

ESOL E1a Beginners

This course is at the Gillingham centre.

Please note: You will need to phone 01634 338400 to book an initial assessment before enrolling. Online enrolment is not available for this course.

This course is for learners who are starting out on their ESOL journey and have little spoken or written English but are not complete beginners. You will attend twice a week. If you attend well and make progress, you can enrol onto the next course where you will prepare for exams.

Start Date: 24 February 2026
Start Time: 09:30
Lessons: 36
Weeks: 18
Hours: 72.00

It may be necessary to temporarily move your course online if the centre needs to close due to bad weather, or other unexpected events.

Venue

Medway Learning and Skills Hub
Unit 2
Britton Farm Street
ME7 1GX

What will I learn on this course?

- To take part in very simple conversations (for example exchanging greetings, asking and answering basic personal information questions).
- To recognise and form capital and lower-case letters.
- To recognise the sound and name of the letters of the alphabet.
- To recognise digits (for example house numbers, dates, money).
- To read, say and understand some common English words (for example days of the week, months, numbers, words for items in the house, at work or for family members).
- To recognise some common signs and symbols.
- To write very short and simple texts in English (for example completing name, address and date on a form, writing a simple sentence using familiar words).

Is this course suitable for me?

This course is for complete beginners in English. You may not be familiar with the Roman alphabet. You may not be able to read and write in your first language. If you attend well and make progress, you can enrol onto the next course.

You will need to phone 01634 338400 to book an initial assessment before enrolling.

Is there anything I need to know about the course?

- You must practise English outside the classroom and spend at least 1 hour a week on homework.
- We expect you to attend all lessons so you can make progress. If you are sick, or have an emergency, you must tell us.
- Your teacher will give you regular and helpful feedback to help you learn.

Will there be additional costs?

This course is free if you meet the funding criteria, i.e you are on a recognised benefit or earning less than £25,000 per annum. You will be required to pay if you don't meet the funding criteria.

You must bring to class:

- A ring binder folder
- An A5 notebook to write in
- A pen and pencil

What could I go on to do after this course?

If you attend well, and make progress, you can enrol onto the next level (Entry 1b) where you will learn to read more common words and short texts, write short sentences and take part in more simple everyday conversation. You will work towards targets and have regular assessments and reviews of learning. There are no exams in ESOL Starter and Entry 1a. As you progress you will move up the levels until you are ready for an exam course

If you wish to explore your learning, work or career options, you can speak to a fully trained careers advisor on 0800 100 900. <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

If you need further advice, please telephone 01634 338400.

Attendance Policy

You must complete all homework set and attend class for at least 85% of the time so that you can progress. If you are ill or unable to attend, please contact our Absence Line 01634 338416, so that we can let your tutor know, and so they can give you any work you may have missed. Please do not book a holiday during term time.

How are digital skills used and enhanced on this course

You may have the opportunity to use computers with internet access in class time. You may need to use the internet for some of your course - using a mobile phone, tablet or computer. The tutor will speak to you about useful websites, apps and online resources which you may be asked to use for homework

Health and Safety

We try to make sure your class is as safe as possible. If you are worried about anything, please talk to your tutor or our Safeguarding Officer.

E-Learning Etiquette

If your class needs to go online due to bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances, please make sure you and everyone at home are fully dressed when you are joining classes, and that no personal information (address, bank details) can be seen.