

# 'Straightforward Upper Intermediate' Practice Online

This course accompanies 'Straightforward Upper Intermediate'. There are twelve units in this course. Resources are grouped into five categories: Language Focus, Grammar, Vocabulary, Reading and Listening, and Pronunciation.

## UNIT 1

0

### Lesson 1A - 1D

#### Description

**This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about leisure and hobbies. It also provides practice of different tenses.**

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Vocabulary

Practising the correct forms of given words to complete a text about a prize holiday. Practising verb collocations. Practising words related to spare time.

Language Focus

Practising the past simple and present perfect simple and continuous. Practising the past simple, present perfect and present perfect continuous. Practising the past simple, past continuous and past perfect. Practising the past simple, present perfect, past perfect simple and continuous. Practising 'wh-' clauses.

Pronunciation

Identifying the main stress in pairs of sentences with changing information.

Reading and Listening

Choosing the correct meanings of idiomatic expressions to complete a text about a film review. Listening to an interview with a schoolgirl who has her own successful company.

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of how to use narrative tenses correctly.

## UNIT 2

1

### Lesson 2A - 2D

#### Description

**This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about wildlife and animals. It also provides practice of giving opinions and talking about habits.**

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Reading and Listening

Reading a text about sea birds and answering a multiple-choice question. Reading a text about the migration of swans. Listening to a husband and wife talking about small creatures and insects which live in and around their home and garden.

Vocabulary

Practising verbs with 'go' and 'get'. Selecting language used to ask for and express opinions and rearranging the words in the sentences to express polite disagreement.

Pronunciation

Listening to a woman talking about a trip she has been on and deciding which words are stressed in each sentence. Identifying attitude by listening to sentence intonation and stress.

Language Focus

Practising 'used to' for past habits and states. Practising describing past habits/customs with 'used to'. Practising phrasal verbs. Reading two texts that express opposing views on the same topic and deciding whether a series of statements about the text are true, false or unclear.

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of 'would' and 'used to' to talk about past habits and states.

## UNIT 3

2

### Lesson 3A - 3D

#### Description

**This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about fashion and personal appearance. It also provides practice of relative and participle clauses.**

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of the use of the participle in clauses. Checking your knowledge of the difference between defining and non-defining relative clauses. Checking your knowledge of the use of the gerund.

Pronunciation

Identifying clusters of three or more consonant sounds.

Language Focus

Practising articles and reading comprehension in a text about a family business. Practising the use of pronouns in relative clauses. Practising 'wh-' clauses. Practising participle clauses.

Vocabulary

Practising compound adjectives used to describe people. Practising adjectives that collocate with nouns.

Reading and Listening

Listening to an interview about fashions in the 60s and 70s. Listening to three people discussing cosmetic surgery.

## UNIT 4

3

### Lesson 4A - 4D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about fears and phobias. It also provides practice of the present perfect and the past simple.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pronunciation         | Listening to compound nouns in sentences and deciding which part of the noun is stressed. Practising homophones.                                                                                                   |
| Vocabulary            | Practising suffixes used to make adjectives into nouns. Practising homophones.                                                                                                                                     |
| Grammar               | Checking your knowledge of the affirmative form of the present perfect continuous. Checking your knowledge of the connectors of purpose.                                                                           |
| Language Focus        | Contrasting the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous. Practising the past simple and present perfect. Practising prepositions.                                                                |
| Reading and Listening | Listening to an interview with a firefighter. Listening to a lecturer talking about the Levellers, a radical political movement in the English Civil War. Listening to a lecture about the life of Mahatma Gandhi. |

## UNIT 5

4

### Lesson 5A - 5D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about the arts. It also provides practice of narrative tenses.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pronunciation         | Practising distinguishing between long and short vowel sounds in sentences. Practising long and short vowels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Grammar               | Checking your knowledge of how to use narrative tenses correctly. Checking your knowledge of the use of the past perfect and past perfect continuous.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Vocabulary            | Practising word formation. Practising fixed phrases. Selecting the correct words to complete a text about ancient art.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Reading and Listening | Reading a short text on the art movement known as Impressionism and deciding on the meaning of a series of words in the context of the text. Matching pieces of information with the sections of a text about art in Toronto Airport. Listening to different people talking about a book they have read and deciding whether statements are true or false. |
| Language Focus        | Practising the past perfect. Contrasting the use of the past simple with the past perfect.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## UNIT 6

5

### Lesson 6A - 6D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about politics. It also provides practice of real and unreal conditions.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grammar               | Checking your knowledge of the affirmative form of the third conditional. Checking your knowledge of unreal tenses.                                                                               |
| Language Focus        | Practising expressing regret with 'wish', 'if only' and some conditional clauses. Practising the second and third conditional. Completing conditional sentences. Practising 'wish' and 'if only'. |
| Reading and Listening | Listening to a lecture about former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.                                                                                                                     |
| Pronunciation         | Identifying stress in questions in the second conditional. Identifying the changing syllable stress in nouns and their corresponding adjectives. Contrasting diphthongs and long vowel sounds.    |
| Vocabulary            | Practising political vocabulary.                                                                                                                                                                  |

