

USA Learns - Access America Course Scope & Sequence [2024 revisions]

The green column includes websites that are referenced in the lesson. This should help you preview external websites for any changes that may have occurred since the most recent (September 2024) course update. Entries also include resource links for teachers working with refugee, rural, and other populations.

New (2024) activities include:

1. “Your Turn” speaking practice added to all Conversation topics.
2. 17 new “Getting Help” videos with information about where learners can find additional resources
3. “Talk About” activity added to each unit. These are culminating activities that include problem solving and visual-prompt speaking practice.
4. Vocabulary game or flashcard review added to every lesson.
5. In Unit 2.4, new listening activity – A Parent-Teacher Conference

In addition to the new activities, new items have been added to some activities to provide more learner practice.

Unit 1: New Beginnings						Standards			Links and Resources
	Conversation / Speaking	Topics	Digital Literacy	Grammar	Community	EL Civics + Immigrant Integration Indicator (I3) & CASAS	Employability Skills + CASAS	Texas AELCS	
1.1 A New Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elena talks to a customer service agent • Describe a picture of a library 	1. Places in the community 2. City services 3. Using the library <i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Names in the U.S. <i>Getting Help:</i> Calling 211	Using Public Wi-Fi	<i>Can and Can't</i> Prepositions for times and dates	Research and share information about a store in the local community	10 Identify, locate, and map important places in the community 23.5 Access and use community service information 47 Identify strategies and resources to use the internet safely I3 Focus Area: Civic and Community Participation	Communication skills, Technology use, Resource management CASAS: 1.2	V.1A V.1C V.2C	<p>Getting Help: 211 calls – FCC guide to 211 services includes link for finding local services: Dial 211 for Essential Community Services Can also access resources on local library website</p> <p>Other resources for educators: EARN: Expanding the Use of Online Resources in IELCE Activities to Support Immigrant Integration and Inclusion 14175 EARN Online-Instruction-Resource-Interactive-REV.pdf</p> <p>Many resources at LINCS that you can search by keyword.</p> <p>The Welcome Corps has resources for refugees and people helping them Welcome US: Resources for our communities. They have also produced some nice videos for World Refugee Day: Welcome US: see all videos</p> <p>Documentary films by and about immigrants: https://csfilm.org/new-immigrant-and-refugee-</p>

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1.2 Getting Around Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego asks for directions to the library Talk about a problem: Hana is lost 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using public transportation Understanding traffic signs and safety <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Etiquette on U.S. public transportation</p>	Planning a route with Google maps	Present tense statements, questions and short answers with <i>be</i>	Research and explain how to get to a place in the local community on public transportation	10 Identify, locate, and map important places in the community I3 Focus Area: Civic and Community Participation	Communication skills, Technology use CASAS: 2.2	V.1A V.1C V.2C	Getting Help: Transportation -- Access local transportation website for information about low-cost or free transportation
1.3 Managing Your Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena opens a bank account Talk about a problem: June needs financial help 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Choosing a bank Making a budget Taxes <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> U.S. attitudes about money</p>	Online security - keeping your financial information safe	Simple present <i>yes/no</i> questions and short answers Statements and questions with "would like"	Research and share information about a local financial institution	1 Identify, Evaluate, and Compare Financial Services 47 Identify strategies and resources to use the internet safely I3 Focus Area: Economic Security	Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Technology use CASAS: 1.8	V.1A V.1C V.2C	Getting Financial Help The Department of Health & Human Services has information about TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
1.4 Finding a Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena interviews for a job Talk about problem: Tom doesn't like his job 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding job ads Tips for job interviews <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> U.S. body language</p>	Online job applications	Present continuous verbs Adjectives and adverbs	Research and describe an interesting job ad	33 Identify and access employment and training resources needed to obtain and keep a job I3 Focus Area: Education and Career	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use, Interpersonal skills CASAS: 4.1	V.1A V.2C	Getting Help: Job Interviews Job Interview tips at Interview And Negotiate CareerOneStop They also have some job ads that you can search for by zip code: Job Search CareerOneStop
1.5 Getting Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego talks to a preschool teacher Describe a preschool picture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Child care in the U.S. The benefits of preschool <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> A child care center discipline policy</p>	Looking for child care online	<i>have to / don't have to / must / must not</i>	Research and share information about a local child care provider	9 Locate and analyze preschool and childcare services in the community and identify requirements for enrolling a child I3 Focus Area: Children and Family	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use CASAS: 2.5.9	V.1A V.1C V.2C	Getting Help: Paying for Child Care Find links to local childcare assistance programs at Childcare.gov . Also provides information about childcare centers, for example, if they are licensed. Head Start locator: Head Start Center Locator ECLKC
1.6 Unit Test									
Unit 2: Facing Challenges									

