

Laurel Springs School

Standards for English Language Instruction

English 104: Writing for Life

This course marks the beginning of the upper division in the English Language Department. Students enrolled in English 104 may be permitted to enroll in some college prep courses through Laurel Springs School. In English 104, students will develop writing skills for many personal, academic, and professional situations. Grammar knowledge is strengthened as practical usage of English is taught. A variety of texts are read as well as listened to. Although the course is focused on building writing skills, there is a large listening and reading comprehension component. As in all English Adventures offerings, TOEFL preparation is a high priority.

Content Objectives

Communication

1. Express feelings, emotions, or opinions.
2. State the main idea and describe characters, setting, and important events in age-appropriate, culturally authentic texts
3. Describe narrative voice.

Culture

1. Achieve familiarity with common U.S. writing forms (e.g. essay, formal letter, poems.)
2. Participate in, identify, or read about expressive products of target culture peers such as selections from children's literature, dances, and types of art work.

Skills Objectives

Listening

1. Listen to longer recordings while reading from the text.
2. Listen to critical discussions between other students.
3. Listen to readings from various genres of writing.
4. Recognize the rhythm of poetry versus prose.
5. Recognize mood and tone in a voice.
6. Identify genres of writing by reading style.

Writing

1. Write a short story, poem, essay, letter and biographical sketch.
2. Describe characters of own invention.
3. Summarize stories and essays.
4. Demonstrate new grammatical structures.
5. Exchange letters with another student.

Speaking

1. Recite poetry.
2. Solicit opinions of others.
3. Tell a story about one's own life.
4. Tell a story about an acquaintance.

Reading

1. Read the works of contemporary as well as historical authors in many genres.
2. Classify writing into genres.
3. Use dictionary as well as thesaurus to actively increase vocabulary.
4. Distinguish between phrases and clauses.
5. Correct erroneous punctuation.
6. Find particular items of information within a long text.
7. Exchange letters with another student.

Learning Styles Compatibility

Auditory

1. Listen to a variety of material spoken by male and female voices.
2. Listen to songs.
3. Play games that include non-verbal sounds.
4. Listen to various reading styles both discursive and theatrical.
5. Listen to media broadcasts from various English speaking countries.

Kinesthetic

1. Select and play audio recordings.
2. Complete a self-grading "practice" quiz in each lesson.
3. Learn correct structure by organizing parts of a text on the screen.
4. Follow multiple links within each lesson.
5. Search educational, governmental and commercial websites.
6. Check answers before submitting lesson.
7. Customize personal study environment.

Visual

1. Use lists, charts and tables.
2. Read from screens of varying colors.
3. Study flow charts and maps to understand grammatical concepts.
4. Follow travel routes on maps of various countries.
5. View artwork.
6. View scenic photography.

Outline by Lesson

Descriptions of lesson sections:

1. Vocabulary: 10-20 words from the reading selection
2. Reading: Students listen as they read.
3. Writing tips: Grammar and usage lessons
4. Writing assignment: Examples given, topic and length specified
5. Practice Questions: 5 auto graded questions for practice
6. Questions: 20 questions per lesson

Unit One: Biography

Lesson 1

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: A favorable biography

10 questions

Writing tips Review of Simple Present and Present Progressive

5 practice questions

10 questions

Lesson 2

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: An unfavorable biography
10 questions
Writing tips Review of Past Progressive and Simple Past Tense
5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: (one paragraph) write about a famous person.

Lesson 3

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: An intimate biography
10 questions
Writing tips Review of Present Perfect and Simple Past Tense
5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: (one paragraph) write about someone you know.

Lesson 4

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: A conversation.
10 questions
Writing tips Past Perfect
5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: write about your favorite writer/artist/musician

Review and Test

Lesson 5

Review of lessons 1-4
Internet exploration.
Writing tips Past Perfect Progressive, Future Progressive

Lesson 6

Test for lessons 1-4
Writing assignment (three paragraphs)

Unit Two: Autobiography

Lesson 7

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: My Family

10 questions

Writing tips Future Perfect and Future Perfect Progressive

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: describe your family

Lesson 8

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: My Town

10 questions

Writing tips Tag Questions: (aren't you, don't you, did they, has he, can they etc..)

You're from Santa Barbara, aren't you?

They decided to go to Laurel Springs School, didn't they?

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: describe your town

Lesson 9

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: My Hobby

10 questions

Writing tips Additions and Responses with So, Too, Neither, Not either, & But

Fiona **is** married, **and so is** Susie.

Brian **can't** speak Chinese, **and neither can** Darby.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write about your favorite writer/artist/musician

Lesson 10

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: A conversation.

10 questions

Writing tips Gerunds and Infinitives: Review

5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: write about your favorite writer/artist/musician

Review and Test

Lesson 11

Review of lessons 7-10
Internet exploration.

Lesson 12

Test for lessons 7-10
Writing assignment (three paragraphs)

Unit Three: The Short Story

Lesson 13

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: Character Description
10 questions
Writing tips Verbs Followed by Objects and the Base Form: Make, Have, Let, Help

Subject	Verb	Object	Base Form	
	Make			
	Have	us		
They (don't)	let	students	do	homework.
	Help			

If the topic was Laurel Springs School and its relationship with students:

They **have** them **take** responsibility for their own learning.
They **let** them **choose** their own curriculum.

