



# Curriculum Outline Skills Development Upper Intermediate / Advanced

Module 1-3 (98 lessons)

A Guide for Skills Development English  
Curriculum

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SPEAKING AND READING

UPPER INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

## UNIT 1

### SPEAKING

- CELEBRITIES AND FAME  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary around celebrities and fame.
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary around prejudice and discrimination
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking.
- WAR AND CONFLICT  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary around war and conflict.
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 2

### SPEAKING

- MARRIAGE  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary around marriage.
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- BODY LANGUAGE AND GESTURES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about body language
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: social interaction, nonverbal communication, to interpret, to convey something, to gesture, to shake hands, to nod your head, to shake your head, to point, eye contact, dominance, submission, physical space, physical movement, to stand tall, to slouch, to touch someone, to fidget, to fiddle, to cross your arms, to look down, cultural differences

## UNIT 2

- FEARS AND PHOBIAS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary around fears and phobias
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: to fear, to be scared of, to dread, illogical, anxiety disorder, nerve-racking, symptom, treatment, overwhelming, exaggerated, fight-or-flight, protective, avoidance, to overreact, a racing heartbeat, tingling sensation, to feel lightheaded, a churning stomach, panic attack

## UNIT 3

### SPEAKING

- FACIAL EXPRESSIONS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about facial expressions
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: involuntarily, to frown, to smile, to snarl, to smirk, to grin, to blush, to blink, to wink, to pout, to gaze, to squint, to roll your eyes, to bat your lashes, to raise an eyebrow, flared nostrils, to press your lips together, to bite your lip, clenched jaw, to grit your teeth, gaping mouth, widened eyes, creased forehead, a faint smile, wrinkled nose, dilated pupils
- RELIGIONS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about religions, religious beliefs and places of worship
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Jew, atheist, mosque, church, temple, synagogue, imam, priest, belief, faith, God, afterlife, heaven, hell, sin, ritual, sacred, holy, holy book, scripture, origin of life, festival, offering, prayer, music, dance, meditation, mythology
- THE SUPERNATURAL AND OTHERWORLDLY  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about the supernatural and otherworldly
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: UFO, Bigfoot, The Loch Ness Monster, unicorns, crop circles, skeptic, magic, haunted house, Evil Eye, clairvoyant, fortune teller, Ouija board, to read [tarot cards, tea leaves, a palm], to talk with the dead, to bring bad luck, shrine

## UNIT 4

### READING

- CASA DI ORLANDO REVIEW  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about a restaurant review for an Italian Restaurant called Casa di Orlando
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
- SOMMELIER  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about a sommelier, who works at a fine dining restaurant in Los Angeles
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 5

### SPEAKING

- IS SUGAR BAD FOR US?  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about sugar and diet
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- VEGANISM AND VEGETARIANISM  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about veganism and vegetarianism
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- SHOULD EDUCATION BE FREE?  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about education and public policy
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 7

### SPEAKING

- WORKING REMOTELY AND ONLINE  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about working remotely and working online
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- WORKING AS AN EXPAT  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about working as an expatriate
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- GENERATION X  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about Generation X
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 6

### SPEAKING

- EUTHANASIA  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about euthanasia
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- CORRUPTION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about corruption
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- POVERTY  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about poverty
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 8

### READING

- EVERYDAY HERO  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about an everyday hero, who rescued an old woman from a burning house
  - the lesson includes vocabulary around the theme of bravery
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
- BLACK DEATH  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about the Black Death (a major disease outbreak in Europe during the middle ages)
  - the lesson includes vocabulary around disease, sicknesses and germs
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 9

### SPEAKING

#### > ANIMAL RIGHTS

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about animal rights
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > SEVEN CARDINAL SINS

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > GLUTTONY VERSUS TEMPERANCE

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 10

### SPEAKING

#### > GREED VERSUS CHARITY AND GENEROSITY

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > SLOTH VERSUS DILIGENCE

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > WRATH VERSUS PATIENCE

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 11

### SPEAKING

#### > ENVY VERSUS KINDNESS

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > PRIDE VERSUS HUMILITY

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about various positive and negative character traits and types of behavior
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > SHOULD WE BAN IT?

