Course overview

Introduction

Our aim with *English File fourth edition* has been to make every lesson better and to make the package more student- and teacher-friendly. As well as the main A and B Student's Book lessons, there is a range of material that you can use according to your students' needs, and the time and resources you have available. Don't forget:

- videos that can be used in class in every File: Practical English, Video Listening, and Can you understand these people?
- Quick Tests and File Tests for every File, as well as Progress Tests, an End-of-course Test, and an Entry Test, which you can use at the beginning of the course
- photocopiable Grammar and Communicative activities for every A and B lesson, and a Vocabulary activity for every Vocabulary Bank

Online Practice and the **Workbook** provide review, support, and practice for students outside the class.

The **Teacher's Guide** suggests different ways of exploiting the Student's Book depending on the level of your class. We very much hope you enjoy using *English File fourth edition*.

What do B1 level students need?

The B1 level is often a milestone for students: at this point, many students really begin to 'take off' in terms of their ability to communicate. Some students, however, may see the B1 level as a 'plateau' and feel that they are no longer making the progress they were before. Students at this level need fresh challenges to help them to realize how much they know and to make their passive knowledge active, together with a steady input of new language.

Grammar

- Consolidation and extension of main grammatical structures
- Practice in using different tenses together
- Student-friendly reference material

We have tried to provide contexts for new language that will engage students, using real-life stories and situations, humour, and suspense. The **Grammar Banks** give students a single, easy-to-access grammar reference section, with example sentences with audio, clear rules, and common errors. There are at least two practice exercises for each grammar point. Students can look again at the grammar presented in the lesson on **Online Practice**. The **Workbook** provides a variety of practice exercises and the opportunity for students to use the new grammar to express their own ideas.

Vocabulary

- Systematic expansion of topic-based lexical areas
- Building new words by adding prefixes and suffixes
- Opportunities to put new vocabulary into practice

Every lesson focuses on high-frequency vocabulary and common lexical areas, but keeps the load realistic. All new vocabulary is given with the phonemic script alongside, to help students with the pronunciation of new words.

Many lessons are linked to the **Vocabulary Banks** which help present and practise the vocabulary in class, give an audio model of each word, and provide a clear reference so students can revise and test themselves in their own time. Students can review the meaning and the pronunciation of new vocabulary on **Online Practice**, and find further practice in the **Workbook**.
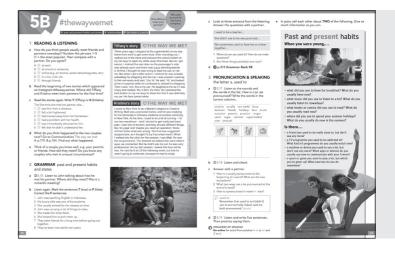
Pronunciation

- Practice in pronouncing sounds, words, and connected speech clearly
- Awareness of rules and patterns
- Focus on word and sentence stress

Clear, *intelligible* pronunciation (not perfection) should be the goal of students at this level. There is a pronunciation focus in every lesson, which integrates clear pronunciation into grammar and vocabulary practice. There is an emphasis on the sounds most useful for communication, on word stress, and on sentence rhythm. **Online Practice** contains the Sound Bank videos which show students the mouth positions to make English vowels and consonants. They can also review the pronunciation from the lesson at their own speed. There is more practice of pronunciation in the **Workbook**, with audio, which can be found on **Online Practice**.

Speaking

- Motivating and accessible topics
- The key words and phrases necessary to discuss a topic
- Confidence that their language is clear and intelligible
- Practice in more extended speaking
- Time to organize thoughts before speaking

Lack of self-confidence can be a barrier to successful speaking at this level. Each speaking task is supported by the necessary Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation and designed to help students to feel a sense of progress and to show that the number of situations in which they can communicate effectively is growing.

Listening

- Confidence-building, achievable tasks
- Practice in `getting the gist' and listening for detail
- Practice in dealing with authentic spoken language

At B1 level students need confidence-building tasks which are progressively more challenging in terms of speed, length, and language difficulty, but are always achievable. Longer listenings are broken into separate parts with different tasks, to avoid memory overload. Students are exposed to a wide variety of accents, including some non-native speakers of English. On **Online Practice**, for each File students can find further listening practice related to the topic. They can also access the listening activities from every lesson, to practise in their own time, and to read the script to check anything that they have found difficult.

