

English Communication Skills 4: Introduction

In English 4, as in English 3, each unit will generally consist of 8 classes for language development (using *Developing Reading Skills* and articles and listenings from the media) and 3 classes for developing your skills for academic writing (the multi-paragraph essay).

The Language Component

We will start a unit by reading an article in *Developing Reading Skills* (DRS). Let's consider that article as background for the unit's theme; all of the other articles and listenings in subsequent classes in that unit are updates on the DRS article. In these subsequent classes (2 through 8) we will develop our reading, speaking, listening and writing skills through homework outside class and discussion of the articles and listenings in class. We will have at least two quizzes each unit, one on the DRS exercises that follow the reading, one on Word Forms and Lexicals exercises in the workbook, and possibly one on a reading assignment.

In addition to strengthening and broadening your lexicals inventory, the other important goal of this course is development of clear oral and written expression above the sentence level. For example, you will learn to present your point clearly in the first sentence that you speak, and then explain your point in following sentences. This skill will serve you well when you want to get your point across clearly in meetings, presentations, and written correspondence. For more explanation, read "Effective Discourse" (w7) and "Doing a Word Usage Assignment" (w10-11).

Students who have not taken English 1-3: You are required to read "Catching Up" (E>G, Composition) and do the reading assignment presented in "If you're joining English 4 or 5." Submit the assigned paragraph by September 18.

Homework for every unit

1. Be sure that you understand all of the language in the relevant unit's DRS reading by Class 2. For new lexicals in the reading, first use context clues to guess the meaning; then, in an English-English dictionary, confirm your guess, study the lexical's grammar, and study the samples that the dictionary provides. If you have any questions about anything in the reading, ask in class 2. (If you don't have any questions, that means you're not reading carefully.) When you study the reading, learn all of the language, not just the language that is reviewed in the exercises. For example, you should remember the prepositions "out on" in "Morita can be found out on Kawasaki's tennis court" (para. 13). A good way to remember these is to RECONSTRUCT the entire unit. (Follow the guidelines in "Reconstruction," w10, and do a few sentences each day.) Another way to remember is to photocopy the reading, and then, on the photocopy, white out the words that you want to remember. Use the photocopy for review.
2. DRS text exercises B through H. Quiz in Class 3.
3. Do the Word Forms and Lexicals exercises in the workbook. A quiz is likely in Class 5.
4. Do the "Reading Reconstruction" (Exercise J in DRS) according to the guidelines presented in "Reconstruction" on w10. Complete this by Class 7.

The Composition Component

At any point during the writing of your essay—from formation of your thesis statement to writing your final draft—talk with Mr. H about problems that you are having.

Essay 1

Unit 6

- Writing Class 1 (9/22): We'll get started on Essay 1, a comparison essay.
- Writing Class 2 (9/23): Have your editor check your thesis statement. (The thesis statement is level 1 of your outline.)
- Writing Class 3 (9/25): Bring a 4-level outline to class for consultation with your editor. (A 4-level outline means the thesis statement and 3 levels of support: I, IA, IA1.)

Unit 7

- Writing Class 1 (10/13): We'll do an exercise on one or two principles of good writing.
- Writing Class 2 (10/14): Bring Essay 1's first draft to class (including title, introductory paragraph and concluding paragraph) for discussion with your editor.
- Writing Class 3 (10/16): Bring Essay 1's second draft to class for discussion with your editor.

Unit 8, DRS Class 2 (10/20): Submit your final draft of Essay 1.

Essay 2

Unit 8

- Writing Class 1 (11/4): In class we'll start working on Essay 2, an exemplification essay.
- Writing Class 2 (11/6): Have your editor check your thesis statement.
- Writing class 3 (11/7): Bring a 4-level outline to class for consultation with your editor.

Unit 9

- Writing Class 1 (11/24): We'll do an exercise on one or two principles of good writing.
- Writing Class 2 (11/25): Bring Essay 2's first draft to class (including title, introductory paragraph and concluding paragraph) for discussion with your editor.
- Writing Class 3 (11/27): Bring Essay 2's second draft to class for discussion with your editor.

Unit 10, DRS Class 2 (12/1): Submit your final draft of Essay 2.