2.1 Finding a Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena and Diego talk to an apartment manager Talk about a Problem: Gina has a leaky pipe 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Renting an apartment Renters' rights Home repairs Shopping for household goods 	Finding a home online	<p>Questions with <i>how often</i></p> <p>Frequency adverbs and expressions</p>	Research and describe an available housing unit	<p>4 Describe methods to obtain housing</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Economic Security</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use</p> <p>CASAS: 1.4</p>	V.1A V.1B V.2C	<p>Getting Help: Housing HUD to find local affordable housing, connect with a housing counselor, report housing discrimination, or look for information about programs for first-time home buyers</p> <p>Other resources: Refugee Housing Solutions: About - Refugee Housing Solutions</p>
2.2 Getting Started at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena registers Rudy for elementary school Describe a picture of a classroom 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. school system Registering a child for school Basic information about school <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Classroom expectations in U.S. schools</p>	Technology skills (basic skills required in school)	Introduction to phrasal verbs	Research and share information about a local school	<p>13 Interact with educational institutions including schools for children</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Education and Career</p>	<p>Communication skills, Technology skills</p> <p>CASAS: 2.8</p>	V.1A V.1C V.2C	<p>Getting Help: Meals at School Find out about free and reduced-price school meals at local school district website</p> <p>Information about the national school lunch program: National School Lunch Program Food and Nutrition Service</p>
2.3 Dealing with Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego makes a medical appointment for Rudy Talk about a problem: Ada's son has a toothache 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of the body Vaccinations Dental care <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Health insurance in the U.S.</p>	Avoiding inaccurate health information online	Promises with <i>will</i>	Research and share information about a local health care provider	<p>28 Access the health care system and be able to interact with the providers</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Technology use</p> <p>CASAS: 3.1</p>	V.1A V.1C V.2C V.4A	<p>Getting Help: Medical care Visit HealthCare.gov to find the local health insurance Marketplace, and to find out about Medicaid and CHIP, programs for people who are not eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, and affordable healthcare centers that serve undocumented people</p> <p>For online health information: https://familydoctor.org/, healthychildren.org</p>
2.4 Communicating with the School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena reports Rudy's absence from school Talk about a problem: Carlos' son is going to miss school 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Back to School and Open House School Attendance A parent-teacher conference <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Getting involved with children's schools</p>	Using a school website	<i>Going to future</i>	Research and share information about a local parent-teacher organization	<p>13 Interact with educational institutions including schools for children</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Education and Career</p>	<p>Communication skills, Technology skills, Interpersonal skills</p> <p>CASAS: 2.8</p>	V.1A V.1B V.1D V.2C V.3A	Access school website for information about calendar, bell schedule, online services, children's class schedule and progress, and PTO information
2.5 Emergencies and Natural Disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego talks to a friend who had an accident 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Calling 911 Non-emergencies Preparing for natural disasters 	Cell phone - emergency alert systems	Past tense of <i>be</i>	Research and share information about natural disasters that happen locally and how to prepare for	<p>16 Access community agencies that assist during an emergency or disaster</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use</p>	V.1A V.2C V.4A	Getting Help after a Disaster: Explore FEMA for information about getting help after a disaster, including help with food, utility bills, and unemployment benefits

