

Broadstairs English Centre Student Guide and Workbook 2019



Our mission: To inspire our students to improve their English language skills and explore British culture by creating one continuous learning experience, to which every member of staff and every homestay provider contributes.

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Broadstairs English Centre

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Welcome to Broadstairs English Centre

We hope you had a good journey and that you will enjoy your stay with us in Broadstairs. This booklet gives you information that will be useful for you during your stay here. There is information about:

- the School
- what to expect in your lessons and activities
- what to expect in your homestay or residential accommodation
- how to stay safe
- school and accommodation rules and regulations

The School

The School is open from 0815 in the morning. If you can't find the School, ask for directions to any of these places, which are very close to the School:

- Broadstairs town library
- the *Gulf* petrol station
- The Broadway (the name of the main street)
- *Subway* at the Broadway

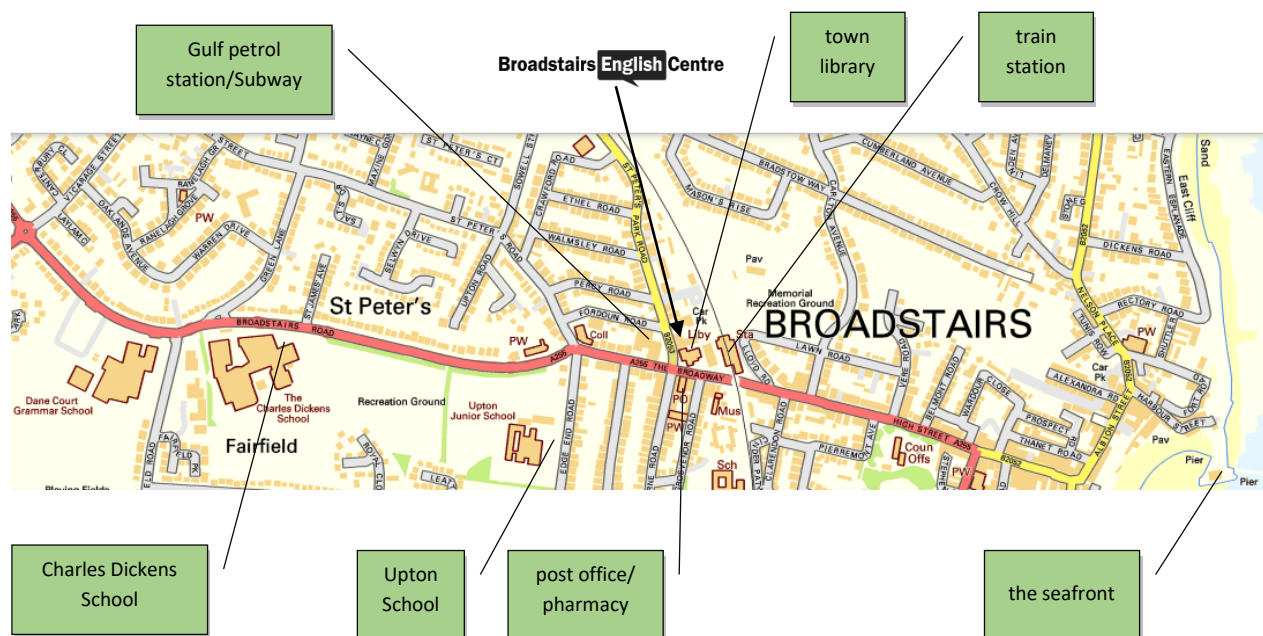
Contact information

The School address is:
2-4 St. Peter's Park Road

The School phone numbers are:
(0044) (0)1843 601536
(0815-1730 Monday to Friday)
(0044) (0)7983 256407
(all other times and emergencies)



This simple map shows you some of the places you will see or hear about in Broadstairs.



The School is on three floors. These are the rooms on each floor:

Ground floor

(WIFI code: BEC-MAIN wz3w30mq)

- reception • games area • computer area
- shop • kitchen • dining area • disabled toilet • female toilet • residential accommodation block •

First floor

(WIFI code: BEC-LOWER i5kmuar)

- room 1 • room 2 • room 3 • room 4 • room 5 • room 6 • male toilet • residential accommodation block •

Second floor

(WIFI code: BEC-UPPER 7jz5jpei)

- room 7 • room 8 • room 9 • room 10 • Directors' office • Director of Studies' and accommodation office • activities and bookings office • male and female toilets •

If there is an emergency, like a fire, leave the building by the nearest exit. Escape routes are shown in every room on every floor. The School has an Emergency Action Plan in case there is a major incident (other than a fire) where the School has to be closed, evacuated or locked down. If this happens, the BEC teachers and/or activity leaders will tell you what you need to do.



What to expect in your lessons and activities



Lessons

Each lesson is 90-minutes. You will be put into classes depending on your level and age. Your level is taken from the results of your placement test. In most cases your classes will be mixed with students from other groups. It

is most likely that you will share your classes with students from different countries. Who you share with depends on who is in the School at the time and on their ages, levels and the type of course they have chosen.

The teachers will choose lessons for the classes after looking at the levels and ages of the students in the classes, and at which questions most students got wrong on the placement test. The teachers will make a scheme of work for the week using this information.

Your lessons will focus on speaking, listening, vocabulary building and pronunciation; but there will also be some reading and writing activities. Grammar is taught as part of these skills. You will also have lessons that prepare you for some of the places that you will visit while you are here – for example, London or Canterbury.

Speak English as much as you can. This is how you will progress. It doesn't matter if you make mistakes. Again, this is how you will progress. If you don't understand something, ask your teachers, homestay providers or activity leaders for help.

