



Syllabus

Listening

Skills: the importance of prediction; listening for detail; listening to an audio file and identifying the speakers; listening for the main points (e.g. in a lecture); inference

Topics: diet and health; finding accommodation; numbers and names; a talk on listening; mummification; ecology; the giant squid

Speaking

Skills: the importance of speaking out in an academic context; strategies for fluency; accuracy in speaking; giving a short talk; expressing and backing up opinions

Topics: social questions typically found in a speaking test; questions of general interest; an influential book; an invention

Reading

Skills: defining the reason for reading; skimming for gist; scanning for specific information; topic sentences; identifying the main arguments in a text; summarising

Topics: different text types; an index; guide to report writing; genetics and cloning; rats; safety in banking; equine physiology

Writing

Skills: analysing an assignment question; structure of a text; planning an essay; separating main and supporting points; linking ideas; practice in writing essays

Topics: vivisection; water conservation; corporate responsibility; the concept of progress; historical apologies; GM crops

Grammar

Skills: understanding grammatical terminology; the passive in academic writing; modality in academic texts; the language of cause and effect

Topics: grammar test; cryonics; extracts from texts; student counselling; the effects of smoking

Vocabulary

Skills: using context to guess meaning; ignoring unknown words; dictionary work; use of synonyms and near synonyms; strategies for vocabulary building

Topics: genetics; feeding habits of the orang-utan; racial awareness in children; extracts from academic texts / websites

Research

Skills: where and how to find information on the Web; criteria for evaluating websites; parts of a source book; note-taking strategies; the Cornell system of note-taking

Topics: libraries vs the Web; search engines; the Cornell system

Visuals

Skills: understanding the purpose of visuals; choosing the correct visual; using appropriate tenses to describe visuals; interpreting charts and tables, and explaining the interpretation

Topics: trees in Great Britain; stock price fluctuations; the decline of Atlantic cod numbers; psychological problems in males; data storage

