the students' lives outside of the classroom. The video is presented in short segments, followed immediately by activities that allow the student to interact with the new content.

The First English Course activities of each unit build on content from previous units. Completing the units in the prescribed order is therefore highly recommended.

The content of the unit topic is divided into two basic sections: Introduction & Vocabulary and Language Practice. Vocabulary presentation and activities give students the opportunity to learn important words they need as building blocks in the Language Practice section. Language Practice activities use the vocabulary base to build upon as students learn grammar concepts and language functions. Video scenarios as well as reading, focused listening, speaking, writing and life skill activities challenge the student to use the vocabulary in authentic language.

Some units have a second group of related vocabulary so the menu will present Vocabulary 2 and Language Practice 2. Students should be guided to always complete the sections and activities in the order presented, starting with Introduction & Vocabulary 1.

**Unit 1: First English Class**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>Classroom Directions</b> ask listen point read say spell type watch write  <b>Introductions</b>  <b>Alphabet</b>	First person use of “be”	Introducing yourself  Understanding lesson directions  Spelling first and last names

**Unit 2: In the Classroom**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>People and Things in a Classroom</b>  class student teacher backpack book chair clock eraser notebook paper pen pencil table	Be-statements  Contractions  Pronouns	Spelling practice  Identifying common objects and people in the classroom

**Unit 3: Numbers**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<p><b>Numbers 0-10</b></p> <p>zero one two three four five six seven eight nine ten</p> <p><b>Numbers 10-20 etc.</b></p> <p>eleven twelve thirteen fourteen fifteen sixteen seventeen eighteen nineteen twenty address phone number zip code</p>	<p>Questions using “what is” and “what’s”</p>	<p>Asking for an address or phone number</p> <p>Completing a personal information form (phone number, address)</p>

**Unit 4: Around the Clock**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<p><b>Times of Day</b></p> <p>morning noon afternoon evening night midnight</p> <p>2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45 5:00 5:05 5:45 5:55 9:10 9:25</p> <p><b>Daily Activity Verbs</b></p> <p>wake up brush your teeth shave take a shower get dressed eat breakfast read the newspaper leave walk</p>	<p>Present Continuous</p>	<p>Reading an analog clock</p> <p>Asking for and giving the time</p> <p>Discussing daily activities</p>

**Unit 5: The Calendar**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>Calendar</b> year month week day Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday January February March April May June July August September October November December	Questions using “when is and “when’s”	Reading a calendar  Asking for and giving the date/ birthday

**Unit 5: The Calendar (continued)**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>Ordinal Numbers</b>  first second third fourth fifth sixth seventh eighth ninth tenth twenty-first twenty-second twenty-third		

**Unit 6: Places to Go**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Places in the Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>house</li> <li>park</li> <li>office</li> <li>market</li> <li>school</li> <li>cafe</li> <li>address</li> <li>street</li> </ul>	<p>Questions and short answers with <i>be</i></p>	<p>Asking and answering questions about times, addresses and daily activities</p> <p>Taking phone messages</p>

**Unit 7: Countries & Nationalities**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Countries and Nationalities</b></p> <p>United States</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>Iraq</p> <p>Korea</p> <p>China</p> <p>India</p> <p>France</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Italy</p> <p>El Salvador</p> <p>Canada</p> <p>England</p> <p>American</p> <p>Mexican</p> <p>Japanese</p> <p>Italian</p> <p>Canadian</p> <p>Salvadoran</p> <p>French</p> <p>Russian</p> <p>Korean</p> <p>English</p> <p>Chinese</p> <p>Iraqi</p> <p>Indian</p>	<p>Questions using “where” and “what”</p> <p>Asking and answering questions about nationality and home country</p>	<p>Completing questions on a form about residence and country of origin</p>

