



Adult General English Course

- Minimum age – 17 years
- Levels – Beginner to Advanced
- Flexible course lengths – from 2 weeks to one year
- Flexible start dates – most Mondays
- Class size – maximum 12, average 9
- 21 hours (of 60 minutes) in classroom + 10 hours teacher-assisted self-study per week
- Exams offered – IELTS, Cambridge, TOEIC, TOEFL, and others
- General English + Electives
- Regular 1:1 tutorials
- Study trips to London and around Cambridge

Course Structure

Courses at CAE run non-stop throughout the year except for a 2- or 3-week break over the Christmas period (second half of December).

Starting your Course

Entry into courses at CAE is very flexible so that you can start your course most Mondays in the year. However, it is generally better to start your course at the beginning of a 12-week programme or at the start of a 4-week 'module'.

Length of your Studies

- Some students come to CAE for short periods – perhaps only **two or three weeks** – but even during a short stay they find that the friendly environment, dynamic lessons, electives and exciting social programmes help them to make rapid progress in their English learning.
- Other students come to us for longer courses – very often for **two to six months** – to prepare for one of the many exams we offer (see *Exams and Exam Courses* page 12). They soon become part of the CAE community, and form friendships which continue long after they return to their own country.
- There are also students who come to us for long periods – **six months or more**. Such students can follow a course containing special elements designed to be as relevant as possible to their plans for future academic study (see also 'Academic Year Student', page 9).

Class Size

For most of the year the average number of students in your class will be 9 – the maximum is only 12. Furthermore, we make every effort to ensure that there is a good mixture of different mother tongues and cultures in every class.

English Level

This will be assessed as soon as you arrive at the school. We will give you a short test which will tell us both your spoken and written English levels. We will then place you in one of 7 levels from Beginner to Advanced. If for any reason you are unhappy with your class, we will always be available to help. (*For more details about your level see page 12.*)

Tutorials

If you are studying for a period of more than 2 weeks, one important feature of your course will be the regular 1:1 tutorial with your teacher – an opportunity to review your progress and identify areas for individual study.

CAE has been preparing students for major English language examinations since 1975 – and exam courses remain our core activity. The two most commonly requested exam courses are **IELTS** (required for entry to UK universities) and the **Cambridge exams** (FCE, CAE etc).



Sheila Levy - Deputy Principal



Exam Preparation

IELTS

This important test of academic English is used by many universities around the world as an entry requirement. To achieve a high IELTS score, candidates need a high level of oral English combined with skills in academic writing and reading. By combining our morning programmes with academic training in the afternoon we are able to offer a preparation programme that can be followed for several months or as little as two weeks, **and at any time in the year.**

Cambridge exams (including summer)

The main requirement for success in the Cambridge exams is an appropriate level of General, or 'everyday', English. Practice in the specific 'exam technique' of the Cambridge exams is also very useful.

The ideal preparation for Cambridge exams is 8-12 weeks, but we realise that in many cases students have less time available for study, especially in summer. We therefore offer:

3 courses leading to Cambridge exams in March, June and December (all are 12 weeks **but available over a shorter period** if necessary).

2 courses leading to exams in July and August (**4-6 weeks**)

In addition to training in General English, students on these courses will have the opportunity to practise examples of the tasks set by the Cambridge exams in our afternoon Cambridge Exam Workshops.

However, **all** Adult General English classes at Cambridge Academy are broadly based on the 'communicative' Cambridge Examinations syllabus – so that even a short stay at Cambridge Academy will provide useful training in the General English that forms the basis of the Cambridge exams. Such shorter courses can be booked **at any time of year.**

Other examinations

Our flexible Electives programme (*see page 6*) also gives us the opportunity to prepare students for other examinations, such as TOEFL and TOEIC.

NB It is of course important that candidates are realistic about their current English level, and what they can hope to achieve in the time available. (For more details of all the examinations available, please see Examinations and Exam Courses page 12.)