If you think you are in the wrong class, speak to your class teacher or your group leader and they will talk to the Director of Studies. If you think your lessons are too easy, we will expect you to prove this to us. We won't move you up a level if you can't demonstrate that you're ready for it! We understand that sometimes students want to be in classes with their friends: this isn't always possible but remember that you will have lots of time with them on activities and trips.

Join in the lessons at all times. Your teachers will keep a daily record of your participation in the class, how much English you speak and how well you achieve the aims of the lessons. You will be given a score between 0 and 5 for each of these areas. 0 means

Lessons

How long?
90-minutes



How many?
It depends on your course. Usually between 6 and 12 in a week. Look at your group programme to see how many lessons you have and when they are

When?
Morning: 0900-1030 and 1100-1230
Afternoon 1345-1515 and 1530-1700
Look at your programme to check the times of your lessons

Lesson content

Primary skills focus: speaking;
listening; vocabulary;
pronunciation

Secondary skills focus: reading;
writing

Grammar is included as part of the
skills lessons.

Preparation for visits

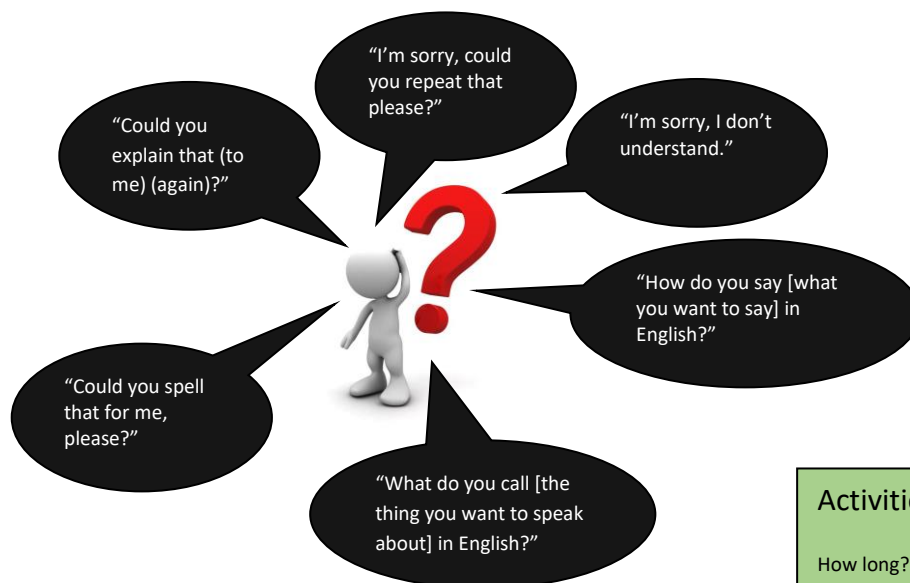


“not at all”, 1 means “a little”, 2 “some”, 3 “well”, 4 “very well” and 5 “excellently”. If your group leaders request it, this information will be put onto a report at the end of your course.

Keep a list of the new words that you learn. When you discover a new word try to make a note of what type of word it is (verb, noun, adjective, etc) and mark the stressed syllable (if you can).

father (noun)
open (verb/adjective)
about (prep/adv)
My father (noun) was about (adv) to open (verb) the letter.

If you don't understand (in class, on activities, or with your hosts), you can say:



Activities

There are three types of activities:

- afternoon activities
- evening activities
- trips/excursions

Afternoon activities usually begin at 1345 (1.45pm), but you need to be at the meeting point (look at your programme to find the meeting points) at least ten minutes before the activity starts. There are various afternoon activities – for example: observation quiz; coastal walk; sports; etc.

Evening activities usually begin at 1945 (7.45pm) and end at 2130 (9.30pm). Again, you need to be at the meeting point at least ten minutes before the activity starts. Evening activities include: drama; martial arts; street dance; quizzes and games; karaoke; disco; etc. You must go directly to your homestay residence immediately after the end of evening activities.

Most groups have at least one full-day excursion in a week, usually to London. Some groups also have a half-day excursion, often to Canterbury. Check your programme to find out where you are going and at what time(s).

Your activity programme is agreed with your group leader(s) and agent before you arrive. You must attend all activities and excursions. You should be at the meeting point ten

Activities

How long?
3 hours (afternoons)
2 hours (evenings)



How many?
Every afternoon (Monday to Friday), unless you have class
Every evening, except for your arrival day and the day of your full-day excursion(s)

Where and when?
Look at your programme to check the times and locations of your activities and excursions

minutes before the time on your programme. If you are late, you may miss the activity or excursion and it is possible that the School may decide that you have to go home (to your country) if you do not follow the rules about attending all activities, lessons and trips. If you are ill, arrangements will be made for you to stay with your hosts or at the School.



You must follow the basic School rules during activities and excursions – respect the other students and staff; behave properly; and follow the instructions given. Smoking and/or the drinking of alcohol are not allowed during any activities.

Feedback from students about activities is very positive. Of course, it is not always possible to make a programme that suits 100% of the people 100% of the time. If you don't like karaoke, for example, please don't spoil it for those who do. Always speak to the activity leaders or your group leader(s) if you have a problem.

Activities and excursions are another opportunity to practise your speaking and listening skills in English. Listen to the activity leaders and get involved as much as you can!

If you go on excursions, you will be given information in class or during the trip. This information is designed to help you understand the things that the activity leaders tell you during your visit. If you do not understand, or you want to know more, ask your activity leaders: they are there to help you!





You do not need any special equipment for activities. If you are doing sports, you should wear something suitable.

