

ENGLISH PRACTICE MATERIAL

READING

A2·B1



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Welcome to telc!

telc, the vhs test experts, are proud to provide English practice material especially for vhs courses. In this book, we provide a variety of emotion-based units helping participants to acquire more language competence. Being able to express oneself, stating a personal opinion, maybe even agreeing to disagree – that's central to communication. The aim of this book is to give a fresh perspective to learners at the CEFR levels A2 and B1: with a firm foundation, but not yet fully confident in their language use.

Learning to use English effectively is an essential part of success at work and for crossing language barriers in private life. The Volkshochschule or vhs stands for exactly that: providing everybody with a chance to get ahead, whatever their circumstances. It's a democratic institution, open to all kinds of learners, offering them accessible courses and a chance to reach their goals.

telc, as a proud member of the vhs family, provides state-of-the-art assessment. With telc certificates, success is made visible on the way from the classroom to the employer, to university or to wherever valid proof of language competence is required. telc, the VHS's own certificate system, started to certify competence in English in the 1960s – a truly innovative step at that time.

Innovation today means that we offer more: not just a test, but also a way to reach language goals. May this book provide an enjoyable learning experience, with perceivable and maybe even certified progress towards more confident use of the English language!



Jürgen Keicher
Managing Director, telc gGmbH

English Practice Material – vhs is a four-part series: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The four parts can either be used individually or together in any combination.

Who is English Practice Material – vhs intended for?

It is intended for adult learners who would like to consolidate their A2 skills and to develop their language skills on a B1 level. It is also suitable for refreshers who have already reached level B1 but still lack confidence or practice.

How many units does each book include?

Each book contains 20 short units (one double-page spread per unit).

What topics are covered in the units?

Each unit is about an emotion. The order in which the emotions appear in each of the four books is always the same, so that there is a thematic connection. However, each book deals with different aspects of the emotion in order to avoid repetition.

Why is it about emotions? Does this really matter for communication in everyday life?

Yes. Exchanging personal experiences plays a central role for learners at levels A2 and B1. Personal experiences are usually closely linked with emotional responses. For example, somebody gets a great job offer and expresses how happy they are about this (pride) or someone talks about their about an experience where they were very worried (worry). For learners of a foreign language, it is also often a challenge to express their emotions – especially “negative” emotions such as boredom or embarrassment – in an appropriate manner. All four skills provide useful activities for this purpose, including easy-to-use phrases.

Do the units have an additional focus?

Yes. In each unit there is a CEFR descriptor (“Can-Do Statement“) to which the activities are tailored. The descriptor can be found in a box at the end of each unit. Thus, learners do not only become familiar with the CEFR step by step, but are also encouraged to monitor and take charge of their own progression. The descriptors are usually in the original CEFR wording, but in abbreviated, learner-friendly form.

How are the units structured?

All units have the same structure: A unit begins with an illustration on the left page. The illustration shows a communicative situation depicting the emotion of the unit. The first exercise is always a warm up, which enables the participants to ease into the topic in a light, playful manner. It is followed by several activities in which the subject is dealt with in more depth. Each unit always ends with the relevant CEFR descriptor. In addition, each unit has a “sticky note”, in which a simple, practical tip or an additional piece of information is offered. The “sticky note” has no fixed place; it appears where it fits the content.

Is there a clear distinction between A2 and B1 activities?

There are texts and activities of varying difficulty in each unit. Activities that are not specifically identified are suitable for all participants. They are designed in a way that they can be implemented both at a lower and at a higher level. More “difficult” activities are marked by pictograms: one chilli pepper = challenging, two chilli peppers = very challenging.

Is an audio CD included?

Speaking, Listening and Reading all include an audio CD. Only Writing has no audio CD.

Why do Reading and Speaking also have an audio CD?

Speaking provides audio texts that are intended to be used as preparation for an oral activity. For example: A dialogue on the audio CD might serve as a model for a role-playing activity. The CD also provides a variety of examples of useful everyday expressions. Reading offers selected texts as audio texts. Having the possibility to take in information on multiple sensory channels makes it easier for learners to process (difficult) texts and also provides more variety in the classroom.

Speaking activities appear in all four skills. Is speaking of particular importance?

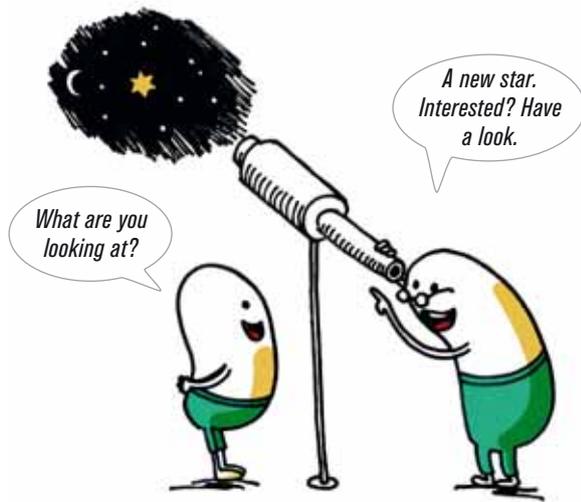
Yes. The primary goal is to get the participants to talk and to encourage them to overcome their fear of making mistakes. Therefore, there are numerous activities that promote oral communication, not only in Speaking. However, the oral exercises are always linked to the particular skill, i.e. Listening, Reading or Writing. For example: In Reading, texts are often followed by a discussion question. Exchanging their ideas with other students allows a further personal analysis of the text and thus leads to a deeper understanding. In addition, alternating silent work phases and conversation phases increases concentration in the classroom.

Can the material be used as additional material in the classroom?

