



"We make learning special"

Discover Contemporary English

Who is the course suitable for?

- teachers, other ELT professionals and university students who wish to gain insights into contemporary English and how it is used
- participants with a minimum language level corresponding to C1 on the Common European Framework

What are the aims of the course?

- to raise participants' understanding of the notion and importance of language awareness
- to investigate the grammar of spoken English
- to familiarise participants with recent changes in the English language and their implications for learners and teachers
- to enable participants to work practically with concordances and other corpus-based research instruments
- to raise participants' critical language awareness through basic discourse analysis
- to review recently published language reference works and other books on language
- to investigate some of the links between contemporary English and popular culture

What will the course include?

All course participants receive a pre-course questionnaire, which should be returned prior to the course. This is to ensure that the areas of most relevance to participants are covered. However, topics are likely to be drawn from the following main areas:

- discourse analysis, with particular reference to contemporary spoken and written texts
- experiencing language awareness tasks
- designing materials for language awareness
- hands-on sessions in the computer lab focusing on working with corpus data and related software
- recent developments and changes in English with particular reference to the impact of the media on the way language is used
- language, jargon and identity in subcultures (e.g. teenagers) and professional groups (e.g. business people, ICT experts)
- corpus studies and ways in which they have influenced the way we perceive and describe language

Time will be built into the course for reflection and for participants to consider how to adapt ideas from the course to classrooms in their own context and/or their own continued study of English.

How long is the course and what approach is used?

The 50-hour course provision includes intensive tuition by trainers who are experts in the field of Discourse Analysis and Language Awareness, as well as opportunities for reading and research and guest lectures from well-known figures in the field of ELT. Classes will be practical and 'hands-on' but with reference to relevant theory. Classes are held from Monday to Friday and take place as detailed in the course-specific timetable but always within the hours 0915 – 1715. NILE course participants have free access to an extensive ELT library and a modern suite of computers with a broadband Internet link. The NILE course venues have a wireless (Wi-Fi) environment.