Please do **not** carry your passport or your travel ID card with you. These documents should be left in a safe place in your homestay or residential accommodation, or with your group leaders if they request this. However, you **should** keep your BEC ID card with you at all times.



Your weekly programme

All students have a weekly programme that tells you what happens on each day of the week, where to be and when. Programmes look like this:

Week number, start date and end date		Group		Number of students and group leaders		Description of activity	
Week 2-3		MEDI DI CICCIANO		RESIDENTIAL		  	
36 Students and 3 Group Leaders		Arrival - Friday 11th January - settle into the residence and play some games in the evening					
Day	Date	At	Ends	Meet	Trs	Activity	Details
Sat	12-Jan	0830	2030	BEC	Coach	Cambridge	trip to Cambridge for a tour of the famous university city and some free time
Sun	13-Jan	0930	1730	BEC	Train	Canterbury	Activity: journey to see the sights of this world-famous and historic city
		1945	2130	BEC	\	Movie Making	use our ipads to make your own short movies. A chance to practise your English and bring out your inner Steven Spielberg
Mon	14-Jan	0900	1230	BEC	\	Class	
		1345	1700	BEC	\	Observation Quiz	answer the questions and get to know the town - prizes for the winners
		1945	2130	QRB	\	Drama	an evening of theatrics, games and entertainment, led by qualified drama teachers
Tue	15-Jan	0900	1230	BEC	\	Class	
		1345	1700	BEC	\	Yarrow Business Visit	visit the Yarrow Hotel in Broadstairs for a business talk and tour
		1945	2130	BEC	\	Karaoke	show us your singing skills and hear some of your favourite songs
Wed	16-Jan	0900	1230	BEC	\	Class	
		1345	1700	BEC	\	Coastal Walk	a beautiful walk along the coast
		1945	2130	BEC	\	Quiz Night	in teams take part in our English quiz
Thu	17-Jan	0900	1230	BEC	\	Class	
		1230	1730	BEC	Train	Canterbury Tales Business Visit	train visit to the Canterbury Tales for a tour followed by a business talk
		1945	2130	BEC	\	Street Dance	learn some fun dance moves with our qualified dance instructor
Fri	18-Jan	0900	1230	BEC	\	Transport	trip to Margate for a tour of the town, a visit to the Turner Contemporary Art Gallery and some free time on the beach
		1345	1700	BEC	Train		
		1945	2130	BEC	\	Disco	have fun dancing to your favourite songs
Sat	19-Jan	0830	2030	BEC	Train	London	trip to London for a tour of the main sights including Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament, and Trafalgar Square
Sun	20-Jan	0900	0925	BEC	Coach	Departure	time to leave, hopefully see you next year
Venue index: BEC - Broadstairs English Centre / CDS - Charles Dickens School / STG - St Georges School / VRC - Vere Road Car Park / QRB - Queen's Road Baptist Church						Lunch arrangement: residential - school lunches	
						 email: activities@broadstairsenglish.com - WWW: www.broadstairsenglish.com	
						Lunch details	

Your programme gives the times of your lessons, activities and excursions. If you are staying with a homestay provider, they will have a copy of your programme.

Map

The School map shows you where the School is. It also shows you where other activities often happen: Charles Dickens School; Dane Court School; Bradstow Mill; Thanet Wanderers

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rugby ground; Holy Trinity Church Hall; Queens Road Baptist church; the bandstand; and the train station.

In your homestay accommodation

Your homestay provider has welcomed you into their home. You should always be polite and follow the rules that you are given. Your hosts want you to have a good time. Very few students ever have any problems with their hosts. All our homestay providers have been interviewed by us and have been checked to ensure they are suitable people to look after students. We have also visited all the homes and checked that the rooms and facilities are of the required standard. See the section on School and accommodation rules to see what you should and shouldn't do when you're in your homestay accommodation.



Your hosts will provide you with:

- a bedroom with somewhere to put your clothes and somewhere to store your suitcase
- there should not be more than four students in your house. If there are more than four students in your house, please tell your group leader immediately – and they will tell the Accommodation Manager
- if you are 15 or younger, there should not be any students who are older than 18 in your house. Again, if there are, please tell your group leader immediately
- breakfast and dinner every day. Your hosts will normally eat dinner with you in the evening. Sometimes they may not eat with you, but they will sit and talk to you. Make sure you are ready to eat at the times that your hosts tell you!
- a bath or a shower every day. Your hosts will tell you when the best times are to have showers and baths
- conversation. Your hosts will ask you about your day and about you. Don't be shy, our hosts are used to having students from different countries in their houses – they know what to expect. If your hosts don't speak to you, tell us and we will ask them to explain why.

Residential accommodation

The School residence is on two floors – one for boys and one for girls. The School provides a Residential Supervisor who looks after you and the residence. The Residential Supervisors are there to help you and to make sure you are safe and that you

Homestay accommodation ?

What is provided?

A bedroom
Space for your clothes and suitcase(s)
Breakfast and dinner
Bath/shower facilities and towels
English speaking practice

Residential accommodation ?

What is provided?

A bedroom
Space for your clothes and suitcase(s)
Breakfast and dinner (maybe lunch)
Bath/shower facilities
Laundry service (if you stay longer than a week)
Area for relaxation, games, etc.
English speaking practice

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follow the rules for residential students (see the section on School and accommodation rules).

The dormitories normally have either six or eight beds in them, with spaces to hang your clothes and put your suitcases. There are showers and toilets on both floors. Your group leaders will also have rooms on one, or both, of the residential floors.

Keep your rooms tidy so that they can be cleaned.