	• Describe a picture of emergency preparedness items				them		CASAS: 2.1, 2.5		
2.6 Unit Test									
Unit 3: Taking Control									
3.1 Healthy Eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena tells a friend how to make pupusas Talk about a problem: Jane eats unhealthy food 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy eating A healthy breakfast <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> a recipe</p>	Finding health / nutrition information on the internet / apps	Count/non-count nouns, <i>Many/much/a lot of</i>	Research and share information about a local place to buy healthy food	<p>46 Access resources for nutrition education and information related to the purchase and preparation of healthy foods</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use</p> <p>CASAS: 3.5</p>	V.1A V.2C	<p>Getting Help: Food assistance Directory for SNAP state food assistance programs: SNAP State Directory of Resources Food and Nutrition Service</p> <p>Healthy eating information and recipes: MyPlate</p>
3.2 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego reports a safety problem at work Talk about a problem: an unsafe office 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace safety Handwashing Safety at home <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Workers' Compensation Insurance</p>	Passwords and backups	<i>Should/shouldn't</i>	Identify safety features and possible safety problems at home, at work, and in the community	<p>36 Identify work related safety regulations, standards and procedures</p> <p>24 Identify and access community and government resources in order to prevent accidents</p> <p>47 Identify strategies and resources to use the internet safely</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Education and Career</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use</p> <p>CASAS: 4.3</p>	V.1A V.1B V.1C V.2C	<p>Getting Help: Safety Problems at Work Information about rights to a safe workplace and how to report problems at Worker.gov</p> <p>Immigrant and Employee Rights: Immigrant and Employee Rights Section United States Department of Justice</p>
3.3 Job Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena deals with a difficult customer Describe a picture of people at work 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hard skills Soft skills <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Behavior that employers expect</p>	Personal phones at work	Regular past tense verbs	Research and explain hard and soft skill requirements of a job of interest	<p>37 Identify and demonstrate qualities of an effective employee in the American workplace in order to get a job, keep a job or get a better job</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Education and Career</p>	<p>Communication skills, Technology skills, Personal skills, Interpersonal skills</p> <p>CASAS: 4.8</p>	V.1A V.2C V.3D	<p>Getting Help: Find training programs at Find Training CareerOneStop</p> <p>Resources: Add info for refugee resources (programs like Refugee Career Pathways Refugee Career Pathways Los Rios Community College District)</p> <p>WorkforceGPS - Resources</p>

3.4 Building Good Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego disputes a credit-card charge Talk about a problem: Nick has a low credit score 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Making minimum payments Payday lenders <p><i>Culture tip / Reading: Building good credit</i></p>	Credit scores and reports	Connecting words <i>but, so, and, or</i>	Research and share information about a credit card offer	1 Identify, Evaluate, and Compare Financial Services I3 Focus Area: Economic Security	Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Technology use CASAS: 1.8	V.1A V.1B V.2C	<p>Access free credit reports and information about credit reports at Annual Credit Report.com</p> <p>More information about avoiding “free credit report” scams at Free Credit Reports Consumer Advice</p> <p>Federal Trade Commission info on credit and debt: Credit and Debt Consumer Advice</p>
3.5 Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena talks to a car seller Describe a picture of people in a car 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of a car Getting a driver’s license Buying a used car Dealing with a traffic stop <p><i>Culture tip / Reading: Traffic school</i></p>	Using the DMV site	irregular past tense verbs	Research and share information about a used car that is for sale nearby	12 Community Resources – DMV Describe and access services offered at DMV I3 Focus Area: Civic and Community Participation	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use CASAS: 1.9	V.1A V.1B V.1C V.2C	<p>Access state motor vehicle department website for information about ID cards, licenses, and traffic laws</p> <p>Information about rights and how to protect yourself from scams when buying a used car: Buying and Owning a Car Consumer Advice</p>
3.6 Unit Test									
Unit 4: Becoming Part of the Community									
4.1 Taking Care of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego talks to a neighbor about neighborhood cleanup Describe a picture of items for recycling or trash 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling Reducing and reusing <p><i>Culture tip / Reading: Tap Water in the U.S.</i></p>	Searching for information online	Past tense questions and negative statements	Research and share information about a community cleanup or similar event nearby	43 Identify environmental problems, access environmental organizations and government agencies and recognize appropriate steps for resolution of the problems I3 Focus Area: Civic and Community Participation	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use CASAS: 5.7	V.1A V.1B V.2C V.4A	<p>Access city website for local info about recycling and cleanup programs.</p> <p>The EPA website has lots of information about local environmental topics, including the Air Quality Index, wildfires, water safety, and environmental justice Environmental Topics US EPA</p>
4.2 Choosing a Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena talks to a career counselor Talk about a problem: Yumi is trying to choose a career 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Degrees, diplomas, and certificates Choosing a career <p><i>Culture tip / Reading: Career tests</i></p>	Researching careers online	Sentences with <i>before</i> and <i>after</i>	Research and share information about career services that are available nearby	32 Identify, analyze and describe job requirements, licenses, credentials, etc. needed for specific jobs and identify resources to help access the information. I3 Focus Area: Education and Career	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use CASAS: 4.4	V.1A V.1C V.2C	<p>Research career information at O*NET , including outlook, pay, tasks, and requirements. Also has an interest profiler that learners can take in English or Spanish.</p> <p>The Department of Labor also has career pathways and training resources at WorkforceGPS - Resources</p>