**Unit 8: Celebrations**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Holidays</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>holiday</li> <li>New Year's Day</li> <li>Independence Day</li> <li>Veteran's Day</li> <li>Christmas</li> <li>birthday</li> <li>party</li> <li>sing</li> <li>dance</li> <li>food</li> </ul> <p><b>Party-related Nouns and Verbs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to-do list</li> <li>invite</li> <li>buy</li> <li>gift</li> <li>cake</li> <li>make a cake</li> <li>decorations</li> <li>put up</li> <li>clean</li> <li>eat</li> <li>drink</li> </ul>	<p>Simple Present Tense of <i>Like</i></p> <p>Questions and Short Answers with <i>Can</i></p>	<p>Making a to-do list</p> <p>Inviting people to a party</p>

**Unit 9: Family**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Family Personal</b></p> <p>parents children father mother daughter son grandparents grandchildren husband wife family grandmother grandfather nephew grandson sister niece brother aunt uncle cousin granddaughter</p> <p><b>Information Form Words</b></p> <p>married divorced widowed single age gender male female</p>	<p>Simple Present Tense of <i>Have</i></p>	<p>Giving information about marital status and family in conversation and on forms</p> <p>Recognizing information requested on a personal information form</p>

**Unit 10: School**

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language functions /Life Skills</b>
<b>School Workers and Locations</b>  teacher principal librarian office clerk janitor school library classroom principal's office cafeteria office hallway bathroom	Possessive Adjectives and Nouns	Reading an informational flyer  Conversing with school personnel at a Parent-Teacher Night

## Unit 11: Clothes and Colors

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Clothing, Jewelry</b></p> <p>jeans t-shirt dress skirt sweater blouse jacket hat suit sneakers sandals shoes jewelry necklace earrings ring bracelet watch</p> <p><b>Sizes and Colors</b></p> <p>red blue green yellow purple pink white black gray orange brown</p>	<p>Adjectives and Nouns</p> <p>Present Continuous of <i>wear</i></p>	<p>Reading a clothing store ad</p> <p>Identifying clothes sizes</p>

**Unit 12: Money and Shopping**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<b>U.S. coins and bills</b> money penny nickel dime quarter half dollar one dollar five dollars ten dollars twenty dollars fifty dollars one hundred dollars	Questions with “how much”  Prepositions	Identifying U.S. coins, bills, and amounts  Reading a receipt and price tags  Asking for prices  Asking for locations inside a store
<b>Areas of a store</b>  store back front entrance aisle restrooms checkout pay receipt stapler calculator backpack ruler		

**Unit 13: Places in the Neighborhood**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Community Locations</b></p> <p>bank gas station hair salon hospital hotel laundromat park parking lot pharmacy police station post office restaurant supermarket</p> <p><b>Prepositions of Place</b></p> <p>around the corner across from behind between next to</p>	<p>“There is” and “There are”</p> <p>Prepositions</p>	<p>Asking for and giving directions</p> <p>Using a map</p>

**Unit 14: Food**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Food</b></p> <p>hamburger sandwich chicken fish salad fries pie water milk coffee soda hungry thirsty orange apple fruit carrot celery vegetables beef pork meat cheese candy</p> <p><b>Restaurant Workers</b></p> <p>busboy server dishwasher cook manager</p>	<p>Simple present tense of <i>want</i> and <i>like</i></p>	<p>Expressing likes and dislikes in foods</p> <p>Ordering food in a restaurant</p> <p>Identifying the jobs of restaurant workers</p>

**Unit 15: The Body**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<b>Parts of the body</b> head ear eye nose mouth neck throat shoulder back stomach arm elbow wrist hand finger leg knee ankle foot feet toe	Questions and short answers with <i>have</i>  Plural forms of body parts	Asking how someone feels  Stating illnesses  Reporting a 911 emergency
<b>Aches and Pains</b>  earache headache stomachache backache sore throat break your leg hurt your foot		

