

Lessons in the Second English Course

The Second English course is for Intermediate-level adult English Language Learners (ELLs). The course uses video stories about the lives of new immigrants as a basis for the content.

TOPICS, UNITS, AND ACTIVITIES

There are five main topics. Each topic has four units. Each unit has listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. The student watches the video stories, and does activities to learn and practice vocabulary, grammar, and language functions. The last activity in each unit is a test.

The student earns scores for topics and units. Some activities are also scored. The student may repeat an activity to improve their score.

The topics are listed in a recommended sequence, although the student may choose to change the order of the topics studied. Within each topic, however, the units should be completed in order to follow the storyline of the videos.

Each Unit has **Write About It** activities. The writing activities are very important, because the teacher reviews the student's writing and make suggestions about how to improve it. The student can read the teacher's comments, change the writing, and ask the teacher to review it again.

Number of **Write About It** Assignments in Each Unit

Unit 1: two	Unit 11: one
Unit 2: two	Unit 12: one
Unit 3: two	Unit 13: one
Unit 4: three	Unit 14: two
Unit 5: two	Unit 15: one
Unit 6: two	Unit 16: two
Unit 7: one	Unit 17: two
Unit 8: one	Unit 18: one
Unit 9: one	Unit 19: one
Unit 10: one	Unit 20: two

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Unit Descriptions

TOPIC: Workers and the Workplace

Unit 1: Job and Career Advancement

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

Unit 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	application courses of course assistant manager responsibilities	appear great pamphlet money celebrate	job safety congratulations owner dangerous	slip careful shelf loose sign
Grammar	Future tense: “going to,” “will”			
Language functions	Expressing future plans, Making promises and predictions Giving commands and responding to commands, Disagreeing			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

Unit 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	injured happen liar insurance pay	quit argue lie court broken	blame medical care hurt training death	law rights truth fault expenses
Grammar	Past tense: Simple regular and irregular verbs			
Language functions	Describing past events Responding to a request Answering questions Convincing others			
Workplace / Life Skills	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			

Unit 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	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
Grammar	Commands "Let's" used in teamwork			
Language functions	Making suggestions Asking for and giving advice Giving commands Giving and accepting thanks			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

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

Unit 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	attorney case fair library break the law	contact phone book suggest forms online	complaint file explain trust refuse	pretend schedule hearing judge credit history
Grammar	Using “can” and “could” to express ability in the present and past			
Language functions	Expressing ability to do something in the present and in the past Expressing and supporting an opinion Expressing a problem and asking for help			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

Unit 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	order miss rearrange representative nasty	neighbor kind services access turn on	technician wait hold line dial	bill hook up trained utilities frustrating
Grammar	Modal auxiliaries “may,” “would,” “can,” “could” to make formal and informal requests and offers: “Would you like...?” “May I help you?”			
Language functions	Requesting services Offering help Making phone calls to service companies Asking for clarification Describing past events Making predictions			
Workplace / Life Skills	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			

Unit 8: Men’s Changing Roles

Karina 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	role housework chore mess get dressed	fold tired take care of locksmith expect	society share special appreciated plumber	fix disappointed guest dine invite
Grammar	Present tense of “make” and “do”			
Language functions	Stating a complaint Describing daily activities Identifying sequence of activities			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

Unit 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	container taxes amazing audit receipt	discount merchandise offer permit charity	claim deduction dependent fine honest	income owe punish report subtract
Grammar	Nouns: Count nouns (containers, receipts, etc.) Non-count nouns (merchandise, water, etc.) Plural forms			
Language functions	Specifying quantities, Making offers Answering yes/no questions Explaining something in a letter			
Workplace / Life Skills	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			

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

TOPIC: Taxes, Law and Community Issues

Unit 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	discuss issue appointment nervous aggressive	merchant jail unsafe chance cause	media organize informed support powerful	selfish silly quiet voters leaders
Grammar	Singular expressions of quantity: one, another, other			
Language functions	Persuading others Agreeing and disagreeing Participating in a group discussion, meeting Stating and supporting an opinion			
Workplace / Life Skills	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			

Unit 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	reporter petition stand illegal drugs	goods signature belong to faint prove	represent corrupt hazard unusual crime	ridiculous steal lazy forgive defend
Grammar	Object pronouns Indefinite pronouns: someone, anyone, everyone, no one			
Language functions	Asking interview questions of others Expressing an opinion			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

Unit 13: Parenting in the United States

Marta, a single working mother, feels that her teenage daughter, Viviana, is becoming disrespectful and wants to send her to live with relatives in Mexico. Viviana, on the other hand, feels that her mother does not understand her and will not listen to her problems.