4.3 Interviews and Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego talks about getting promotion Talk about a problem: Sara isn't sure about what to say at her interview 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Answering Job Interview Questions 1: <i>Tell me about yourself</i> Answering Job Interview Questions 2: Teamwork skills <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Getting a Raise</p>	Writing a resume	Adjectives + infinitives (<i>be happy to</i>)	Find and discuss employee reviews of a local employer	37 Identify and demonstrate qualities of an effective employee in the American workplace in order to get a job, keep a job or get a better job I3 Focus Area: Education and Career	Communication skills, Technology skills, Interpersonal skills CASAS: 4.1	V.1A V.2C V.3E	Getting Help: Job Interviews Find more detailed information about job interviews at Interview And Negotiate CareerOneStop Including common interview questions and how to answer them
4.4 Achieving Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena talks to a college advisor Talk about a problem: Andrew has poor study habits 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SMART goals Time management <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Adult students in the United States</p>	Ways to avoid digital distractions	Preposition + gerund	Find and describe a good place to study in the local community	50 Transition: Demonstrate study skills/self-management skills I3 Focus Area: Education and Career	Communication skills, Technology skills, Personal skills CASAS: 4.1	V.1A V.2C	Getting Help: Going to College Look for support services on local college website.
4.5 Unit Test									
Unit 5: Settling In									
5.1 Getting Involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elena goes to a parent event, talks about volunteering Describe a picture of recreational activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering Recreation and Enrichment <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Community gardens</p>	Online classes and meetings	Present perfect	Research and share information about a volunteer opportunity nearby.	25 Identify and describe volunteer and /or leadership opportunities in the community. I3 Focus Area: Civic and Community Participation	Communication skills, Technology skills, Interpersonal skills CASAS: 5.6	V.1A V.1D V.2C V.3A V.4A	Find information about local recreation and enrichment programs on city websites. Search for local volunteer opportunities on local sites or through directory sites like https://www.volunteermatch.org , or Find a volunteer opportunity AmeriCorps
5.2 Rights and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego talks to neighbor about Neighborhood Watch Talk about a problem: Chen wants to become a citizen 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Laws Getting Legal help <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Facts about immigration in the U.S.</p>	Online resources for becoming a citizen	Comparative adjectives	Research and share information about a place to get legal help or help preparing for citizenship.	45 Identify basic features of the local, state, and federal legal system I3 Focus Area: Credentials and Residency	Communication skills, Information use, Technology use CASAS: 5.5	V.1A V.1B V.2C	Find local legal help at LawHelp.org for housing, work, senior, or immigration issues Check state bar association website for links to free legal help and information about lawyers. Contact local legal aid society for information about lawyers and to help avoiding scams. Information at Find a lawyer for affordable legal aid USAGov

									Visit Naturalization Test and Study Resources USCIS for citizenship study resources
5.3 Expanding Horizons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanca talks about plans for college Talk about a problem: Marco's son wants to go to college 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for college STEM careers <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> Starting a business in the U.S.</p>	Managing your online reputation	Past continuous	Research and share information about a place that can help you achieve your goals.	<p>51 Transition: Research, identify and utilize resources and services necessary to transition to and succeed in post-secondary education</p> <p>32 Locate, analyze and describe job requirements, licenses, credentials, etc. needed for specific jobs and identify resources</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Education and Career</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use</p> <p>CASAS: 4.1.9</p>	V.1A V.1C V.2C	<p>Getting Help: Credential Evaluation Go to https://www.wes.org/ for credential evaluation services and information to assist skilled immigrants: https://www.wes.org/resource-library/events/?s&partners_topics=627</p> <p>Learn more about financial aid programs to pay for college at Federal Student Aid</p> <p>See Career videos for videos about specific careers.</p>
5.4 Seeing the Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diego, Elena and Blanca talk about vacation plans Describe a picture of natural resources in different U.S. states 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Famous places in the U.S. The National Parks <p><i>Culture tip / Reading:</i> U.S. history and government</p>	Reading customer reviews	Superlatives	Research and share information about a place in the U.S. that you would like to visit.	<p>22 Community Resources – Recreation</p> <p>Access leisure-time, cultural, and/or recreational resources</p> <p>I3 Focus Area: Children and Family</p>	<p>Communication skills, Information use, Technology use, Critical thinking skills</p> <p>CASAS: 5.2</p>	V.1A V.1C V.2C	Visit National Park Service for information about the national parks, including resources for educators.
5.5 Unit Test									