If you are here for more than a week, there is a laundry service to keep your clothes clean.

You will have breakfast and your evening meal at the School. You may have your lunch at the School too, this depends on the course you are booked on.

Residential students have access to the School reception area before and after lessons and activities. Students can relax in this area: play games; watch TV; listen to music; etc.

How to stay safe

The School is accredited by the British Council and has policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of everyone at the School. (You can look at the School's policies and procedures on the School website:

www.broadstairsenglish.com. Check our Privacy Policy to see how data we collect about you is collected, stored and used following the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).)



All our staff and homestay providers have been checked to ensure they are suitable people to work with students. We have two Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), Steph Parsons, who is also the Accommodation Manager and Katy Vickers, who is usually at reception Monday to Wednesday. If you are unhappy, or if someone is bullying you, or you feel unsafe in any way, talk to Steph or Katy. You can also talk to your group leader, your teacher, or any other member of staff. They are all here to help you.



Katy Vickers



Steph Parsons

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You will be given information about what to do if the fire alarm sounds during your first lesson and your first activity.

If you have an accident, we have trained staff who can give first aid. If necessary, we can arrange for you to see a doctor, dentist or to go to the hospital. It is not always easy to get an appointment with a doctor in the UK (this applies to people who live here too!), we now phone the NHS helpline number (111) and, if they recommend it, we can then try to get an appointment with a doctor.

If you have an emergency and are not with your group or with any staff members, you can call the School, the 24-hour emergency number or, if you need urgent medical treatment or the police call 999. (Numbers are below *Useful contact numbers*.)

Always go directly home at the end of your evening activities and always walk with your hosting partner. This is for your safety. If you get lost, call your Group Leader or the School's emergency number which is on your school ID card. If you have no credit on your phone, go into the nearest shop and ask if a member of staff there can call the emergency number for you.

If you are given free time either in Broadstairs (including being on your own at lunchtimes), Canterbury or London, always stay in groups of a minimum of 3. Make sure at least one of you has credit on your mobile phone so that you can make a call if you need help and remember the advice in the *How to stay safe* box above.

School and accommodation rules

School rules

The school and accommodation rules are for the safety of everyone and to ensure that everyone at the School has an enjoyable experience.

It is unusual for there to be problems with the behaviour of students at the School. If anyone does not follow the rules of the School, the School will decide what action should be taken. In serious cases, it is possible that poorly behaved students may be sent home. This is very rare – but it has happened.

Students who are 18 or over but booked on a junior course (which means they are in a group with students who are under 18) MUST follow the rules for under-18s. This rule is made clear to agents and groups when a booking is made and should

How to stay safe



Go directly to your homestay after lessons and activities

Broadstairs is a safe town, but there can be unpleasant people anywhere

To be safe, do not go to the parks, the beach or the seafront in the evening or at night – unless it is part of an organized activity

Don't be too noisy and don't sit on garden walls or parked cars; please do not block pavements and entrances to shops etc. and make sure there is space for local people to walk by.

Follow the School, residential and homestay rules

Do not carry your passport or national ID card with you – keep it somewhere safe!

Keep your phone charged – the School emergency number is (0044) (0)7983 256407

School rules



Respect the other people in the School

No bad language

No bullying or anti-social behaviour

No food or drink (except water) in the classroom

No hats or caps in the classroom

No mobile phones in lessons (unless your teacher says they can be used for finding information etc.)

Students must not leave the School building during breaks between lessons (1030-1100 and 1530-1545)

No smoking

No violence

No alcohol or drugs

Be on time

have been made clear to you. There are no exceptions to this rule, it is part of our safeguarding duty.

Attendance



All students must attend all lessons and all activities and must be on time. If you are late for activities or excursions, you may have to miss them – particularly if you are going by train or coach. All students should arrive ten minutes before lessons or activities begin and must go to their homes immediately after activities.

Illness and absence

If you are ill, we will arrange for you to stay with your host or to stay at the School. If you are late or absent, we will speak to your group leader(s).

Behaviour

Respect.

You are expected to respect all your classmates, your homestay providers and all the School's staff. Bullying, violence, racist, sexist or any behaviour that causes offence, the use of drugs, the drinking of alcohol and shoplifting (stealing from shops) will not be tolerated. Students who break these rules may be sent home.



Smoking



It is illegal for shops to sell cigarettes to under-18s. Smoking is not allowed inside public buildings in the UK. It is the law. All schools operate a strict no smoking policy. There is no smoking at other venues, for example, Charles Dickens School or Dane Court School. Students cannot smoke in their homestay accommodation or in the School residence. If you smoke, do it on your way to and from School and/or at lunch time.

NOTE: In the UK you can be fined (have to pay) £80 for dropping finished cigarettes on the ground. The same rule is true for dropping litter/rubbish in the street. If you drop cigarettes and/or rubbish in the street and are given a fine – YOU will have to pay!

General safety



When you are crossing roads, always look to the right first. In the UK we drive on the left! Respect local people in the town, do not block pavements or entrances to shops. Make space for old people and people with pushchairs. In the evening and at night, don't make too much noise. If you have a problem call the School number, the emergency number or your group leader. If the problem is serious and you need immediate medical help or the police, call 999.

Things you should bring to class

You should bring your folder, a pen and paper to every lesson. If you do not bring these things, or you misbehave in class, you may be taken out of class.



Homestay accommodation rules

Remember that you are staying in someone's home, not a hotel. You should always respect your hosts and their home. You are a guest in their house and you should always be on your best behaviour.