Key Vocabulary	agree counselor curfew dating deserve	discipline disobey disrespectful fired gifted	favor let midnight miserable mistake	patience permission picked ride volunteer
Grammar	Adjectives			
Language functions	Refusing Inquiring about problems Giving Advice Disagreeing politely			
Workplace / Life Skills	Recognizing the importance of good communication between parents and children Defining the qualities of good parents Informing someone about a future work absence Scanning an informational flyer for details Drawing conclusions and making predictions			

Unit 14: Women's Changing Roles

Benjamin, Marta's ex-husband, loses his job and faces an eviction from his apartment. He wants to move in with Marta and Viviana and promises to do the cleaning, cooking, shopping, and all household duties while Marta is at work.

Key Vocabulary	absent all right change enough eviction	genius guy joke message promise	reason rule seldom solve strange	surprise topic tough wonderful worry
Grammar	Adverbs of Frequency			
Language functions	Expressing frequency of actions Persuading others Making promises about the future			
Workplace / Life Skills	Reading a utility bill for specific information Comparing and stating differences in women's roles in two countries. Identifying and listing responsible behaviors at work and in the home			

TOPIC: Parenting and Workplace Roles

Unit 15: Women's Work Issues

Marta struggles with sexual harassment from her supervisor who will drop charges, which he has falsely placed against her, if she consents to go out on a date with him.

Key Vocabulary	behavior believe bother brilliant (smart) comment	concentrate coworker deal despicable diligently	exchange guilty harassment hide invitation	literacy misunderstanding proper reach unwanted
Grammar	Adverbs of Manner			
Language functions	Describing how actions are performed Refusing Making conditional statements about the future Drawing conclusions about double-meaning comments			
Workplace / Life Skills	Identifying and describing examples of workplace sexual harassment Recognizing sexual harassment as a crime and learning how to report it Filling out a sexual harassment complaint form			

Unit 16: 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	non-traditional brave handle used to position	accounts politics leadership complicated emotional	stressful purpose loyal employee exceed	ambitious fail grateful illiterate adapt
Grammar	Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives			
Language functions	Comparing abilities Stating and supporting an opinion Negotiating			
Workplace / Life Skills	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

Unit 17: 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	immigrant finally lose partner sandwich	separately vegetarian worth deaf rude	enroll bleeding cockroach disgusting dream	honor impossible medicine total double
Grammar	Asking questions with “what,” “when,” “where,” “who,” “why,” and “how”			
Language functions	Asking for information Describing future plans and intentions Giving excuses Making predictions Writing supporting ideas for a topic sentence			
Workplace / Life Skills	Recognizing the importance of English to job performance Identifying ways to improve English skills Scanning a restaurant menu and understanding an order given verbally			

Unit 18: 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	trouble involved shop fight own	figure out bright advanced raise divorced	musician rather available reschedule education	admit responsible glad glasses cheating
Grammar	Prepositions of time, place and direction			
Language functions	Introducing yourself Scheduling and canceling appointments Making suggestions Sequencing events			
Workplace / Life Skills	Identifying strategies to get involved in children’s education Listing ways to improve behavior Reading over-the- counter medicine labels			

TOPIC: Education and Information

Unit 19: 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	pharmacist exam cash credential tattoo	register replace savings profession enemy	best experience license located official	redevelopment results score terrible treatment
Grammar	Yes/No Questions and WH- Questions in the simple past tense			
Language functions	Asking questions about the past Giving encouragement			
Workplace / Life Skills	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			

Unit 20: 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	property develop cheap catch almost	rush proof regret robbery upgrade	criminal tape signal equipment fit	skill become capture reward antenna
Grammar	Simple Past tense Verbs			
Language functions	Talking about events completed in the past Sequencing events			
Workplace / Life Skills	Identifying where/how to access information that you need Reading instructions for using technical equipment Drawing Conclusions			