



LanguageCert Young Learners ESOL
Fox (Pre-A1) & Owl (A1)

Grammar Syllabus



LanguageCert is an Ofqual-regulated Awarding Organisation responsible for the development and award of language qualifications. LanguageCert's mission is to offer high-quality language qualifications that are fit-for-purpose for the candidates they serve.

The aim of this document is to provide teachers and candidates with a description of the grammar content for the Young Learners Fox (Pre-A1) and Owl (A1) ESOL tests.

A **Vocabulary List** is also available.



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Grammar Syllabus

A1 candidates are expected to know everything in the Pre-A1 list as well as everything in the A1 list.

Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
Sentence structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple statements, instructions & questions (positive & negative in all) There is/There are ... have + object + infinitive Let's ... Like + verb with -ing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The teacher is nice.</i> <i>Don't run!</i> <i>Do you like bananas?</i> <i>There is a clock on the wall.</i> <i>Emma has some milk to drink.</i> <i>Let's play a game!</i> <i>He likes playing football.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> verb + infinitive verb + -ing infinitive of purpose want/ask someone to do something How/What about + noun or -ing I think/know ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>She wants to read.</i> <i>They started to eat.</i> <i>They went fishing yesterday.</i> <i>She sat down to watch TV.</i> <i>I want my parents to buy a new car.</i> <i>How about going to the beach?</i> <i>I know she's a clever girl.</i>
Verb forms	(Positive, negative, question, imperative & short answer forms, including contractions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present simple Present continuous (not with future reference) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nick lives in London.</i> <i>They don't eat meat.</i> <i>Is that your father?</i> <i>Yes, it is.</i> <i>What are they playing?</i> 	(Positive, negative, question, imperative & short answer forms, including contractions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past simple, regular and irregular forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I went to the zoo yesterday.</i> <i>It rained on Saturday.</i> <i>Did you go to Sophie's party? Yes, I did.</i> <i>He didn't enjoy the boat trip.</i>



Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have (got) for possession • would like + noun or verb 	<p><i>Dad's making breakfast.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have you got a bike?</i> • <i>He hasn't got a phone.</i> • <i>I'd like an ice cream.</i> • <i>Would you like to go to the park?</i> 		
Modals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can/can't (ability) • can (requests, permission) • have got (possession) • would + like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I can play the piano.</i> • <i>Can I have an apple?</i> • <i>He's got a new bike.</i> • <i>Would you like some cake?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • could (past ability) • must/mustn't (obligation) • have (got) to (obligation) • shall (offers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>They could see three clowns.</i> • <i>You mustn't speak now.</i> • <i>You have to go to bed now.</i> • <i>Shall I carry your bag, grandma?</i>
Question words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who ...? • What ...? • Which ...? • Where ...? • Whose ...? • How ...? • How many ...? • How old ...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who is your English teacher?</i> • <i>What are you doing?</i> • <i>Which ruler is yours?</i> • <i>Where's the cat?</i> • <i>Whose jacket is this?</i> • <i>How do you spell that?</i> • <i>How many girls are there?</i> • <i>How old is your sister?</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much ...? • How often ...? • When ...? • Why ...? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How much rice would you like?</i> • <i>How often do you play tennis?</i> • <i>When did you see Lucy?</i> • <i>Why do you like fishing?</i>



Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
Nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular, and common irregular, plural forms • Countable & uncountable nouns • –ing forms as nouns • Names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>apples, children, etc.</i> • <i>animal, egg, bread, rice, etc.</i> • <i>Painting is fun.</i> • <i>Nick, Lucy, Mrs Brown, etc.</i> 		
Pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject pronouns • Object pronouns • Possessive pronouns • Demonstrative • Interrogative • one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I, you, he, etc.</i> • <i>me, him, her, etc.</i> • <i>It's mine!</i> • <i>This is his room.</i> • <i>Which is your phone?</i> • <i>Yes, please, I'd like one.</i> 		
Possessives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessive adjectives • Possessive pronouns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>my, your, his, etc.</i> • <i>mine, yours, whose, etc.</i> 		



Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
Prepositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common prepositions • Prepositions of place • Prepositions of time • a story about + noun / -ing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>of, for, with, from, like</i> • <i>behind the chair</i> <i>between the trees</i> <i>in front of the bus</i> <i>in the box</i> <i>on the table</i> <i>next to the bookcase</i> • <i>in the morning</i> <i>at 10 o'clock</i> • <i>a story about robots/getting a pet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More common prepositions • More prepositions of place • More prepositions of time • be good at + noun / -ing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>by (train etc.), around, into, off, out of, etc.</i> • <i>above, below, opposite, near, etc.</i> • <i>after/before (school, etc.), on (Monday, etc.)</i> • <i>She's good at English/drawing.</i>
Determiners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definite & indefinite articles • Other common determiners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the children, a book, an egg</i> • <i>some, a lot of, many, that, these, etc.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'the' with superlatives • More common determiners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the best dad in the world</i> • <i>all, another, any, both, every, more, most, etc.</i>
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position of adjectives before noun & after verb 'to be' • What (+a/an) + adj + noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It's a funny story.</i> <i>She's happy now.</i> • <i>What a great day!</i> <i>What old photos!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative & superlative adjectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My bike is cleaner than yours.</i> <i>He's the best football player in my class.</i>



Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
Adverbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common adverbs of place & time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>here, now</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverbs of frequency Common adverbs of manner Comparative & superlative adverbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>always, never</i> <i>badly, carefully, loudly, quickly, quietly, slowly, well</i> <i>Jack runs more quickly than his brother. She cooks the best in our family.</i>
Intensifiers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>very, really, too</i> 		
Miscellaneous structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardinal numbers 1 – 20 Telling the time: (one, two, three, etc.) o'clock (on the hour times only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Lunch is at 12 o'clock.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardinal numbers 21 – 100 Ordinal numbers 1st – 20th Telling the time: full range of clock times What is/was the weather like? Go for a + noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It's (a) quarter to eight. There's a break at half past ten. It's ten to seven.</i> <i>What was the weather like yesterday?</i> <i>We went for a bike ride in the forest yesterday.</i>
Discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking words: and, or, but Sentence connector: then Interacting in spoken discourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>They've got a dog and a bird but they haven't got a cat.</i> <i>I go home. Then I drink some milk.</i> <i>'I love tennis.'</i> 'Me too!' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conjunctions: because, when (not with future meaning) Sentence connector: next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>She went to bed early because she was tired. When he got home, he did his homework.</i> <i>He got up quickly. Next he had breakfast.</i>



Aspect	Pre-A1	Pre-A1 examples	A1	A1 examples
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'I like chocolate.' 'So do I.' • 'Please give me that book.' 'Here you are.' 'Thank you/Thanks.' • 'I've got a new bike!' 'Fantastic! / Great! / Wow!' • 'Hi, George', 'Hello, Lily.' • 'I'm going now.' 'Bye/Goodbye/See you!' • 'Hooray! It's my birthday today.' • 'I can't go to school today.' 'Oh dear!' • 'Pardon/Sorry. I don't understand.' • 'I can play the piano.' 'Well done!' • 'Let's go to the beach.' 'OK' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacting in spoken discourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'I'm sad.' 'What's the matter?' • 'Can I have a biscuit?' 'Alright.' • 'I've got a new bike!' 'Brilliant!' • 'Excuse me. I'm late.' • 'Let's go to the beach.' 'Good idea.'
Punctuation & spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of letters of the alphabet, lower and upper case 			



Aspect	Pre-A1	<i>Pre-A1 examples</i>	A1	<i>A1 examples</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to listen and write down spelled-out words • Correct spelling of common words at the level • Use of capital letters, full stops and question marks 			



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