So, here's what your day will be like:-

The example timetable here is for a student who chooses an Examination preparation course *

9:15-10:45 New Language – lessons in grammar and structures, vocabulary extension and pronunciation. The emphasis will be on using imaginative and original exercises to improve your ability to communicate accurately in English. For exam candidates this will provide essential training in **accurate** language both for the oral and written exams.

10:45 – 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:45 Language Skills – a period to concentrate on one or two of the four skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These periods are designed to make you confident in your ability to understand the English you both read and hear, and also to speak and write **fluently**. This will enable you to be more relaxed about everyday situations and to be more assured when you face the various tasks set in your chosen exam.

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

13:45 – 15:15 Electives – Electives are special areas of English study that you 'elect', or choose. This is the part of the day that gives you the opportunity to concentrate on the exact techniques you will need for the different parts of your chosen examination. IELTS candidates will most likely wish to follow an Academic English elective, while students training for one of the Cambridge exams will find the Cambridge Examinations Workshop particularly useful. They are run for 90 minutes every afternoon from Monday to Thursday.

15:30 – 17:30 Teacher-assisted study – the school stays open so that you can use the library, multi-media centre or internet centre for private study ... but a teacher is always available for advice where necessary. This is the perfect opportunity for examination candidates to test themselves with exam questions from previous years – with the advantage that you can get immediate help with any difficulties.

* if your course is not an Examination preparation Course your timings will be the same as above, but your Electives and Teacher- Assisted Study periods can cover topics other than exam preparation.



Electives

The system of afternoon **'Electives'** at Cambridge Academy enables you to adapt your studies as much as possible to your individual academic plan, career or personal interests.

Electives are special areas of English study that you **'elect'**, or choose, for yourself. They are run for 90 minutes every afternoon from Monday to Thursday, every week of your course. Some are offered throughout the year and others change every few weeks.

You can take an elective in a wide variety of subjects. It would be impossible to give a complete list of the electives at CAE - because we are always adding new ones to the list! However, here are some very popular subjects:

Academic English

- **English for Academic Purposes** - For those who need Academic English (especially IELTS or TOEFL) for University or school.
- **Cambridge Exam Workshop** - Get to know the FCE, CAE and CPE exams in detail and work on your problem areas.
- **Writing Practice** - This is the ideal elective for those students who need extra help with basic writing skills.
- **Grammar Workshop** - An opportunity to do some intensive work in areas of English grammar that you find a particular problem.

Speaking and Listening

- **Vocabulary in Situations** - In the marketplace, at the airport, visiting the dentist - you'll need different vocabulary every time. This is a chance to discover new words and phrases for a wide range of interesting situations.
- **Multi-media English** - For those who find listening and speaking particularly difficult. Lots of fun activities as well as serious practice using the audio-visual equipment in our Multimedia Centre.
- **Ideas and Issues** - This is a chance for you to use your English to express your opinions on subjects that are important to you - the more controversial the better!
- **Cartoon Films** - Learn some REAL English from the Simpsons, South Park, etc. Great for listening, good for those who like a challenge.
- **Reading for Pleasure** - Stories, poems, plays, song lyrics - an elective to get you reading and speaking.

Special Interest

- **Cambridge People & Places** - Find out about historic Cambridge city, visit some of the places and meet some of the people from one of the most famous university cities in the world.
- **Communication in Business** - Learn to develop the language you need for the world of business. Practise all your skills in a business context. For TOEIC students too.
- **Film Studies** - Watching films and discussing them is great for your listening, speaking and vocabulary.

Here are three different students and the Electives they have chosen ...