**Unit 16: Doctors and Medicine**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language functions /Life Skills
<p><b>Medical Check-up</b></p> <p>patient            thermometer            breathe in            breathe out            hold your breath            lift your arm            bend your elbow            take your pulse            take a            temperature            step on the scale</p> <p><b>Common Ailments and            Over-the-counter Medicine</b></p> <p>lozenge            pain reliever            prescription            cough            cold            itchy eyes            skin cream            tablets            eye drops            antacid            cough syrup            rash            pharmacist</p>	<p>Commands</p> <p>Some/any</p>	<p>Following doctor's instructions</p> <p>Reading a prescription label</p> <p>Telling a story in sequence</p>

**Unit 17: Finding a New Home**

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language Functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>Rooms and Locations around a Home</b>  dining room yard garage laundry room bedroom pool apartment house living room kitchen bathroom front door elevator balcony gate roof sidewalk air conditioning porch	Simple Present Tense Questions and Short Answers	Reading a For Rent sign with abbreviations  Inquiring about a rental

**Unit 18: Furniture and Appliances**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions / Life Skills
<p><b>Furniture and Appliances</b></p> <p>bed            night table            dresser            bookcase            chair            coffee table            curtains            lamp            plant            painting            sofa            television            refrigerator            stove            sink</p> <p><b>Adjectives</b></p> <p>poor condition            cheap            expensive            excellent            condition            new            old            small            medium            big            reasonable</p>	<p>Prepositions</p> <p>Questions with            “how much”</p>	<p>Reading a garage sale newspaper listing</p> <p>Inquiring about items to be purchased</p>

**Unit 19: Transportation**

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Language Functions / Life Skills</b>
<b>Types of Transportation</b>  bicycle bus car driver limousine metro rail motorcycle plane pedestrian schedule train truck	Simple present tense of “can” and “do”  Questions about transportation: “How do you get to...?”	Reading a Bus Schedule  Road signs

**Unit 20: Recreation and Weather**

Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions / Life Skills
<p><b>Recreational Activities</b></p> <p>have a picnic bring food sit in the sun laugh play sports play games</p> <p><b>Weather</b></p> <p>snow smoggy foggy windy clear cloudy sunny rain</p> <p><b>Seasons and Temperature</b></p> <p>cold warm hot winter fall summer cool spring seasons</p>	<p>Present continuous review</p> <p>Future Tense for planned activities</p>	<p>Making a list</p> <p>Reading a weather report</p>



## Second English Course

The video stories of the Second English Course are presented in five topic headings. Each topic has a different set of characters and storyline presented in its four consecutive units. (Note: Parenting and Workplace Roles has only one unit.)

The topics are listed in a recommended sequence, but they need not be completed in this exact order. Generally, students find topics of the workplace and family life somewhat easier than taxes and community issues. However, classroom priorities or a student's preferences may determine a different order from the sequence on the menu. Units, unlike topics, need to be completed in the listed sequence in order to follow the storyline of the videos.

### Topic and Unit Titles

<b>Workers and the Workplace .....</b>	<b>26</b>
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<b>Housing and Family Life.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Units:</b> Managing Family Life, Using Information Services, Accessing Services, Men's Changing Roles	
<b>Taxes, Law and Community Issues.....</b>	<b>34</b>
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<b>Units:</b> Accessing Learning Opportunities, Involvement in Children's Education, Transferring Professional Degrees, Learning to Learn	

**Unit Descriptions**

**TOPIC: Workers and the Workplace**

**1: Job and Career Advancement**

Alejandro Cordero is an unhappy bus boy who works for a difficult and unfair restaurant owner. After experiencing the disappointment of missing a promotion, he must decide whether he should apply for the position of assistant manager in another restaurant and risk the possibility of another disappointment.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
hate want need done promotion hire customer career find apply cover inventory job agency classified ads fill out help wanted job counselor scared confident	Use of simple present verb forms: “want,” “need,” “like,” “hate” + infinitive verb form	Expressing personal tastes and desires  Introducing yourself	Identifying resources for new employment  Interpreting abbreviations found in job ads  Reading a help wanted ad for specific information  Applying for a job