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary to talk about whether things should or should not be banned
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 12

### READING

#### > SETTLERS OF QUEBEC

Primary objective:

- to read a text about the early settlers of Quebec (known as “New France” in those days)
- the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 12

#### > A HEALTHY WAY OF LIFE

Primary objective:

- to read a text about a teenager that takes on a healthy way of life (exercise and healthy diet)
- this lesson also includes a comprehension question covering connecting phrases (e.g. “in any case”)
- the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

#### > HOLIDAY IN FRANCE

Primary objective:

- to read a text about a letter from one friend to another describing a trip in southern France
- the lesson also includes a comprehension question that covers strong adjective with intensifiers combinations and idioms
- the lesson also includes a comprehension question that covers informal language
- the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 1

### SPEAKING

- **SEXUAL HARRASMENT**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about sexual harassment
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **DISCUSSING THE DEATH PENALTY**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about the death penalty and capital punishment
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **ARE YOU LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE?**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about the liberal and conservative political views
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 3

### SPEAKING

- **ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about alternative medicine, therapies, and remedies
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about physical and mental characteristics and traits
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **BAD MANNERS**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about bad manners and inappropriate behavior
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 2

### SPEAKING

- **SHOULD CHILDREN BE VACCINATED?**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about vaccines and vaccination
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about atheism and disbelief in gods
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **THAT'S A BAD HABIT**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about bad habits, and actions and behavior that annoys and bothers us
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 4

### READING

- **WORRIED PARENTS**  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about a letter from parents to a school principal, the parents are worried that their son is being bullied
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
  
- **PLANT MEDICINES**  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about common medicines that come from natural sources such as plants and herbs
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 5

### SPEAKING

#### > YOU CAN'T SAY THAT

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary to talk about inappropriate, offensive, and insensitive language
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

#### > IMMIGRATION

Primary objective:

- to use the past simple to talk to talk about a visit to the doctor, and when you weren't feeling well.

#### > CRIME AND CRIMINALS

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary around crime and criminals.
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking.

## UNIT 6

### SPEAKING

#### > LAW AND ORDER

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about law and order
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: law, court, lawyer, barrister, attorney, solicitor, legal aid, trial, witness, sentence, damages, verdict, guilty, innocent, defendant, prosecution, oath, jury, judge, death penalty

#### > DIET AND NUTRITION

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about diet and nutrition
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: underweight, overweight, physique, body mass index (BMI), active lifestyle, sedentary lifestyle, daily routine, required hours of sleep, obesity, metabolism, calorie/kilojoule, tiredness, sleeplessness, listlessness, protein, carbohydrate, fat (contained in food), cholesterol, salt, sugar, water, Omega-3, vitamins, anti-oxidants, added-sugar, coloring, preservatives, organic produce, processed foods, moderation, balanced diet, regular exercise, to binge, to fast, to check-up

## UNIT 6

#### > URBAN SOCIAL ISSUES

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about urban social issues
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: over-population, ghetto, poverty, uneducated, health issues, drug dependency, addiction, alcohol, unemployment, infrastructure, youth, the elderly, obsolete, poor, crumbling, lack of access to something, investment in something, marginalized, isolated, run-down, homeless, social welfare, public programs, government departments, benefits / payments, long-term projects

## UNIT 7

### SPEAKING

#### > VIOLENCE IN MODERN SOCIETY

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about violence in modern society
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: domestic abuse, assault, intimidation, neglect, violence against women, justice, victim, bullying, alcohol and drug-related violence, force, power, injury, harm, death, vigilante group, gun control, video games, media, cultural norms, law enforcement, police

#### > PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about psychological disorders
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: mental health, eating disorders, anxiety disorder, mood disorder, schizophrenia, dementia, anorexia, ADHD, PTSD, symptoms, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, panic attack, obsessive thoughts, fatigue, dizziness, suicide, mania, delusion, hallucination, diagnosis, medication, therapy, psychologist, psychiatrist

#### > GUNS AND GUN CONTROL

Primary objective:

- To introduce vocabulary about guns and gun control
- To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- Vocabulary introduced: weapon, semi-automatic weapon, bullet, shoot, firearm, rifle, pull the trigger, aim, ammunition, defend yourself, right to bear arms, proponent, opponent, civil liberty regulation, legislation, self-defence, law enforcement agency, rate of suicide, rate of homicide, massacre

## UNIT 8

### READING

#### > BUSINESS OF PHILANTHROPY

Primary objective:

- to read a text about philanthropy (e.g. charities, donations) and the business aspects that surround the industry
- the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

#### > AMNESIA

Primary objective:

- to read a text about a woman who suffered a serious injury and experienced amnesia (lack of memory)
- to practice common adverb-adjective collocations and intensifiers
- the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)