Homestay rules

Go directly to your homestay after lessons and activities

Be polite at all times

Do not ask your host for free time or for a key (they are not allowed to give you these things)

Keep your room tidy

If you break something, tell your hosts – do not ignore it, or try to hide it. Your hosts will be much happier if you are honest with them!

Don't use your mobile phones at meal times

No smoking is allowed in homestay accommodation

Follow any of the "house rules" your host tells you



Always be polite and respect all the people in the house, including any other students.

Always return home immediately at 1700 and after evening activities. You must not be late home. If you are late, your hosts will contact the School and the School will contact your group leader. Your hosts are not allowed to give you a key. Do not ask them for one.

You are not allowed out in the evening unaccompanied, except to go to your evening activities even if you have written permission from your parents. Broadstairs is usually a very safe place but there are areas which should be avoided at night. We know the area better than you or your parents and this rule is to keep you safe.

Keep your room reasonably tidy and clean.

Treat furniture and equipment in the house with care.

If you break something or spill drinks or food on the bed, for example, tell your host. It is much better to be honest about accidents and breakages.

Please do not use your mobile phones at meal times.

Respect the host's "rules" about bed times, lights out and keeping quiet at night, use of wi-fi (if available), etc.

Smoking is not allowed in homestay accommodation.

Residential accommodation rules

A member of BEC staff will stay with you in the residence as a supervisor. If you have any problems or questions, please speak to the supervisor who will do their best to help you. The Residential Supervisor and all other BEC staff expect you to follow the rules of our residence. These rules are:

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Please be polite to the supervisor and listen to what they tell you. The supervisor is there to make sure you are safe.

Please keep your room tidy. Rubbish should be put in the bin, clothes should be hung up or stored in the cupboards or in your suitcase, valuables should be kept in a locker (ask your supervisor for a lock and a key) and suitcases should be stored under the beds. If there is a fire, you will need to exit the room quickly and safely, so make sure your room is tidy to allow you to do this.

Rooms will not be cleaned if they are not tidy.

Any damages should be reported to the Residential Supervisor.

No eating or drinking in the bedrooms.

No smoking anywhere in the School or the residence.

No boys are allowed on the girls' floor and no girls are allowed on the boys' floor. This is UK safeguarding law in residential accommodation.

The residence will be locked between 0900 and 1700. You should not be in the residence between these times. If you need something from the residence during the day, you should ask your group leader or a member of BEC staff to accompany you in and out of the residence.

You should not leave the School in the evening (except for programmed activities) without the permission of the Residential Supervisor **and** you group leader.

Residence rules

Be polite and follow the instructions of the Residential Supervisor

Keep your room tidy – if the room is too messy, the cleaners will not be able to clean it and it might make it difficult to escape if there is a fire!

If you break something, tell the Residential Supervisor – do not ignore it, or try to hide it. Your supervisors will be much happier if you are honest with them!

No eating or drinking in the bedrooms

No smoking is allowed in residential accommodation

Boys and girls must not enter the bedrooms of the opposite sex

The residence is locked between 0900 and 1700 – students are not allowed into the residence during these times

Students must not leave the building in their "free time" without the permission of their group leader and the Residential Supervisor



Feedback

You will be asked every day in class to comment on your accommodation so that we can be sure everything is as it should be.

Complaints

If you are not happy with your stay at the School, tell us or your group leader, and we will try to find a solution to your problems. On page 15 of this guide you can find the *Student Complaints Procedure*. Your teacher will read through this information with you in your first lesson.

Local information

There is a pharmacy, post office and library at the crossroads next to the School. You can exchange money at the post office. There is an ATM cash dispenser at the garage opposite the School. The garage also has a shop that sells food and drink and includes a Subway sandwich shop. The doctor's surgery and the train station are immediately behind the School.

Information about local churches, mosques and synagogues is on the notice board in reception. This notice board also has more information about local attractions and events.