**TOPIC: Workers and the Workplace**
**2: On the Job Health and Safety**

Before leaving his old job, Alejandro warns his boss of some potentially hazardous conditions at work. His boss ignores and tries to intimidate Alejandro, an action which may lead to difficulties for everyone.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
appear application courses of course great assistant manager responsibilities pamphlet money celebrate slip job safety congratulations owner dangerous careful shelf loose sign	Future tense: “going to,” “will”	Expressing future plans  Making promises and predictions  Giving commands and responding to commands  Disagreeing	Identifying safety precautions  Scanning a pamphlet for specific information  Taking responsibility to maintain safe conditions  Reporting unsafe conditions in the workplace

**TOPIC: Workers and the Workplace**
**3: Support Systems for Injured Workers**

Alejandro suffers an accident at work and learns about Worker's Compensation. Since his boss refuses to pay, he must appear before a judge who will decide his case. Alejandro must tell the *whole* truth before the judge can award him his compensation.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
injured happen liar insurance pay quit argue lie court broken blame medical care hurt training death law rights truth fault expenses	Past tense: Simple regular and irregular verbs	Describing past events  Responding to a request  Answering questions  Convincing others	Identifying injured workers' rights and the scope of workers' compensation insurance  Filling out an injury report at work  Recognizing the roles of people in a courtroom

**TOPIC: Workers and the Workplace**
**4: Supervisors and Teamwork**

As the new assistant manager, Alejandro must be able to effectively supervise other employees, which is not always easy. He must also learn to ask for advice and recognize the benefits of everyone working as a team.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
upset supervisor bring apologize take a break ready unlock good luck be around awful advice teamwork goal uncomfortable younger confusing hectic embarrassed make sure proud	Commands  “Let’s” used in teamwork	Making suggestions  Asking for and giving advice  Giving commands  Giving and accepting thanks	Identifying the qualities of a team player and a good supervisor  Learning to ask for help and to lead  Scanning a work schedule for specific information  Writing a to-do list

**TOPIC: Housing and Family Life**

**5: Managing Family Life**

A young couple from Russia, the Pushkins, looks for an affordable apartment in the same neighborhood where they work. The apartment needs to fulfill certain requirements and standards. One landlord tries to intimidate them into signing a lease before they have had time to completely read through it. Then they find an apartment they like, but the manager refuses to rent to them because they have a child.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
afford neighborhood listings near size studio cost abbreviation noisy building rent move in sign lease standard pressure bright landlord tenant place	Verbs of necessity: “have to” and “must”	Stating needs and obligations  Making suggestions  Persuading  Refusing  Making predictions	Identifying sources for finding an apartment  Interpreting abbreviations and reading rental ads  Reading and signing a lease  Identifying the conditions of a lease

**TOPIC: Housing and Family Life**

**6: Using Information Services**

After the Pushkins find the ideal apartment, they must take legal action to force the manager to rent to them. First, however, they must access resources in the local library, contact government agencies, and meet with helpful officials.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
attorney case fair library break the law contact phone book suggest forms online complaint file explain trust refuse pretend schedule hearing judge credit history	Using “can” and “could” to express ability in the present and past	Expressing a problem and asking for help  Expressing ability to do something in the present and in the past  Expressing and supporting an opinion	Making inquiries to get information about your rights  Seeking legal or professional help  Accessing resources at the local library  Contacting government agencies such as HUD  Scanning a HUD complaint form for specific information

**TOPIC: Housing and Family Life**

**7: Accessing Services**

In their new apartment, the Pushkins must have all the services installed, including the telephone. They set up an appointment time for a technician to install the phone, but are unable or prevented from keeping the appointment. Attempts to make a new appointment prove extremely frustrating and time-consuming.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
order miss rearrange representative nasty neighbor kind services access turn on technician wait hold line dial bill hook up trained utilities frustrating	Modal auxiliaries “may,” “would,” “can,” “could” to make formal and informal requests and offers: “Would you like...?” “May I help you?”	Requesting services Offering help Making phone calls to service companies Asking for clarification Describing past events Making predictions	Requesting services for utilities Listening & responding to telephone menus on an automated voice system Recognizing the importance of hiring trained workers Reading a utility service notice for specific information