- **Tomasz** is 21, and from Gdansk. He is studying Art and Design, but also has a general interest in the culture of the English-speaking world. During his 6-week course at CAE he has chosen to follow the elective 'Reading for Pleasure', which enables him to study in detail the lyrics of some of his favourite songs. After four weeks he will then change to 'Film Studies', which give him the opportunity to analyse and discuss the dialogue of a variety of famous movies.
- **Luisa** is a 23-year-old journalist from Bologna, and is interested in developing her career in international journalism. In the two weeks she is spending at CAE she is very keen to develop her English interviewing techniques, and has therefore decided to follow an elective in 'Ideas and Issues'. She'll have the chance to ask and answer questions on challenging issues such as climate change, freedom of speech and animal rights.
- **Fawaz**, 20, is from Kuwait and is planning to start an engineering degree at a British university next year. He is at CAE for 12 weeks, and this will give him the time to follow three different electives. For the first four weeks of his course, Fawaz will do Reading and Writing, as he needs extra practice in these skills. Then he will follow Extra Exam Practice, to develop skills he will need for the IELTS exam. His third elective will be Academic English which will help him acquire important skills like essay-writing and note-taking that he will need for university.



Self-study Facilities

- Library
- Interactive Listening Centre
- Computer Centre
- Extensive DVD/Video facilities
- Teacher assistance during self-study periods
- Open on Sundays
- **The Study Centre Officer** – 5 days per week, for 2 hours, one of our teachers is on duty as Study Centre Officer to help you with any technical or language problems you may encounter while using the self-study facilities.

Self-study (working on your own) is a very important part of your programme at CAE. The self-study skills that you acquire at CAE will make it possible for you to continue to develop your English when you return to your home country. During your studies at CAE we will encourage you to make maximum use of our self-access Study Centre, which is fully equipped with the latest technology for language learning. At the beginning of your course, you will be given an introduction to the use of the Study Centre. At other times you can always get professional assistance from the teacher in charge of the Study Centre. All the materials are carefully graded and colour-coded for the various ability levels (Elementary, Lower intermediate, Upper-intermediate and Advanced).



Multi-Media Centre – This includes 12 stations together with a teacher's console. Classes are frequently held in the Multi-media Centre, with the teacher directing the lesson from the control console. At other times students can access a wide range of language learning activities to develop listening and speaking skills (e.g. pronunciation exercises, dictations, 'talking' books and video clips with accompanying work-sheets, and additional exam-practice materials).

Interactive Internet Room – During lessons this room is an interactive classroom with 12 internet stations and an electronic whiteboard. During self-study periods, CAE students can use the 12 stations for surfing the internet and for emailing free of charge. Wireless internet connection is also available at CAE free of charge.

Computer Centre – This contains computers equipped with up-to-date versions of the Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc) as well as language learning software for developing reading and writing skills.

Library – the library at CAE is a particular favourite of students. It is large and well-lit with comfortable furniture. It is stocked with fiction ('graded' and 'non-graded'), as well as factual and reference books. There are English and bi-lingual dictionaries, atlases and a complete set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. In addition, the library holds a wide range of examination materials and grammar and vocabulary exercises for all levels.

The Common Room – you will be able to use the Common Room for both study and quiet relaxation. Major British newspapers and magazines are stored here. You can watch films with your friends on our large-screen TV and you are free to use the piano which is kept here.



A typical week at CAE

Here is an **EXAMPLE** of a timetable for the Adult General English course

	09:15 - 10:45 New Language	10:45 - 11:15	11:15 - 12:45 Language skills	12:45 - 13:45	13:45 - 15:15 Electives	15:30 - 17:30 Optional Study	EVENING
MONDAY	Grammar: Tenses overview	B R E A K	Language skills Storytelling	L U N C H	Internet research: famous Cambridge people	Guided self study e.g. listening to graded reader	Barbecue / sports
TUESDAY	Vocabulary: Colour idioms		Discussion with error correction		Preparation for Cambridge study visit	Guided self study e.g. song + worksheet	Karaoke
WEDNESDAY	Grammar: using prepositions		Language skills Multi-media listening		Mini-presentations at famous places	Guided self study e.g. pronunciation practice	Evening out
THURSDAY	Grammar: Question forms		School Survey		Writing report on study trip	Guided self study e.g. Vocabulary work	Quiz / sports
FRIDAY	Review of the week		DVD plus discussion		Speaking Club	Free Afternoon	Theme disco
SATURDAY	All-day excursions to London or Oxford as optional extra						
SUNDAY	CAE is open after lunch for study and indoor/outdoor activities						