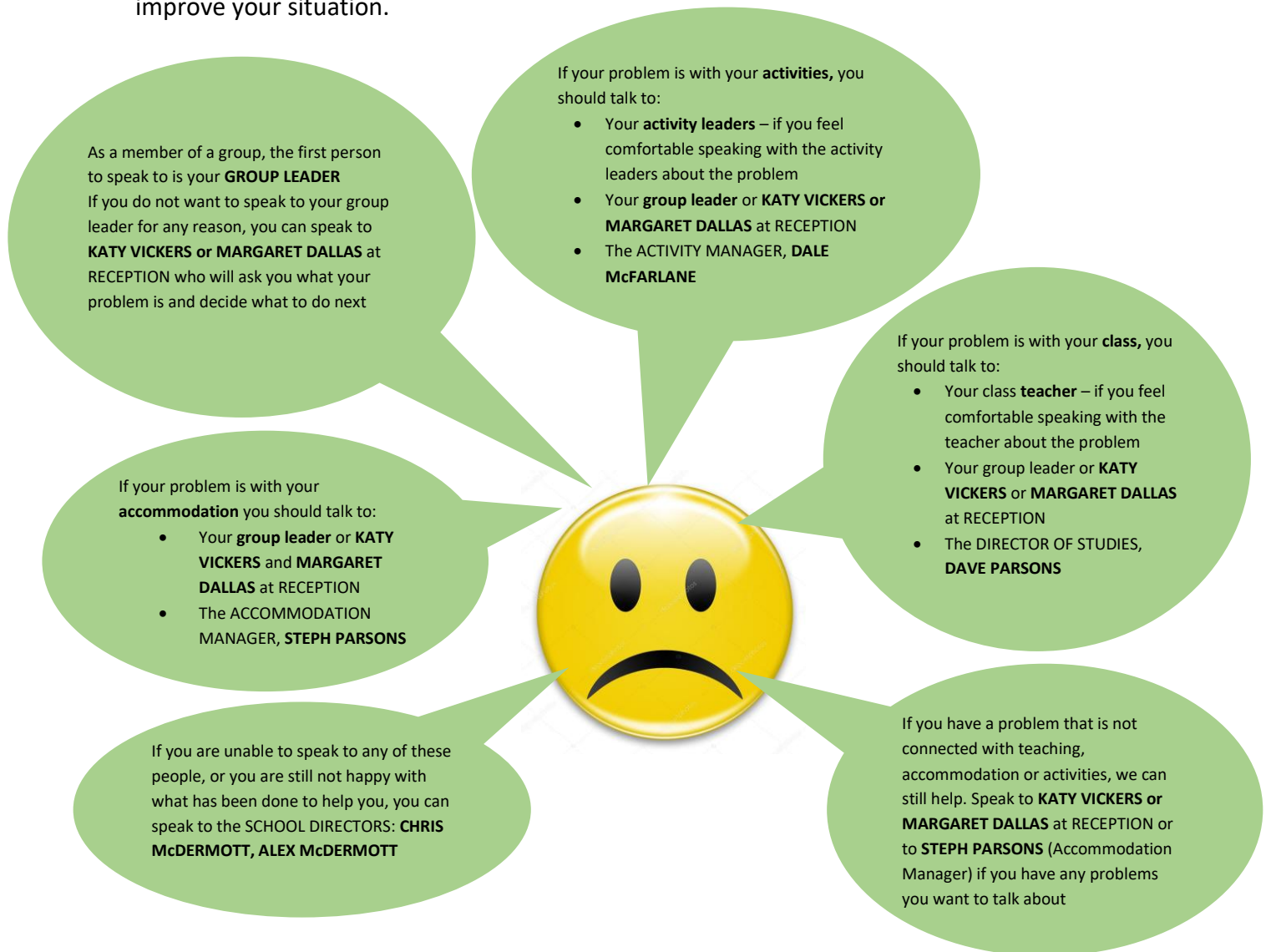
If you need any help or advice at any time, ask one of the members of staff to help you. If you're not sure who to ask, or where to go, the reception desk is usually a good place to start.

**We hope you enjoy your stay here at
Broadstairs English Centre!**



Students' Complaint Procedure 2019

If you are unhappy with any part of your stay here at Broadstairs English Centre – teaching; accommodation (homestay or residential); activities – these are the people you can speak to. They will help you with your problem and keep a written record of what was done to improve your situation.



Katy



Margaret



Steph



Dale



Dave

Broadstairs English Centre social media platforms



Find us on
Facebook

Broadstairs English Centre



@englishschooluk

Instagram

@broadstairsenglishcentre



www.broadstairsenglish.com



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Broadstairs English Centre

Workbook

Use these pages for your lesson tasks and notes. Write the date, name of your teacher, the title of your lesson and the aim(s)/outcomes(s) of your lessons in the box at the top of each page. There is a reference section at the back of the workbook where you can find information on basic grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

Date:

Teacher:

Lesson title:

Lesson aim(s)/outcome(s):

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Date:

Teacher:

Lesson title:

Lesson aim(s)/outcome(s):

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Teacher:

Lesson title:

Lesson aim(s)/outcome(s):

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Reference section

Levels

Broadstairs English Centre uses levels from the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – which is usually known as the CEFR. CEFR levels give descriptions of what language users can do at each level. The levels are:

A1 • A2 • B1 • B2 • C1 • C2

It is possible to be “between levels”. So, we can also talk about levels like A1+. At Broadstairs English Centre we use the following levels:

A1 • A2 • B1 • B2 • B2+

Here are some basic “global” descriptions of what language users can do at each level:

A1: “elementary”

A1 (elementary)

Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases

Can introduce him/herself and others

Can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has

(provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help)

Questions 1-15 on the School placement test are at A1 level. If you answered less than 6 of these questions correctly, your class level will be A1

A2: “pre-intermediate”

A2 (pre-intermediate)

Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, work)

Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information

Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need

Questions 16-30 on the School placement test are A2 level. If you answered less than 10 of these questions correctly, and 6 or more of the A1 questions correctly, your class level will be A2

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B1: “intermediate”

B1 (intermediate)

Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters (school, work, etc.)

Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling

Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar, or of personal interest

Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans

Questions 31-50 on the School placement test are B1 level. If you answered less than 14 of these questions correctly, and 10 or more of the A2 questions correctly, your class level will be B1

B2: “upper-intermediate”

B2 (upper-intermediate)

Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation

Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party

Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options

Questions 51-70 on the School placement test are B2 level. If you answered less than 14 of these questions correctly, and 10 or more of the B1 questions correctly, your class level will be B2. If you answered more than 14 correctly, you will be B2+

B2+: “advanced”

B2+ (advanced)

Can understand a wide range of demanding longer texts

Can express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions and few mistakes

Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects

Can use language naturally with good organisation and cohesion

Questions 71-80 on the School placement test are B2+ level. Your answers to these questions will not decide your level, they will decide what you study if you are B2+ level as a result of your answers in the previous section (see B2 above)

Basic English grammar guide

Sentence structure

English sentences can be analysed in several ways. Perhaps the simplest and most common is in terms of *subject*, *object*, *verb* and *complement*.

Subject

The *subject of the sentence* is (usually) the person/thing who is *doing/being the action*

I am playing football (I = subject)

He is playing football (He = subject)

The football is round (The football = subject)

Object

The *object of the sentence* is the person or thing who the verb is *acting upon*

I kicked the ball (the ball = the object) [If we just say, “I kicked” – we have an incomplete sentence. *To kick* is a “transitive” verb, it needs an object to be complete.]