5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: create a character

Lesson 14

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: Setting
10 questions
Writing tips The Passive Overview
5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: describe a place

Lesson 15

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: Action
10 questions
Writing tips The Passive with Modals

After a modal, form the passive with the base form of be+ past participle.

Subject	Modal	Be	Past Participle	
The space station	will (not)	be	launched	next year.
	should (not)			

5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: describe action

Lesson 16

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: Dialogue
10 questions
Writing tips Passive Causatives

Subject	Have/Get	Object	Past Participle	(By + Object)	
I	get	my taxes	done		at HR
Block.					
She	has	her hair	cut	by Felipe.	

5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: write a dialogue.

Review and Test

Lesson 17

Review of lessons 13-16
Internet exploration.

Lesson 18

Test for lessons 13-16
Writing assignment (5 paragraphs)

Unit Four: Poetry

Lesson 19

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: Haiku
10 questions
Writing tips Passive Causatives

Subject	Have/Get	Object	Past Participle	(By + Object)	
I	get	my taxes	done		at HR
Block.					
She	has	her hair	cut	by Felipe.	

5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: write a haiku

Lesson 20

Vocabulary: From the reading
Reading: rhyming couplets
10 questions
Writing tips Advisability and Obligation in the Past: Should have, Ought to have, Could have, Might have
Speculations and Conclusions about the Past: May have, Might have, Could have, Must have, Had to have
5 practice questions
10 questions
Writing assignment: write two rhyming couplets

Lesson 21

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: free verse

10 questions

Writing tips Factual Conditionals: Present

If you practice your English, you **can improve** quickly.

If/When Brian flies, he **orders** a vegetarian meal.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write one stanza of free verse

Lesson 22

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: conversation about poetry

10 questions

Writing tips Factual Conditionals: Future

If Ralph Nader wins, he'll **lower** taxes

he's **going to fight** crime.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: give an opinion of a poem

Lesson 23

Internet exploration.

Writing Tips Unreal Conditionals: Present

If I were Queen, I **would live** in a castle.

Use present unreal conditional sentences to talk about unreal, untrue, imagined, or impossible conditions and their results. Notice that the if clause presents the unreal condition. The result clause presents the unreal result of that condition.

Lesson 24

Writing assignment: 3 stanza poem or 3 haiku

Writing Tips Unreal Conditionals: Past

If I had time, I **would have watched** the movie.

Unit Five: The Essay

Lesson 25

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: 5-paragraph essay

10 questions

Writing tips Adjective Clauses with Subject Relative Pronouns: Adjective Clauses that Describe a Noun in the Predicate of the Main Clause & Adjective Clauses that Describe the Subject of the Main Clause

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: choose an essay topic

Lesson 26

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: thesis paragraph

10 questions

Writing tips Adjective Clauses with Object Relative Pronouns, When and Where
Adjective Clauses that Describe a Noun in the Predicate of the Main Clause
Adjective Clauses that Describe a Noun in the Subject of the Main Clause

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a thesis paragraph

Lesson 27

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: supporting paragraphs

10 questions

Writing tips Direct Speech (quoted speech) and Indirect Speech (reported speech)

"The check is in the mail," he said. Vs He said the check is in the mail.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a supporting paragraph

Lesson 28

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: conclusion

10 questions

Writing tips Indirect Speech : Verb Tense Changes

(Probably introduced in Lesson 27 that verb tenses change when the reporting verb is in the past tense.) In this unit focus on the present progressive and present perfect and how they change in indirect speech.

"A hurricane is coming," she said.

She said a hurricane was coming.

"I have heard the news," he told her.

He told her that he had heard the news.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a conclusion

Review and Test

Lesson 29

Internet exploration.

Writing Tips Indirect Instructions, Commands, Requests and Invitations

Use the infinitive to report instructions, commands, requests and invitations.

She asked Roberto to shut the window.

They invited us to have dinner next weekend.

Lesson 30

Writing assignment: 5-paragraph essay

Writing Tips Indirect Questions

She wanted to know if I could teach History.

He wanted to know whether I knew how to use the internet.

I asked where the school was.

I asked how much the salary was.

Unit Six: The Letter

Lesson 31

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: an informal letter

10 questions

Writing tips Reflexive Pronouns

(myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves)

Use a reflexive pronoun when the subject and object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing.

Use a reflexive pronoun to emphasize a noun.

By + reflexive pronoun means alone or without any help.

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a personal letter

Lesson 32

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: formal letter

10 questions

Writing tips Reciprocal Pronouns (each other, one another)

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a formal letter

Lesson 33

Vocabulary: From the reading

Reading: business letter

10 questions

Writing tips Phrasal Verbs (Introduce)

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a business letter

Lesson 34

Vocabulary: pen pal letter

Reading: statement of purpose

10 questions

Writing tips Phrasal Verbs (Cont.)

5 practice questions

10 questions

Writing assignment: write a pen pal letter

Review and Test

Lesson 35

Review of lessons 19-34

Internet exploration.

Lesson 36

Writing assignment: write about the course
Send a letter to pen pal.