## UNIT 7

6

### Lesson 7A - 7D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about the environment. It also provides practice of future tenses.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Language Focus        | Practising a variety of future tenses. Practising future perfect statements and questions. Practising the future perfect and continuous, 'will' and 'going to'.                                                           |
| Pronunciation         | Practising vowel sounds. Contrasting words spelt with 'ou'.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Vocabulary            | Practising words relating to environmental issues. Practising phrasal verbs.                                                                                                                                              |
| Reading and Listening | Listening to a lecture about the effects of climate change, such as increased rainfall, flooding and rising sea levels. Matching pieces of information with the sections of the text in which they are mentioned.         |
| Grammar               | Checking your knowledge of the uses of the future perfect. Checking your knowledge of when to use the future continuous. Checking your knowledge of the future with 'will', the future continuous and the future perfect. |

## UNIT 8

7

### Lesson 8A - 8D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about health and medicine. It also provides practice of modal verbs.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of 'must' and 'have to'.

Pronunciation

Focusing on the informal spoken contractions common in informal speech.

Vocabulary

Practising the correct use of words and understanding of an article about health and safety in the workplace. Practising common idioms of health and sickness. Practising words for different types of health problems. Practising avoiding vocabulary errors in academic writing by choosing the correct words to complete a text about alternative medicine.

Language Focus

Contrasting the use of 'have to', 'don't have to' for obligation, and 'should', 'shouldn't' for advice. Practising a variety of modal verbs and the structures that follow them. Practising modal verbs of permission, obligation and recommendation.

Reading and Listening

Listening to part of a discussion about nutrition. Listening to a nutritionist talking about food and drink. Reading three texts which discuss different aspects of complementary medicine, identifying the writer's purpose in each text and answering questions about how the writer gets his or her message across.

## UNIT 9

8

### Lesson 9A - 9D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about heroes and villains. It also provides practice of the use of adjectives, modifiers and contrasting information.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Pronunciation

Identifying polite or impolite intonation in questions.

Vocabulary

Practising phrasal verbs related to crime.

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of common adjectives followed by the prepositions 'about', 'at', 'by' and 'for'. Checking your knowledge of connectors of contrast.

Reading and Listening

Listening to someone talking about two thieves who tried to steal a mobile phone. Listening to a conversation between a shop owner and a security expert about preventing shoplifting.

Language Focus

Practising adjective word order in complex noun phrases. Practising ordering adjectives. Practising the order of adjectives in descriptions. Practising prepositions following verbs, nouns and adjectives. Practising the use of 'although', 'despite' and 'in spite of'.

## UNIT 10

9

### Lesson 10A - 10D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about jobs and interviews. It also provides practice of reported speech.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Vocabulary

Practising phrases often used in job interviews. Practising common collocations in business language. Practising the phrases used when talking about jobs and job interviews. Practising the correct words to complete a text about jobs that involve working outdoors.

Reading and Listening

Filling gaps in a text about office work with sentences that have been removed from the text. Listening to five people talking about holiday jobs and match opinions with each speaker.

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of how to use reporting verbs.

Language Focus

Practising reporting verbs like 'agree', 'accuse', 'insist', etc. Practising reporting questions. Practising asking questions during a job interview.

Pronunciation

Distinguishing between questions that ask for information and questions asked when the speaker thinks they already know the answer. Identifying the stressed word in information questions.

## UNIT 11

10

### Lesson 11A - 11D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about travel and places. It also provides practice of articles.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Vocabulary

Practising words related to places.

Pronunciation

Practising the correct pronunciation of 'th'. Identifying the schwa sound in sentences.

Reading and Listening

Reading a text about geological features in the valley of Glencoe and labelling a diagram with the features you find in the text. Filling gaps in a text with sentences that have been removed from the text by keying in the correct sentence letters. Listening to a conversation about Gibraltar.

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of the indefinite article. Checking your knowledge of the zero article. Checking your knowledge of the definite article. Checking your knowledge of the uses of 'so', 'such', 'too', 'enough' and 'quite'.

Language Focus

Practising the use of the definite article 'the', and the zero article. Practising the articles 'a', 'an', 'the' or zero article (-).

## UNIT 12

11

### Lesson 12A - 12D

#### Description

This syllabus item provides practice of the kind of language we use to talk about money and crimes. It also provides practice of passive forms.

#### Syllabus components

#### Syllabus component description

Grammar

Checking your knowledge of the passive voice. Checking your knowledge of the passive form of 'make' + infinitive. Checking your knowledge of the use of 'have somebody / something do something'.

Pronunciation

Practising variable stress patterns that affect meaning.

Vocabulary

Practising words that are often confused. Practising words used to talk about money. Practising phrasal verbs.

Reading and Listening

Listening to people talking about crimes. Listening to a burglar talking to his friend.

Language Focus

Practising the passive. Practising 'have' followed by an object plus infinitive without 'to' or an '-ing' form. Practising phrasal verbs.