He gave the book to John (the book = the direct object; John = the indirect object) [Some verbs – like *to give* need two objects to be complete. If we just say either, “He gave the book”, or “He gave to John” – these sentences are incomplete.]

Verb

The *verb of the sentence* is the *doing/action* word

I am playing football (am playing = verb (present continuous form))

The football is round (is = verb (present simple form))

He gave the book to John (gave = verb (past simple form))

Complement

The *complement of the sentence* is a little more complex. In simple terms, we use a *complement* when a verb requires more information to complete it – but that information is not in the form of an *object*

He regarded him as a friend (as a friend = complement) [If we just say, “He regarded him” – we have an incomplete sentence. We need to say *how* he was regarded.]

Verb forms

English has several verb forms. They fall into three groups: *simple*, *perfect* and *continuous*. (There is also a combination of perfect and continuous.) In addition to these groups, there are three *times* in English: *past*, *present* and *future*.

If we combine these groups and times together, we get the following possible combinations of English verb forms:

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Using the verb <i>to read...</i>	simple	perfect	continuous	perfect continuous
past	I read the newspaper. (pronounced /red/) [past form – 2 nd form]	I hadn't read the newspaper, so I didn't know about the accident. (pronounced /red/) [had plus past participle – 3 rd form]	I was reading the newspaper when my cat exploded! [was/were plus present participle (-ing form)]	I'd been reading the newspaper for an hour when my cat exploded! [had plus been plus present participle (-ing form)]
present	I read the newspaper every day. (pronounced /ri:d/) [present form – 1 st form]	I've read most of J K Rowling's books. (pronounced /red/) [have/has plus past participle – 3 rd form]	What are you doing? I'm reading the newspaper. [is/am/are plus present participle (-ing form)]	I've been reading the newspaper for an hour. [have/has plus been plus present participle (-ing form)]
future	I'll read the newspaper later. (pronounced /ri:d/) [will plus infinitive form without to]	I'll have read the newspaper by tomorrow. (pronounced /red/) [will plus perfect infinitive form without to]	I'll be reading the newspaper for another hour. [will plus continuous infinitive form without to]	I'll have been reading the newspaper for two hours by the time I finish it. [will plus perfect continuous infinitive form without to]

Active and passive forms

Active and passive forms are *voices* in English. The table above shows only *active* verb forms. Active verb forms are the “normal” verb forms. We use passive verb forms when we want to change the emphasis of an active sentence, or when it is not so important who did an action, and the result is more important.

Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*. (Active voice)

The *Mona Lisa* was painted by Leonardo da Vinci. (Passive voice)

To make the passive form, we add the verb *to be* (in the right time – past, present, future) and change the verb to the past participle (3rd form). We also have to introduce the word *by* before the name of the person or thing who did the action. (We may also have to change any subject pronouns into object pronouns, see the example.)

He is reading the news. (Active voice)

The news is being read by him. (Passive voice)

Pronouns

Pronouns are words that replace other nouns. The most common pronouns are *subject* pronouns like *I, you, she, he, it, we, they*. These pronouns replace names (in most cases) – for example:

Ed Sheeran plays guitar.

He (Ed Sheeran) plays guitar.

This table shows the common pronouns of English (possessive adjectives are not pronouns, but have been included because they are often confused with possessive pronouns):

	subject pronoun	object pronoun	possessive pronoun		possessive adjective
1 st person singular	I <i>I</i> kicked the ball.	me He kicked the ball to <i>me</i> .	mine The ball is <i>mine</i> .		my It is <i>my</i> ball.
2 nd person singular	you <i>You</i> kicked the ball.	you I kicked the ball to <i>you</i> .	yours The ball is <i>yours</i> .		your It is <i>your</i> ball.
3 rd person singular (male)	he <i>He</i> kicked the ball.	him I kicked the ball to <i>him</i> .	his The ball is <i>his</i> .		his It is <i>his</i> ball.
3 rd person singular (female)	she <i>She</i> kicked the ball.	her I kicked the ball to <i>her</i> .	hers The ball is <i>hers</i> .		her It is <i>her</i> ball.
3 rd person singular (no gender)	it <i>It</i> kicked the ball. (<i>It</i> might be a dog, a robot, etc.)	it I kicked the ball to <i>it</i> . (<i>It</i> might be a dog, a robot, etc.)	its The ball is <i>its</i> . (The ball belongs to a dog, for example.)		its It is <i>its</i> ball. (The dog's ball, for example.)
1 st person plural	we <i>We</i> kicked the balls.	us He kicked the balls to <i>us</i> .	ours The balls are <i>ours</i> .		our They are <i>our</i> balls.
2 nd person plural	you <i>You</i> kicked the balls. (More than one person.)	you I kicked the balls to <i>you</i> . (More than one person.)	yours The balls are <i>yours</i> . (Belong to more than one person.)		your They are <i>your</i> balls. (More than one person.)
3 rd person plural	they <i>They</i> kicked the balls.	them I kicked the balls to <i>them</i> .	theirs The balls are <i>theirs</i> .		their They are <i>their</i> balls.

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Share • Teach • Respect • Interact • Value • Explore

Vocabulary

The more you can increase your vocabulary, the more you can talk and write about and the more you can understand when you hear other people speak or when you read.

There is no magic way to learn vocabulary. Some people learn better by writing lists and memorising them. Some others learn by trying to use words that they hear or see. Remember, making mistakes is not a bad thing: it is how you learn! Of course, you can use a dictionary to look up words and increase your vocabulary that way.