**TOPIC: Housing and Family Life**

**8: Men’s Changing Roles**

Karina Pushkin is unhappy that she must do all of the housework since she works outside of the home. Her husband Victor believes there are certain male and female jobs around the house. In the end, he learns to share the responsibilities around the home.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
role housework chore mess get dressed fold tired take care of locksmith expect society share special appreciated plumber fix disappointed guest dine invite	Present tense of “make” and “do”	Stating a complaint  Describing daily activities  Identifying sequence of activities	Recognizing gender stereotypes  Identifying changes in men’s and women’s roles in society  Identifying the parts of a letter of complaint  Writing a letter of complaint

**TOPIC: Taxes, Law and Community Issues**
**9: Dealing with Taxes**

Tshombe, an African immigrant, operates a sidewalk lemonade stand on a busy street. He seeks advice from a tax consultant after receiving notification from the IRS about the tax form he had filed. He must make a choice between declaring his correct income or lying about it to avoid paying extra taxes.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
container taxes amazing audit receipt discount merchandise offer permit charity claim deduction dependent fine honest income owe punish report subtract	Nouns:  Count nouns (containers, receipts, etc.)  Non-count nouns (merchandise, water, etc.)  Plural forms	Specifying quantities  Making offers  Answering yes/no questions  Explaining something in a letter	Identifying resources for help with taxes  Understanding basic concepts regarding U.S income tax forms  Scanning lists of business expenses for details  Using basic math skills to determine prices and/or quantities  Drawing conclusions from context

**TOPIC: Taxes, Law and Community Issues**

**10: Dealing with the Law**

Tshombe needs to have his lemonade stand open longer than his municipal permit allows in order to make more money for the extra taxes that he owes. When he refuses to close down at 5:00 p.m., he gets into a serious argument with a police officer.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
allowed choice doomed extra hurry luck officer usual vendor voice arrest cart citation cooperate identification leave make a living motion provide unbelievable	Quantifiers: “much,” “many,” “some,” “a few,” “any,” “a lot of”, “a little”	Expressing quantities Making predictions Summarizing a conversation Using appropriate language with police officers	Identifying appropriate behavior with police Understanding Miranda Rights Reading an informational flyer for details Drawing conclusions

**TOPIC: Taxes, Law and Community Issues**

**11: Discussing Community Issues**

After meeting with the police and a city official, Tshombe and Joe try to organize their fellow street vendors to defend their rights. A shop owner wants them to leave *her* street and has arranged for a public hearing to be held.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
discuss issue appointment nervous aggressive merchant jail unsafe chance cause media organize informed support powerful selfish silly quiet voters leaders	Singular expressions of quantity: one, another, other	Persuading others  Agreeing and disagreeing  Participating in a group discussion, meeting  Stating and supporting an opinion	Collaborating with neighbors to solve community issues  Identifying local resources to get informed  Identifying ways to challenge existing procedures and policies  Using a weekly planner to get organized

**TOPIC: Taxes, Law and Community Issues**

**12: Civic Participation**

Tshombe appears at a court hearing to defend the street vendors’ rights to sell their merchandise. He must produce documented evidence to support his case.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
reporter petition stand illegal drugs goods signature belong to faint prove represent corrupt hazard unusual crime ridiculous steal lazy forgive defend	Object pronouns  Indefinite pronouns: someone, anyone, everyone, no one	Asking interview questions of others  Expressing an opinion  Turn taking in a discussion or meeting  Stating a case and giving supporting arguments	Interviewing others  Creating strategies to solve community problems  Defending your case in a formal meeting  Providing evidence for an argument  Reading a meeting agenda