## UNIT 9

### SPEAKING

- COSMETIC AND PLASTIC SURGERY  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about cosmetic and plastic surgery
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: have a face lift, get implants, remove wrinkles, get a tummy tuck, have a hair transplant, get botox, have a nose job, reduction, augmentation, rhinoplasty, filler treatments, liposuction
- GLOBAL WARMING  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about global warming and climate change
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: industrialization, pollution, carbon dioxide, polar ice cap, ozone layer, greenhouse gas, greenhouse emissions, fossil fuel, Kyoto protocol, industrialized nation, developing world
- NATIONAL STEREOTYPES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about national and cultural stereotypes
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: make an assumption, a grain of truth, ignorance, naïve, generalize, belief, make a generalization

## UNIT 10

### SPEAKING

- WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about women's rights and feminism
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  - Vocabulary introduced: activism, social movement, suffrage, tactic, pass a law, domestic violence, birth control, sexual harassment, maternity leave, advocate, inequality
- CONSPIRACY THEORIES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about conspiracy theories
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- CONSUMERISM  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about consumerism
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 11

### SPEAKING

- FREEDOM OF SPEECH  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about freedom of speech
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- MILLENNIALS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about millennials
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
- SHOULD WE BAN IT?  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary to talk about whether things should or should not be banned
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 12

### READING

- A DIFFICULT DECISION  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about a woman who decided not to get married at the last moment, and about if she regrets her decision
  - to practice language to express opinions about regrets and wishes
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
- GIVING RELATIONSHIP ADVICE  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about a man who seeks advice from a friend regarding his romantic partner
  - to practice language around giving advice
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)



## UNIT 1

### SPEAKING

- SAINT PATRICK'S DAY  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about Saint Patrick's Day and Irish culture
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- CYBERBULLYING  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about cyberbullying
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- STONEHENGE AND PAGANISM  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about Stonehenge and paganism
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 3

### SPEAKING

- PRIVACY AND SURVEILLANCE  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about privacy and surveillance
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- PRISONS, JAILS AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about prisons, jails and correctional facilities
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about crimes against the person
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 2

### SPEAKING

- BABY BOOMERS  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about Baby Boomers
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- TRUTH AND LIES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about truth and lies
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about police and law enforcement
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 4

### READING

- EMBARRASSING FRIENDS  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text which describes embarrassing behavior in public
  - to discuss how to deal with challenging or difficult behavior from friends or family members
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
  
- RISE OF THE SUPERBUG  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about the festival of Carnival around the world (Caribbean, Brazil, Italy, Great Britain and France)
  - the lesson includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)

## UNIT 5

### SPEAKING

- PROPERTY CRIMES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about property crimes
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about environmental issues
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- POPULATION GROWTH  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about population growth
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 7

### SPEAKING

- AIR POLLUTION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about air pollution
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- WATER POLLUTION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about water pollution
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- LAND DEGRADATION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about land degradation
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 6

### SPEAKING

- URBANISATION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about urbanisation
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- INTENSIVE FARMING  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about intensive farming
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- HABITAT DESTRUCTION  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about habitat destruction
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 8

### READING

- WHITE PRIVILEGE  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about the concept of white privilege, that people with white skin have advantages that are not necessarily available to other races
  - to promote fluency and giving opinions
  - the lesson also includes several warm-up activities (prior to the reading text) and basic comprehension questions (after the reading text)
  
- STOP BUYING THINGS YOU DON'T NEED  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about consumerism and consumption
  - to promote fluency and giving opinions
  - the lesson includes pre-reading activities and post-reading discussion topics

## UNIT 9

### SPEAKING

- **DEFORESTATION**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about deforestation
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **PLASTIC POLLUTION**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about plastic pollution
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **BIODIVERSITY LOSS**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about biodiversity loss
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 11

### SPEAKING

- **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about environmental law
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about environmental activism
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 10

### SPEAKING

- **INVASIVE SPECIES**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about invasive species
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking
  
- **WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING**  
Primary objective:
  - To introduce vocabulary about waste disposal and recycling
  - To provide controlled and free tasks to promote fluency in speaking

## UNIT 12

### READING

- **RISING YOUTH SUICIDE**  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about youth suicide and possible causes
  - to promote fluency and giving opinions
  - the lesson includes pre-reading activities and post-reading discussion topics
  
- **CHANGING HOW WE EAT**  
Primary objective:
  - to read a text about meat production and its environmental impact
  - to promote fluency and giving opinions
  - the lesson includes pre-reading activities and post-reading discussion topics