

FLUENT

Program Description

June 2016

Fluent is a program of structured, productive practice aimed specifically at improving spoken English fluency.

It is designed to help learners apply their knowledge of English in real-world professional and social settings. Our students develop fluency and confidence by working on speaking and listening skills and then putting them into practice in live interaction.

Basic Overview

Fluent is based on a framework of weekly units, dealing with real-world professional and social subjects and skills. Each unit is organized around real, live interaction and practice, combining an on-line live class with self-access activities in 4 steps:

- Individual Practice
- Class Preparation
- Live Class
- Reflection & Feedback

Individual Practice

Individual Practice is a series of self-access video-based activities. Here, students get to develop speaking and listening skills alone, away from the pressure of live interaction.

Individual Practice activities are aimed at:

- Introducing themes and topics
- Developing understanding of authentic spoken English
- Improving listening stamina
- Improving recognition and production of phrases and expressions.
- Providing extended speaking practice through production of short videos based on personal opinions and experience

Class Preparation

Class Preparation is a series of self-access activities in which students prepare for the live-class, so they're ready to speak, interact and practice.

These activities focus on:

- Engaging with the views and experiences of other students by video to prepare for discussion
- Reviewing key phrases and expressions to prepare to practice them
- Reviewing material to prepare for collaborative tasks
- Preparing presentations and stories
- Practicing language points for accuracy improvement based on individual needs
- Vocal warm-up activities

Live Class

The live class is the focal point of the course. It lasts for 1½ hour and has a maximum of five students and the teacher. Here students put their knowledge of

English and communication skills into practice:

- Participating in discussions and conversations
- Using key phrases and expressions,
- Collaborating to complete real world tasks
- Giving presentations and participating in discussion around them

Reflection & Feedback

Reflection & Feedback are essential elements for skills development. After the live class, students review and consider their performance and feedback from their teacher on their individual opportunities for improvement. [This involves:](#)

- Reviewing a recording of the live class
- Completing an activity to reflect on their performance and opportunities for improvement
- Reviewing video feedback from the teacher with guidance and suggestions on what to focus on for the next class.

Key Features

- **Flexibility & Structure:**
 - The balance of self-access activities and live classes offers the benefits of flexibility of time and place combined with the structure of deadlines and objectives.
- **Professional & Social Skills Development**
 - The course focuses on developing communicative ability in English use in a range of professional and social situations:
 - Conversation
 - Presentation
 - Discussion
 - Story-telling
 - Negotiation
- **Practice: Preparation & Performance**
 - Before live interactive practice, students prepare and develop listening and speaking skills individually in low stress settings.
- **Progressively challenging:**
 - Fluent courses start off easy but will challenge you to go beyond your limits and extend your ability from week to week.
- **Extensive practice through interaction in small groups**
 - Each student is a member of a group of up to 4 other students and a teacher, facilitating varied, dynamic interaction, but also allowing a high volume of individual practice and personalized attention from the teacher.
- **Personalized Support & Feedback**
 - In all parts of the course, the teacher monitors progress and gives feedback on individual student's performance. They are also available to answer any questions or to help when needed.
- **Ongoing learning and development**
 - Developing spoken fluency and the ability to communicate and interact increases opportunities for future practice and the ability to learn and develop further from them.