**TOPIC: Parenting and Workplace Roles**

**13: Women in Non-traditional Roles**

Marta, a single, working mother of a teenaged daughter, is offered the position of manager at work. Shortly after she accepts the new job, Marta must face the possibility of firing Dora, her best friend. Dora has not been able to keep up production ever since the new written instructions have been circulated, but refuses to admit that she is illiterate.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
non-traditional brave handle used to position accounts politics leadership complicated emotional stressful purpose loyal employee exceed ambitious fail grateful illiterate adapt	Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives	Comparing abilities  Stating and supporting an opinion  Negotiating	Accepting women in positions of leadership  Defining the qualities of good leaders and good workers  Recognizing the importance of literacy  Reading a work order form for details

**TOPIC: Education and Information**

**14: Accessing Learning Opportunities**

Tony Park, recently arrived from Korea, has inherited his father’s sandwich shop. Even though he has a professional credential in his home country, he has limited skills in English. His inability to communicate with customers begins to hurt his business. Complicating the situation, a gangster wants to buy the sandwich shop property for real estate investment purposes and begins creating problems for Tony.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
immigrant finally lose partner sandwich separately vegetarian worth deaf rude enroll bleeding cockroach disgusting dream honor impossible medicine total double	Asking questions with “what,” “when,” “where,” “who,” “why,” and “how”	Asking for information  Describing future plans and intentions  Giving excuses  Making predictions  Writing supporting ideas for a topic sentence	Recognizing the importance of English to job performance  Identifying ways to improve English skills  Scanning a restaurant menu and understanding an order given verbally

**TOPIC: Education and Information**

**15: Involvement in Children’s Education**

Tony becomes interested in a young woman and must decide if it is more important to keep a date with her or talk to his son’s instructor about his son’s problems.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
trouble involved shop fight own figure out bright advanced raise divorced musician rather available reschedule education admit responsible glad glasses cheating	Prepositions of time, place and direction	Introducing yourself  Scheduling and canceling appointments  Making suggestions  Sequencing events	Identifying strategies to get involved in children’s education  Listing ways to improve behavior  Reading over-the-counter medicine labels

**TOPIC: Education and Information**

**16: Transferring Professional Degrees**

The sandwich shop is robbed and Tony is forced to reevaluate what he wants to do in life. In order to be certified as a pharmacist in the U.S., he must take the TOEFL exam. This is a difficult challenge for him and he must decide whether he wants to take on this challenge, or give up the idea of becoming certified in the U.S.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
pharmacist exam cash credential tattoo register replace savings profession enemy best experience license located official redevelopment results score terrible treatment	Yes/No Questions and WH-Questions in the simple past tense	Asking questions about the past  Giving encouragement  Inquiring about a process	Identifying resources to get help in transferring or obtaining professional credentials in the U.S.  Reading a prescription medicine label  Drawing conclusions

**TOPIC: Education and Information**
**17: Learning to Learn**

Tony and his uncle are intimidated by a gangster to sell their sandwich shop to him. Just before signing their business over to him, Uncle Bill realizes this person has robbed the shop. In cooperation with the police, they plan to catch the robbers. Tony, however, must first learn about cameras and technology in order to set up a surveillance system.

Key Vocabulary	Grammar	Language Functions	Workplace / Life Skills
property develop cheap catch almost rush proof regret robbery upgrade criminal tape signal equipment fit skill become capture reward antenna	Simple Past tense Verbs	Talking about events completed in the past  Sequencing events	Identifying where/how to access information that you need  Reading instructions for using technical equipment  Drawing Conclusions



## Practice English and Reading

The stories in *Practice English and Reading* can be used to supplement and extend the intermediate level learners' curriculum. The stories used in this section were originally taken from news reports. Some stories contain a "Full Story" which presents the story at a higher reading level, closer to the original language. The "Basic Story" uses simple sentence structures and vocabulary to make the same story accessible to a language learner. Each story contains a reading, vocabulary development, comprehension questions, and a writing prompt. These activities are also appropriate for native English speakers who have limited literacy skills.

There is no instructional sequence intended in the menu listing of the topics. Topics may be chosen according to their relevance to the student's interests and learning needs and goals.

