



**UNIMORE**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

## **English B1.2 Productive Skills Course**

**3/6/26 - 8/7/2026**

**Dott.ssa Tinamaria Michele Colaizzi**

### **Course Objectives**

During the course, students will:

- Improve skills in speaking and writing through guided practice and communicative activities.
- Understand key grammatical concepts through real-life situations of speaking and writing.
- Increase confidence in using English for everyday situations, including conversations, discussions, and written communication.
- Develop the ability to express ideas clearly, fluently, and accurately when speaking. Specifically, students will practice stating their opinions and providing reasoning.

### **Key Grammatical Concepts**

- Present Simple vs. Present Continuous
- Past Simple vs. Past Continuous
- Present Perfect (highlighting differences with Past Simple)
- Future Forms (will, going to, present continuous)
- Modal Verbs
- Quantifiers/Countable and Uncountable Nouns
- Question Forms and Negatives in all tenses studied throughout the course
- Passive Voice (Present and Past Tenses)
- Conditionals (Zero, First, Second)

### **Writing Concepts**

- Relative Clauses (Defining and non-defining)
- Prepositions
- Connectives, Conjunctions (Subordinating/Coordinating), Linking Words
- Pronouns (Subject, Object, Possessive, Reflexive, Demonstrative)
- Conciseness and Cohesiveness

### **Speaking Concepts**

- Phrasal Verbs in Use (*Common B1-level*)
- Making Plans and Requests (*How about, Let's, Why don't we...*)
- Giving and Asking for Advice/Suggestions (*Modal verbs in use*)
- Tag Questions and Answering
- Politely disagreeing and agreeing
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Fluency Practice

### **Key Topics**

- Hobbies and Passions
- Discussing Future Plans (*both long-term and short-term*)
- Technology and Society
- Environmental Issues
- The Arts and Media
- Describing Key Moments (*Past, Present Perfect*)

### **Classroom Activities**

*Speaking:* This course calls upon interactive communication and will include various speaking activities in the form of small group conversations, role-plays, and pair work. During speaking activities, the teacher will monitor between groups and provide feedback in small group and larger group settings.

*Writing:* Students will practice writing paragraphs, emails, and short essays throughout the course. Students will also participate in peer review sessions, which should help with inspiration and written production, as well as provide feedback on different types of writing produced by classmates.

### **Attendance**

It is necessary to attend 70% of the lessons to take the final exam and receive a certificate of participation.

### **Exams**

Students who have reached 70% attendance will be evaluated with an in-person exam.

*Speaking:* The speaking exam will be based on a Cambridge B1 Speaking Test. Students will be placed in groups of 2 or 3 and be tested on individual communication (introducing oneself and responding to a few follow-up questions) as well as conversation in pairs/groups. Each group's speaking test should last around 10-15 minutes.

*Writing:* Students will write an essay of 150-200 words on a relevant topic, where they will be asked to state their opinion and provide reasoning. The scoring rubric is based on the Cambridge B1 Writing Test and will focus on Organization, Content, Language, and Communicative Achievement.

## **Resources and materials**

Handouts created by the teacher, activities adapted from various textbooks and additional materials will be uploaded to Dolly throughout the course.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to schedule office hours. My email is [tcolaizzi@unimore.it](mailto:tcolaizzi@unimore.it)