Reading

- Engaging topics and stimulating material
- Exposure to a wide variety of authentic text types
- Challenging tasks which help them read more skillfully

Many students need to read in English for their work or studies, and reading is also important in helping to build vocabulary and to consolidate grammar. The key to encouraging students to read is to provide material where they feel there is a reason to read and tasks which help them to get the most out of a text. This level contains a variety of readings from real sources (the British press, magazines, websites, forums, infographics) and have been chosen for their intrinsic interest and potential to generate a reaction. The opinions expressed in these texts do not necessarily reflect the view of the *English File* authors or of Oxford University Press.

Mediation

- Collaborative teamwork tasks in every File
- Texts, charts, and images for learners to extract and share understanding

The concept of mediation in the CEFR includes a range of communicative strategies and tasks that focus on how learners work together collaboratively, extract and share meaning from texts, and develop better understanding among themselves and others. *English File* promotes and develops mediation skills in a variety of ways in every File. Activities that develop mediation skills are highlighted in the teacher's notes, and the CEFR mapping document on Oxford Premium includes mediation descriptors mapped to every lesson. The mediation tasks in *English File* will help your learners develop the communication skills that build their '21st century skills'.

Writing

- Clear models for a variety of text types
- An awareness of register, structure, and fixed phrases
- A focus on 'micro' writing skills

It is often difficult to motivate students to write at this level. In *English File B1* each guided writing activity flows out of a main lesson to ensure that students have plenty of ideas start with and focuses on key areas of language, style, and organization to help break the writing process down into a series of achievable tasks.

Students can use **Online Practice** to develop their writing skills further. The Discussion board also provides opportunities for informal written interaction.

Practical English

- Consolidate and extension of functional language
- Knowing what to say in typical social situations
- Getting used to listening to faster, more colloquial speech

The five *Practical English* lessons revise and extend common situations such as introductions or making polite requests, and introduce and practise the language for new situations, like expressing opinions or apologizing. The story line involving the two main characters, Jenny and Rob, continues from where it left off in *English File A2/B1* but it is self-standing, so it can be used equally with students who did not use the previous level. The lessons also highlight other key `Social English' phrases, for example *Could you tell me why… ?* and *If you don't mind*. On **Online Practice**, students can use the interactive video to record themselves and hear their own voice in the complete conversation. They can also listen and record the Social English phrases. The **Workbook** provides practice of all the language from the Practical English lessons.

Revision

- Regular review
- Motivating reference and practice material
- A sense of progress

Students will usually only assimilate and remember new language if they have the chance to see it and use it several times. Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation are recycled throughout the course. After every two Files there is a two-page Revise & Check section. The left-hand page revises the grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation of each File. The right-hand page provides a series of skills-based challenges, including street interviews, and helps students to measure their progress in terms of competence. These pages are designed to be used flexibly according to the needs of your students. On **Online Practice**, for each File, there are three **Check your progress** activities. The first is a multiple choice activity for students to test themselves on the Grammar and Vocabulary from the File. The second is a dictation related to the topic and the language of the File for students to practise the new language in context. Finally, there is a **Challenge** activity, which involves a mini-research project based on a topic from the File. Every two Files, the **Workbook** contains a *Can you remember...?* page, which provides a cumulative review of language students have covered in the **Student's Book**.

Course overview

For students

Combined Student's Book and Workbook

The Student's Book has 10 Files. Each File is organized like this:

A and B lessons

Each File contains two four-page lessons which present and practise **Grammar**, **Vocabulary**, and **Pronunciation** with a balance of reading and listening activities, and lots of opportunities for speaking. Every two Files (starting from File 2), the B lesson ends with a **Video Listening** section. All lessons have clear references to the **Grammar Bank**, **Vocabulary Bank**, and where relevant, to the **Sound Bank** at the back of the book.

Practical English

Every two Files (starting from File 1), there is a two-page lesson which teaches high-frequency, everyday English (e.g. language for asking for permission and making requests) and social English (useful phrases like *How come you're so late?* and *I think I'll go home if you don't mind*). The video is in the form of a drama, featuring the two main characters, Rob and Jenny. The lessons have a storyline which runs through the level.

Revise & Check

Every two Files (starting from File 2) there is a two-page section revising the **Grammar**, **Vocabulary**, and **Pronunciation** of each File and providing **Reading**, **Listening**, and **Speaking**. The *'Can you…?'* section challenges students with engaging reading texts and street interview videos, which give students exposure to real-life English.
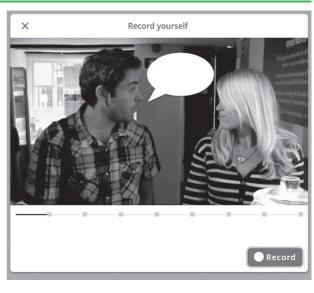
The back of the Student's Book

The lessons contain references to these sections: Communication, Writing, Listening, Grammar Bank, Vocabulary Bank, and Sound Bank.

