# Lingua inglese 1 (Lingua e fonologia)

## Prof. ssa Amanda Clare Murphy

# Esercitazioni di Lingua inglese 1

## Dott.sse Chiara Canova, Costanza Peverati, Francesca Poli, Jenovia Smith, Angela Vasilovici

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***COURSE AIMS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of the phonetics and phonology of contemporary English.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students are expected to

* be able to discuss in English the contents of the course and the prescribed reading material;
* be able to demonstrate comprehension of the mechanisms of the articulation of English vowels and consonants;
* show knowledge of the international phonetic alphabet, and pronounce the vowels and consonants of English correctly, regardless of the variety they aim for (e.g. British, American, Australian, Irish, Scottish English, etc.);
* be able to explain the need for a Pronouncing Dictionary and demonstrate its use;
* be able to explain differences between some major varieties of English, such as British and American English.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The sounds of English – which English?
2. The organs of speech
3. The International Phonetic Alphabet
4. Describing and classifying sounds: Vowels and Consonants
5. Phonemes, minimal pairs, allophones, the syllable.
6. Word stress, primary and secondary.
7. Connected speech, weak forms, elision, liaison, assimilation.
8. Aspects of suprasegmental prosody: stress, rhythm, intonation.
9. Daniel Jones and the English Pronouncing Dictionary
10. Varieties of English.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Obligatory:

1. The notes and slides from the course on Blackboard
2. M-L. Maggioni and A.C. Murphy, “La lingua o le lingue inglesi? Strumento di egemonia culturale o ponte tra culture?” in *Geopolitica delle lingue,* a cura di G. Del Zanna, Maggioli, Santarcangelo di Romagna 2018 [Acquista da V&P](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/geopolitica-delle-lingue-9788891626844-550622.html)
3. D. Crystal, *Sounds appealing:* *The passionate story of English pronunciation.*

Or

1. S. Horobin, *Does Spelling Matter*? Oxford University Press, Oxford.

The course contents and reading list are valid for both attendees and non-attendees of the course.

Further optional reading for interest:

P. Forchini, *The Real Professor(s) Higgins,* EDUCatt, Milano 2015

P. Trudgill-J. Hannah, *International English: a guide to the varieties of standard English,* Arnold, London 2002, 4th ed.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lessons are as interactive as possible, including pair work and group work. Self-study is required outside of class, and students are expected to consult websites and perform exercises and tests available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed in two stages. Firstly, they take a test on Blackboard, comprised of 30 multiple choice/True/false/fill in the gap questions, testing their comprehension of the fundamental contents of the course (the articulation of English vowels and consonants). Students may take the test on a date set in January, or as the first part of the final exam in any official exam date (*appello*). They may take the Blackboard test on a different date from the final oral, if they wish, but if so, they need to enrol in the exam on two different dates. All candidates must pass the Blackboard test before taking the oral exam, which is conducted in English and which assesses samples of learning outcomes listed above, through discussion.

Once they have passed the Blackboard test, students must be able to discuss the contents of the general works on the bibliography (Crystal or Horobin, Maggioni-Murphy) in the oral exam. Secondly, they demonstrate they can read the IPA, pronouncing the symbols correctly, also regarding indications of American pronunciation.

The final mark for Lingua inglese Lingua e fonologia (for 12 credits - CFU) reflects

1. the average score in the written and oral language tests (prove intermedie)
2. the score on the Blackboard written test on phonology
3. performance in the oral phonology exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is taught in English. Students must enrol in the 2022-2023 course on the Blackboard platform where they can access course slides, practice materials, and take the end of term Blackboard test.

With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must pass both the written and oral language tests (*prove intermedie*) before they take the phonology exam. For Erasmus students, the English Phonology course (30 hours) is worth 5 CFU.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

Students wishing to talk to Prof. Murphy should attend her office hours as indicated on her UC webpage, whether in person or online. Office hours are weekly in term time and take place either in her office (Centro Studi sul Turismo) in Brescia or in the Centro di Linguistica dell’Università Cattolica (both on the second floor in Via Trieste), or via Skype or Micrsoft Teams.

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***COURSE AIMS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course aims to consolidate the students’ knowledge and practical skills in the areas of grammar, reading, writing and spelling, oral communication and pronunciation. Students should reach a level that is comparable to B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students are expected to

* be able to demonstrate comprehension of a passage read aloud and the ability to transcribe it correctly;
* show knowledge of the grammatical structures and phraseology of English and areas of lexis contained in the course books at the expected level;
* be able to compose a text correctly in English at the expected level, showing knowledge of the norms of written English;
* be able to translate sentences from Italian to English demonstrating knowledge of grammatical structures and lexis taught at the expected level;
* be able to decode the International Phonetic Alphabet and pronounce the vowels and consonants of English correctly, regardless of the variety they identify with (e.g. British or American English);
* be able to converse in English, asking and answering questions at the expected level about the prescribed texts for the exams.

Transferable skills:

Students are expected to be able to

* have familiarity with the learning platform Blackboard, and its main functions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

- Consolidation and development of grammatical and phraseological knowledge of English

- Speaking skills and listening comprehension

- Writing skills with attention to formal and informal emails

- Reading comprehension skills

- Translation skills

- Practising the correct transcription of a text that is dictated

- Practising decoding the International Phonetic Alphabet correctly

***READING LIST[[2]](#footnote-2)***

The following materials are **compulsory** for all groups:

Paul Dummett, John Hughes, Helen Stephenson *Life-Upper Intermediate* 2nd Edition, National Geographic Learning. ISBN 9781337286121

Grammar

Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage* 4th Edition. Oxford University Press

Dispensa *First year Grammar Exercises* available at Centro Copie.

Translation

Dispensa *Italian-English* *Translation and Vocabulary* available on Blackboard and at Centro Copie.

Pronunciation

Dispensa *Pronunciation* available on Blackboard.

It is recommended that students one of the following bilingual and monolingual dictionary that will last throughout their degree course. Any of the following are appropriate, in their latest edition:

*Il Sansoni Italiano-Inglese*, Sansoni.

*Grande Dizionario Hoepli Inglese con CD-ROM*, Hoepli.

*Il Dizionario Inglese Italiano Ragazzini*, Zanichelli.

*Oxford Paravia. Il dizionario inglese-italiano, italiano-inglese*.

Recommended monolingual dictionaries (latest editions):

*Advanced Dictionary*, Collins Cobuild.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Cambridge.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford.

*English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, Macmillan.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lessons are interactive, requiring pair work and group work. Self-study is fundamental, using the course books and extra materials made available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students take a written exam which tests listening comprehension, spelling and punctuation through a dictation exercies, knowledge of grammar at the expected level, reading and writing skills, and translation into English. There is also an oral exam conducted in English and students are assessed on their ability to communicate at the expected level. The assessment focuses on correct pronunciation, effective communication skills, the ability to use appropriate lexis as well as students’ knowledge of the content of the readings required. The final mark out of 30 points reflect the level reached based on the performance in the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

It is highly recommended to attend lessons, which begin on 19th September 2022. Students are placed in groups after the placement test/VPI and should stay in their groups throughout the year.

The first two weeks are intensive with 10 hours of language lessons per week. From 4th October for 10 weeks, there are 6 hours of lessons per week.

The course is taught in English. Students must enrol in the 2022-23 courses on the Blackboard platform to be able to access the course contents and practice materials.

Students must pass the written and oral language exams **before** taking their first year phonology exam.

1. The texts indicated in the bibliography can be purchased from the University bookstores; they can also be purchased from other retailers [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The texts indicated in the bibliography can be purchased from the University bookstores; they can also be purchased from other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)