

B1 Ateneo 2025/2026

B1 English Course Syllabus

Centro Linguistico di Ateneo Modena – Unimore

Course Level: B1 (Intermediate)

Focus: Grammar, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Writing Skills

Dates: January 12th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 28th, 30th; February 2nd

Time: 15:00 – 18:00

Total Hours: 30

Academic Course Objectives

Grammar

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate accurate and consistent control of core B1-level grammatical structures. Specifically, they will be able to:

- Differentiate appropriately between the present simple and the present continuous in descriptive and situational contexts.
- Apply past simple and past continuous forms to narrate events and describe past circumstances.
- Employ the present perfect to discuss experiences and ongoing states, using standard markers such as *ever*, *never*, *for*, *since*, *just*, and *already*.
- Use comparative and superlative structures to evaluate people, objects, and situations.
- Produce grammatically accurate sentences using object pronouns, possessive adjectives, and basic relative clauses.
- Distinguish between and correctly apply future forms (*will*, *going to*, and the present continuous) according to communicative purpose.

Vocabulary

Students will expand their lexical range by developing topic-specific vocabulary and commonly used collocations relevant to B1-level communication. They will also be able to:

- Employ vocabulary related to key thematic areas such as education, technology, travel, the environment, and everyday life.
- Integrate basic academic and semi-formal vocabulary into reading comprehension and writing tasks.
- Recognise and use appropriate phrasal verbs and multi-word expressions within context.

Speaking Skills

This course is designed for university students aiming to improve their speaking skills in academic and everyday contexts.

- The main objective is to develop fluency, accuracy, and confidence in spoken English.
- The course emphasizes interactive speaking activities, including discussions, role-plays, and short presentations.
- By the end of the course, students will be better able to express ideas clearly and participate effectively in university-related communication.

Writing Skills

Students will demonstrate increased competence in producing coherent and well-structured written texts. They will be able to:

- Compose clear paragraphs and short essays (120–150 words) with an appropriate level of accuracy and organisation.
- Produce a range of written genres including emails, descriptions, and opinion pieces.
- Use cohesive devices (e.g., *however, although, therefore, in addition*) to improve coherence and flow.
- Revise and edit their work for grammatical accuracy, lexical appropriateness, and clarity of expression.

Session-by-Session Plan

Date	Grammar Focus	Vocabulary Focus	Reading/Speaking Focus	Writing Focus
Jan 12	Present Simple / Present Continuous	Daily routines, lifestyle	Discuss essential skills for the modern workplace and strategies for career development.	Paragraph: "A day in my life"
Jan 14	Past Simple / Past Continuous	Narrative verbs, sequencing words	Debate topics such as academic integrity, plagiarism, and responsible use of artificial intelligence.	Write a past event (120 words)
Jan 15	Present Perfect (ever, never, just, already, yet)	Life experiences	Present and discuss solutions to current environmental challenges at local and global levels.	Email describing personal experiences
Jan 19	Comparatives / Superlatives	Adjectives & adverbs	Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of social media in personal, academic, and professional communication.	Descriptive paragraph
Jan 21	Future forms: will / going to / present continuous	Plans and arrangements	Practice delivering structured opinions and reflecting on effective presentation techniques.	Short email about future plans
Jan 23	Object pronouns / Possessive adjectives / Relative clauses	Family & relationships	Engage in guided discussions on contemporary international events and their societal implications.	Profile of a person using relative clauses
Jan 26	Mixed tenses / Vocabulary review	Education & technology	Discuss the importance of well-being in academic success and strategies for maintaining a healthy balance.	Opinion paragraph with linking words
Jan 28	Grammar review & error correction	Context clues	Discuss recent advancements and their implications for society and academia.	Summary (80–100 words)
Jan 30	Writing structures: intro–body–conclusion	Cohesive devices	Compare different national education systems and their effectiveness in preparing students for higher education.	Draft 150-word opinion essay
Feb 02	Consolidation & integrated review	All thematic vocabulary	Explore strategies for effective collaboration, conflict resolution, and leadership within group assignments.	Final 150-word essay; feedback

B1 Grammar Overview

1. Tenses

- Present Simple
- Present Continuous
- Past Simple
- Past Continuous
- Present Perfect (with *ever, never, for, since, just, already, yet*)
- Present Perfect Continuous (basic use)
- Future forms: *will, going to*, present continuous for future plans
- Past Perfect (introduction and simple use)

2. Modal Verbs

- Ability: *can, could*
- Permission: *can, may*
- Obligation and necessity: *must, have to, should*
- Advice and suggestions: *should, ought to*
- Probability and possibility: *might, may, could*
- Polite requests: *could, would*

3. Conditionals

- Zero conditional (*If + present simple, present simple*)
- First conditional (*If + present simple, will + verb*)
- Second conditional (basic introduction: *If + past simple, would + verb*)

4. Questions and Negatives

- Question forms (Yes/No questions, WH- questions)
- Question tags
- Negatives in all tenses

5. Pronouns

- Subject pronouns
- Object pronouns
- Possessive adjectives and pronouns
- Reflexive pronouns
- Demonstrative pronouns (*this, that, these, those*)

6. Articles

- Definite and indefinite articles (*a, an, the*)
- Zero article

7. Adjectives and Adverbs

- Comparatives and superlatives
- Adverbs of frequency, manner, degree
- Word order in sentences

8. Nouns

- Countable and uncountable nouns
- Plurals and irregular plurals
- Quantifiers (*some, any, much, many, a lot of, few, little*)

9. Prepositions

- Prepositions of time (*in, on, at, since, for, during, by*)

- Prepositions of place and movement (*at, in, on, to, into, onto*)
- Prepositional phrases

10. Conjunctions and Linking Words

- Coordinating conjunctions: *and, but, or, so, for, nor, yet*
- Subordinating conjunctions: *because, although, when, if, while*
- Linking words for writing: *however, therefore, in addition, besides*

11. Passive Voice

- Present simple and past simple passive
- Basic introduction to passive forms in other tenses

12. Reported Speech (Introduction)

- Reporting statements: *He said (that) ...*
- Reporting questions: *He asked me if/whether ...*

13. Relative Clauses

- Defining and non-defining clauses using *who, which, that*

14. Other Structures

- Gerunds and infinitives (basic use)
- Expressions of frequency (*used to, would for past habits*)
- Phrasal verbs (common B1-level)