Vocabulary can be *graded* into levels for teaching and learning. But in the real world, words aren't really graded in this way. The words that you need (or would like to know) often depend on what you want/need to talk about. Most people learn to speak about things that they are interested in and find the vocabulary of those things easier to learn. For example, if you like football – you probably know the words *striker*, *corner*, *free-kick*, *goal*, *goalkeeper*, *etc.* and, if you don't, they will probably be quite easy to remember – because it's something you like.

There are some vocabulary items that are more difficult to learn. These are usually *idiomatic phrases*, where the words have meanings that do not seem to be clearly related to the words that they are made from. Examples of these types of words/phrases are phrasal verbs and idioms.

I *let her off* the money she owed me (a phrasal verb – *to let someone off* – which means: I didn't make her pay me the money she owed me)

That was a piece of cake! (an idiomatic expression that means that something was easy – may be this is talking about an examination, for example)

Phrasal verbs and idioms are one of the hardest parts of the language and can take a long time to learn. They are what advanced learners spend a lot of time accumulating.

Pronunciation

The way in which we say things is important. But it is only important up to a point. What we say needs to be *understandable*. Native speakers of English have many different *accents* and not all native speakers pronounce the words of English in the same way. Non-native speakers of English (people whose first language is not English) often speak English with a *foreign accent*. This is not a problem. It is only a problem if the accent makes the understanding of the English difficult.

Understanding native speakers is difficult because they speak quickly, use contractions (*I'll*, *he'd*, *I'm*, *etc.*) and slang or idiomatic language – they may also have regional accents.

English has 5 vowel letters (a, e, i, o, u (A, E, I, O, U)), but 20 vowel sounds! English spelling is also difficult to understand and predicting the pronunciation of words from their spelling is not always easy. This is mainly because English is a language made up from a mixture of (mainly) Latin, Old French and Anglo-Saxon German – languages that had their own pronunciation rules. The poster on the next page gives an indication of how to pronounce the vowel sounds of English.

Things to remember



Remember!



- Break times (1030-1100/1515-1530), for reasons of registration and in case of a fire alarm, students must stay in the building. Try to go to the toilets during break times, not in class time



- Time keeping #1: morning lessons start at 0900; afternoon lessons start at 1345 – look at the alphabetical lists in reception to find your classes (they change every day)



- Time keeping #2: at the end of the afternoon (generally 1700) and at the end of evening activities (2130) all students go directly to their home stays. Again, this is for safety reasons but also for the convenience of homestay providers. If you are late home, the hosts will call the emergency phone and your group leaders will be contacted



- All students are on a junior course. Any students who are 18 or over have agreed to follow the rules of junior courses, which include arriving at the homestay at the advertised times



- There is no smoking at the school. It is the law in the UK that smoking is not allowed in public buildings



- Follow the classroom rules (on the notice boards in the classrooms)
- This is a school: participate in all your lessons and activities and behave well at all times. If you do not respect your classmates and teachers, you may be removed from lessons or activities
- Students who fight, bully or behave very badly will be sent home

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Future learning

When you leave BEC it's important to continue studying if you want to improve your level. Here are some suggestions to help you do this:

Useful websites

British Council LearnEnglish <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/> This website has a lot of resources and lessons for learners of all ages and levels.

BBC English <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish> Another website with a lot of resources and lessons for learners of all ages and levels.

Flo-Joe <https://www.flo-joe.co.uk/> A website for practising/preparing for Cambridge examinations: Key; Preliminary; First; Advanced; Proficiency; and IELTS.

Talk English <https://www.talkenglish.com/> A website for improving speaking and listening skills.

News in Levels <https://www.newsinlevels.com/> A website with world news in English, divided into three different levels.

Other resources

Graded readers – an excellent way to learn is through reading. Read as much as you can in English. Graded readers are books that have been adapted for students at different levels. Find out more at <https://www.pearson.com/english/catalogue/readers.html> (for example).

TV and films – watch TV and films (including YouTube videos etc.). Use the subtitle options if you want to. The more exposure you have to the language, the more you will learn.

Strategies

Review your learning. Test yourself. Write vocabulary lists and put them in obvious places like the fridge door (where you will see them again and again, and they will enter your memory). Write emails to friends in English. Keep practising!

i:

as in:
bee and peas
and the letters

I

as in:
pig, brick,
king and fin

U

as in:
foot, hood,
sugar and books

u:

as in:
shoe, glue,
boot and queue

e

as in:
egg, head,
bed and ten

ə

sound is a very important
sound in English (it has its own
name – "schwa"). It is the most
common sound for unstressed
vowels in English. It is the
normal sound for the articles in
English a and the.

ɜ:

as in:
bird, turn,
shirt and worm

ɔ:

as in:
ball, door,
fork and pawn

æ

as in:
apple, bat,
axe and fan

ʌ

as in:
cup, truck,
nuts and honey

ɑ:

as in:
heart, park,
palm and dance

ɒ

as in:
dog, clock,
box and sock

ɪə

as in:
ear, beer,
beard and year

ʊə

this sound is quite
unusual in modern
English and is generally
replaced by the ɔ:
sound in words like pure
and tourist

ea

as in:
chair, bear,
square and pear

eɪ

as in:
eight, gate,
whale and mail

ɔɪ

as in:
toy, oil,
coin and noise

aɪ

as in:
the letter i, bike,
eye and cry

əʊ

as in:
the letter o, phone,
boat and bowl

aʊ

as in:
cow, house,
mouse and couch

ENGLISH VOWEL SOUNDS