

English Banana.com

Schools

About English Banana.com Schools

Introduction:

The documents that make up the English Banana.com Schools pack are not meant to be a fully exhaustive collection. This pack is a quick starter guide to running an English course and contains all the forms and paperwork you need to plan a course, enrol and assess learners, as well as keep sufficient records. Some of the documents are self-explanatory, e.g. the Class Posters or the Teacher's Expenses Claim Form, while others have detailed notes, e.g. the Lesson Plan and Schemes of Work. Simply click [\[info\]](#) beside a document name to find out more about it. If you are unsure about how to use any of the documents, please feel free to get in touch via the contact page on our website. If you feel that we have missed something glaringly obvious – or made an unforgivable error – or if there is a form or document that you would really like us to include in a future edition of this pack, please do not hesitate to contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

Levels:

We have created materials that can be used for courses at three distinct levels, because the free teaching materials on English Banana.com are largely aimed at these levels.

The levels are:

Beginner – from students with absolutely no knowledge of English or the alphabet (zero-beginners) to students who are starting to form basic sentences and who know survival English.

Elementary – students who are quickly improving and learning more vocabulary week in week out, and who are able to confidently make simple sentences. They can attempt to make complex sentences, but are still making a lot of mistakes in all areas of the language.

Intermediate – these students have overcome all the basic difficulties of learning the English language and are starting to branch out in their reading, writing, speaking and listening by experimenting with more difficult vocabulary and longer, more complex sentences. Mistakes happen, but they occur less frequently than at Elementary level and students are able to interact confidently in English in a wide range of social situations.

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What was the inspiration behind the English Banana.com Schools project?

We started to think about creating these materials after reading some of the feedback that we got during a recent Free CD-ROM promotion. For about six weeks early in 2007 we gave away free copies of our latest CD-ROM – the ELT Resource Bank – to dozens of visitors who each emailed us with their name, address and why they wished to receive a copy.

We were really surprised by the large number of people who got in touch and it soon became apparent that there was huge interest in gaining access to free materials that would support

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local schools around the world, including courses being run in teachers' homes and in other informal settings.

The materials in this pack are aimed particularly at teachers who have few resources of their own or who haven't undergone formal training in how to plan, structure and administer an English course. We were really inspired by some of the emails we received. One that stood out was from Evelyn Peralta, writing from the Dominican Republic. Her email is the first one included below.

We thought that as well as providing hundreds of free printable worksheets for lessons on our website, we could also create and add to the site all the forms and peripheral paperwork that a teacher would need to keep records, plan and deliver an English course. This is the primary aim behind the English Banana.com Schools project.

Below are some of the emails that inspired us to think about starting this project. Thanks to everybody for writing in – we really value your contribution...!

Evelyn Peralta from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic wrote:

"I'm teaching English for free to a group of teenagers that are my kids' friends. As they cannot pay for it, and I want to teach my kids, I decided to create an 'English Club' for ten of them. I prepare the lessons myself but it's hard for me, because I have to do it at night and in my lunch time. As I have a full-time job I use the internet in my lunch time to find things that can help me with the lessons. I found this site precisely looking for 'free printable pairworks and exercises'. Please let me know if I can count on you."

A. Lafridi from Casablanca in Morocco wrote:

"First of all I liked your material on the 'net very much. I would like to improve my teaching performance by introducing novelty to my classroom teaching material. But unfortunately my salary does not allow me to buy your CDs. I would be grateful if you could send me free copies."

Marina Maykova from Odessa in the Ukraine wrote:

"I have been a teacher of English for 25 years. The situation in my country as well as in my pocket is rather grave. The teacher's salary is about one hundred US dollars a month. I do all I can to make my lessons exciting and spend a lot on xeroxes and paying for the internet to be able to download some new things. I would appreciate your assistance. Thank you in any case."

Emoke Jakab from Szekesfehervar in Hungary wrote:

"The starting wage of a young teacher is quite low and it would be very difficult for me to buy it [the ELT Resource Bank]. I teach English and Music and I'm sure your resources could help me a lot. After covering all the necessary expenses I have some money left, but that's only enough for books in one month, food the next month, clothing the following month. I'm really looking forward to receiving your CD-ROM, because I think it contains great exercises, funny games – educational materials that children would simply love to use in the classroom. Thank

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you in anticipation.”

Perrine Lejeune from Beauraing in Belgium wrote:

“I have just started teaching English and haven’t got a lot of teaching material. It would be very helpful for me.”

Rossana Benedetti from Palmares do Sul in Brazil wrote:

“In this little and poor community of southern Brazil we wish to introduce the English as a second language. Improving, this way, the quality of our education. I represent a group of educators that teaches poor people, freely. We want to include English in our classes.”

We hope that you will find the materials in this pack really useful. If you would like to tell us what you think of them, or suggest documents that we could include in a future edition, please do get in touch via the contact page on our website.

Happy course planning!

English Banana.com Team, July 2007