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Family	Community Rebuilds Playground	burned extremely neighbors organizers playground project rebuild ruined volunteer worried
	Fire Safety	attempt escape mattress poisoned suffocate careless
	Historic Letters Get Responses	appreciate combat discovered donate era inspiration perspective remember soldiers stationed
	Parents Can Get Help	alcohol daughter home life mother nursery parent safe suffering wrong



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Family	Boy Sets Swimming Record	agree article coach excellent finish prove record swim train youngest

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Going Places	Air Rage	abusive assault attendant passenger plane problem protect punishment angry rage
	Golden Gate Birthday	anniversary beginning bridge crowded greatest history opening parade records sunrise
	High Seas	e-mail family Internet modem retire sailing senior short-wave weather yacht
	Sensible Driving Can Save Fuel	accelerator conserve errands expensive fuel habit inflated route speed steady

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Health and Safety	Alzheimer's Disease	affects confused cure disease eventually memory
	Body Scan	body disease doctor expensive healthy scan secure sick worry young
	Cell Phone Safety	accident dangerous distracted drive focus information law phone road safe

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Health and Safety	Governor Wants Kids to Eat Healthy	concern governor health issues junk food overweight problem productive summit teenagers
	Kid Safety	avoid chemical curious detector hazard injury occur passenger protect site
	Poison Proof Your Home	accidental childhood dangerous household latch poison

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Health and Safety	Skin Cancer	chemotherapy increase survival treated prevent cancer chemotherapy increase prevent survival treated
	Smokers Have New Way to Quit	addicted ancient apply disease laser resist therapist trigger urge willpower
	The Dangers of Fireworks	adult careful children dangerous explode eye fireworks hurt illegal safe



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Housing	Renters' Rights	community complex court decision fixed judge notify purchase remain reside



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Law and Government	Officers May Be Required to Work Out	disability ethic fit gym police officer policy program recruits required voluntary



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Money	Ready, Click, Spend	bargain budget caution festive fraud predict retail secure tradition Web site

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Nature	Alaskan Oil Spill	Alaska captain contain crew equipment fisherman pipeline reef spilled tanker
	Earthquake Could be Worse than Hurricane	channels crust damage earthquake expert fault kit portable power survival
	Lost Whales	active behavior belong coax downstream habitat herd propeller protect suffer

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Nature	Save the Forest	climate critical diversity ecologist ecosystem industry quality species
	Tuna and Dolphins	canning check company dolphins fisherman nets shadow tuna
	Volcano by the Sea	collapse earthquake eruption island lava scientist surface volcano

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
School	Dogs Help Children Become Better Readers	assist attentive audience comfort companion encourage explosive intimidating peers therapy
	Fun Reading Show	audience books families important program questions reading show travel understand
	Kids' Café	airport coffee crowded customer flavor mistake passengers pleasant project skill



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
School	Students and Satellites	college foam garbage launch measure plastic rocket satellite
	Computers in the Classroom	afford classroom computer Internet kindergarten library recess visit volunteer wired

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Science and Technology	Biosphere	biosphere desert Earth future greenhouse planet scientist shrimp tropics sealed
	Computer Virus	computer computer virus FBI hooked up information machine problem several spread useless
	Film Made about UFOs	comet explanation flares interview mystery objects officials Phoenix producer unidentified

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Science and Technology	T-Rex	dinosaurs extinction humans researchers scientists skeletons tracked Tyrannosaurus Rex
	Google It!	adjective adopted common edition editors noun official public technology verb

Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Services	911 Calls	accident bogus emergency help phone police problem quick reduce wait
	Free Food for Kids	breakfast children concentrate food free lunch meal nourished participate school



Topic	Stories	Key Vocabulary
Working	Looking for a Job	civil service employment agency hire job opening telephone directory temporary
	W-4 Form	dependent exemption refund W-4 form withhold taxes
	Team Player	adapt compromise employee employer responsible team player