The Student's Book is also available as an eBook.

Workbook

Interleaved with the Student's Book, File by File, for language practice after class.

- All the Grammar, Vocabulary, and Practical English
- Pronunciation exercises with audio. The audio can be accessed on Online Practice
- *Can you remember…?* exercises for students to check their progress

Online Practice

For students to practise and develop their language and skills or catch up on a class they have missed.

- **Look again:** review the language from every lesson.
- **Practice:** extra Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking practice.
- **Check your progress:** students can test themselves, get instant feedback, and try an extra challenge.
- **Interactive video** to practise the language from the Practical English lessons.
- **Sound Bank videos** to learn and practise pronunciation of English sounds.

FOR SPEAKERS OF SPANISH

- Five extra online activities for every File to practise the key areas of Vocabulary, Pronunciation, and Listening skills that speakers of Spanish need.
- Extra online activities clearly signposted on the page, so students know when to go online.
- Students can download the Vocabulary and Grammar Pocket Book, with notes, examples, and translations, specially developed for speakers of Spanish.
- All Student's Book and Workbook audio, video, scripts, wordlists, dyslexia-friendly texts, and CEFR Language Portfolio.

Say It app

For students to learn and practise the sounds of English

- Individual sounds
- Sounds in key words
- Speak and record functionality

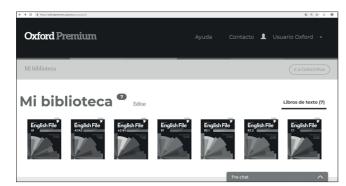# For teachers

Teacher's Guide

Step-by-step procedural notes for all the lessons including:

- an optional 'books-closed' lead-in for every lesson.
- **Extra challenge** suggestions for ways of exploiting the Student's Book material in a more challenging way if you have a stronger class.
- **Extra support** suggestions for ways of adapting activities or exercises to make them work with weaker students.
- **Extra ideas** for optional activities.

FOR SPEAKERS OF SPANISH References show you when there is extra material for your learners on Online Practice or in the downloadable Pocket Book.

All lesson plans include answer keys and audio scripts.

Teacher's Resources on Oxford Premium

Oxford Premium offers teachers an invaluable range of resources, news, and features for your classes. You can access the site at oxfordpremium.es. Go to Oxford Premium for:

- All the Student's Book and Workbook audio/video files and scripts
- Detailed lesson plans and answer keys from the Teacher's Guide
- Tests and assessment material, including: practice tests and extra material for students preparing for EOI tests; an Entry Test; Progress Tests; an End-of-course Test; a Quick Test for every File; and complete test for every File. There are A and B versions of all the main tests and audio files for all the Listening tests
- CEFR documents and the *English File programación*
- A wide range of online tools and resources to create your own classroom materials
- Up-to-the-minute news articles on English and education
- Webinars from experts on current pedagogical topics
- Over 90 pages of photocopiable activities, including tips on how to use them, and customizable versions:

Grammar

- An activity for every Grammar Bank, which can be used in class or for self-study extra practice

Communicative

- Extra speaking practice for every A and B lesson

Vocabulary

- An activity for every Vocabulary Bank, which can be used in class or for self-study extra practice

Classroom Presentation Tool

- The complete Student's Book and Workbook
- Photocopiable activities
- All class audio and video, with interactive scripts
- Answer keys for exercises in the Student's Book, Workbook and photocopiable activities
- Dyslexia-friendly texts

Class audio

All the listening materials for the Student's Book can be found on **Teacher's Resources on Oxford Premium**, **Classroom Presentation Tool**, **Online Practice**, **Student's eBook**, and the **Class Audio CDs**.

Video

Video listening

- Short documentary, drama, or animation for students at the end of even-numbered B lessons (2B, 4B, 6B, etc.)

Practical English

- A unique series of videos that goes with the Practical English lessons in the Student's Book

Revise & Check video

- Street interviews filmed in London, New York, and Oxford to accompany the Revise & Check section

All the video materials for the Student's Book can be found on **Teacher's Resources on Oxford Premium**, **Classroom Presentation Tool**, **Online Practice**, **Student's eBook**, and the **Class DVD**.