Yes, it can accompany any textbook that is used in English courses at the appropriate levels. The units can be flexibly combined. This has the advantage that teachers can put together activities according to their needs, i.e. activities for a particular skill, a particular CEFR descriptor or a particular emotion. Of course, the material can also be used as primary learning material, e.g. Speaking is ideal for a conversation course.

Can the material be used to prepare for a telc examination?

Yes, but not on its own. The material will greatly help the participant to deepen A2 and B1 language knowledge and thus prepare well for the communicative requirements of the test. However, it is highly recommended that it is used in conjunction with the telc mock examinations, as these give students a complete overview of the structure of the examination and typical examination questions.



Warm up

Look at the illustration and read the two advertisements. Which advertisement goes with the illustration?

What do the stars say about your future? Talk to an experienced astrologer and find out. Call today on 1-800-554-5253!

Ever wanted to look at the night sky through a telescope? Don't miss the Star Party at Rosedale Observatory on Friday, October 21.

What do you find more interesting – astronomy or astrology?

Activity 1

It's easy to confuse the words *interested* and *interesting*. Look at the examples below and complete the sentences with the correct word. Then compare in class.

Example: Astronomy is interesting. → Something is interesting.
I'm interested in astronomy. → Someone is interested in something.

- 1 I like listening to Grace. She always has stories to tell.
- 2 I'm not sure. That's an question.
- 3 My daughter is in learning languages. She wants to be a translator.
- 4 I heard that you're in Japanese culture?
- 5 I've never looked through a telescope. It must be an experience.

Activity 2

Read the situations below and the newspaper ads on the next page. Decide which text goes best with which situation. In two cases, there is no text for the situation. Mark this with an *x*.

- 1 You are interested in astrology books.
- 2 You would like to see a film about animals.
- 3 Your 9-year-old nephew wants to know what astronauts do.
- 4 You want to know what it is like to fly an airplane.
- 5 You would like to read your monthly horoscope for free.
- 6 You want to do something on Sunday afternoon that doesn't cost any money.
- 7 You are interested in looking through a telescope at an observatory.



- a** **SCIENCE CAFÉ**
A great opportunity for informal conversations with local scientists.
This Sunday: "Alien signals?"
Prof John Myers talks about mysterious signals the Earth has received.
3:00-5:00 p.m.
All events at the Science Café are free.
- b** **It's in the Stars!**
Daily, weekly and monthly horoscopes, love horoscopes, Chinese horoscopes, career astrology for every star sign. Special offer: 10% discount on all horoscopes until the end of the month! Call Lucinda at 1-800-828-6552.
- c** **AIR & SPACE MUSEUM**
Open daily from 10:00 -17:00
- Explore the secrets of our Universe
 - Learn about the planets in our solar system
 - Fly your own jet in our 3D flight simulator
- Kids FREE in November!
The Observatory is currently closed for maintenance.
- d** **Talbot's Bookstore**
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.
Meet the astronaut and author Brian J. Criswell in person. Ticket price includes a cocktail and a signed copy of his new book *Moon Landing Conspiracies*.
1403 Jackson Street
Event details: (206) 550-5800
- e** **Follow your guiding star!**
Do you want to know how the position of the planets at the time of your birth affects your life? Order your personal horoscope for only \$29 today! Free daily horoscopes at www.astra-line.com
- f** **IMAX Theater – The ultimate movie experience!**
See large-format films on a huge screen.
Tickets: Adult \$11.00, Child (under 12) \$8.00
- | What's on? | Showtimes |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| The Secret Life of Butterflies | 11:30 am 5:00 pm |
| The Flight of the Birds | 1:15 pm 6:45 pm |
| Exploring the Great Barrier Reef | 3:00 pm |
- Coming soon: Exploring the Milky Way
- g** **NOW SHOWING AT FILLMORE PLANETARIUM**
For all audiences:
- *After Dark: The Sky Tonight*
 - *Mission to Mars*
- For children under 12:
- *Life as an Astronaut*
- Show times & ticket prices: www.fillmore-planet.com
- 
- h** **Heaven & Earth Shop**
148 Oakland Avenue
Lovely gifts such as jewelry, dream catchers, moon calendars, star sign pillows; new and used books on spirituality, astrology, and much more!
Open Mon. to Sat. 10am - 8pm
- 

Activity 3

- a** Work with a partner. You want to do something interesting together and are looking at the newspaper ads above. Choose something that both of you would enjoy. Talk about **WHAT** you want to do and **WHEN**. Then, tell your classmates about your plans.
- b** Have you ever been to a science museum or an observatory? If so, tell your classmates about your experience. If not, would you like to go?

Reading for orientation

- B1** Can find and understand relevant information in everyday material, such as letters, brochures and short official documents.
- A2** Can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus, reference lists and timetables.



Creatively written by an international team of English language professionals and brought to life by telc, *English Practice Material – vhs* is a four-part series, using a fresh, flexible and practical approach. The parts are: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

Targeted at adult learners with upper A2 / lower B1 competence, each unit is based on a human emotion. A variety of aspects of each emotion are covered in a number of communicative situations. Learners are encouraged to compare and discuss their own experiences and emotional responses, thus covering all typical competencies of the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) levels A2 and B1. This material is designed in a way that provides immediate access for both teachers and learners. All the activities are clear and self-explanatory and there are plenty of opportunities for individual or group work, role-plays, interviews, debates and discussions.

Like building blocks, the material can be used together either comprehensively or individually in a workshop or short course. The units can also be used flexibly to supplement other teaching material. Most importantly, a variety of tasks typically found in telc examinations are featured, making this series excellent preparation for a telc language test.