

ENGLISH NOW

For 20 years now, Instituto de Idiomas has been teaching, forming leaders, and building bilingualism not only in Barranquilla, but in the entire country. For its highest standards of quality, it is the first English language institution in Latin America to receive international accreditation from CEA (Commission on English Language Accreditation).

Today, Instituto de Idiomas is an academic division of Universidad del Norte, in charge of promoting languages and culture. Its mission is to foster language learning that cultivates multicultural competencies with the highest standard of quality and excellence. Being a global citizen means having cultural knowledge, world awareness, and powerful communication skills.

Becoming bilingual has economic, cultural, and personal impacts, and can open doors to many new opportunities. English Now trains participants to be successful in conversations in English, key business skills for the modern world, and language precision. In your context, would being bilingual give you an advantage? More opportunities? Ultimately, having a bilingual company creates more opportunity for growth, makes a greater and more positive impact on society, and promotes global citizenship.

Program Structure

This chart shows the cycles of the program with their corresponding CEFR alignment and the number of hours proposed:

Cycle	CEFR	Guided Hours	Levels
Starter	Pre-A1 - A1	120	1.1 -1.4
Elementary	A1 - A2	120	2.1- 2.4
Pre-Intermediate	A2 - B1	120	3.1 - 3.4
Intermediate	B1 - B1+	120	4.1 - 4.4
Optional			
Upper Intermediate	B1+ - B2	120	5.1 -5.4
Advanced	C1	120	6.1 -6.4

Level Descriptors

EN 1.1

This is the first course in the starter cycle of the English Now program. The course is designed for students with little or no knowledge of English. It introduces them to very basic structures and vocabulary necessary in the initial stages of learning the English language.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and use basic greetings and farewells.
- Recognize very basic phrases about personal information and very familiar topics, when people speak slowly and clearly.
- Match very simple definitions to basic vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Recognize familiar names, words and very basic phrases on simple forms/texts.
- Ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics in a limited way.
- Identify different grammar points at the introductory level.
- Identify correct sentence structure in simple sentences.
- Use introductory grammar and vocabulary to write simple sentences about very familiar topics (e.g. personal details, family, house, job).

EN 1.2

This is the second course in the starter cycle of the English Now program. This course continues with the introduction of very basic structures and vocabulary necessary in the initial stages of learning the English language.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize very basic phrases about personal information, family, places and directions and very familiar topics, when people speak slowly and clearly.

- Match very simple definitions to basic vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Recognize familiar names, words and very basic phrases on simple forms/texts.
- Follow simple directions (how to get from X to Y) in short written and oral texts.
- Ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics in a limited way (e.g. directions around home/office/town).
- Describe very simply family and family relationships.
- Identify different grammar points at the introductory level.
- Identify correct sentence structure in simple sentences.
- Use introductory grammar and vocabulary to write simple sentences about very familiar topics (e.g. personal details, family, and places in a city).

EN 1.3

This is the third course in the starter cycle of the English Now program. This course continues with the introduction of very basic structures and vocabulary aimed at providing students with solid foundations in the development of their language skills.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and use figures and times (days, months, years) given in clear, short oral and written texts.
- Match very simple definitions to basic vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Ask for and give basic information about their daily life, routine, and habits.
- Describe what they can do and can't do and what other people can or can't do.
- Identify familiar names, words, and phrases related to day-to-day life in very short, simple texts.
- Identify different grammar points at the introductory level.
- Identify correct sentence structure in simple sentences.
- Use introductory grammar and vocabulary to write sentences about themselves and others, for example, what they do, routines, hobbies using simple sentences.

EN 1.4

This is the fourth and final course in the starter cycle of the English Now program. This course strengthens students' ability to handle basic vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate at the elementary level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize words and short sentences about events, plans, and activities in short oral and written conversations/texts.
- Describe what they like and do not like (life events, travel, transportation, things we).
- Ask and answer simple questions about other people, a past event (time and place of a party and who was there), a specific plan for the weekend.
- Identify different grammar points at the introductory level.
- Identify correct sentence structure in simple sentences.
- Use introductory grammar and vocabulary to write sentences about what happened during the day, plans and activities for the weekend.

EN 2.1

This is the first course in the elementary cycle of the English Now program. At this point, students should be familiar with the most basic elements of interaction, vocabulary and grammatical structures. This course expands on this base to reinforce interaction and the main language skills.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize phrases and content words related to familiar topics in short talks/texts (e.g. people, places, things).
- Complete short texts using vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Ask and answer simple questions about familiar topics (home and country, work and free time, likes, and dislikes).
- Describe objects, possessions, people's everyday lives, their home town or city using simple language.
- Explain why they like or dislike something.
- Identify different grammar points at the low elementary level.
- Use low elementary grammar and vocabulary to write simple sentences about places to go, people or things.

EN 2.2

This is the second course in the elementary cycle of the English Now program. This course continues working on the development of communication skills that are relevant to the students' needs. It places emphasis on interaction and expanding existing vocabulary and grammatical structures.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize phrases and content words related to familiar topics (e.g. people, places, food, traveling, and things)
- Complete short texts using vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Ask and answer simple questions in a face-to-face survey about familiar topics (people, places, food, traveling, and things).
- Describe a travel experience with a few very basic stock phrases.
- Express general preferences using basic fixed expressions when talking about familiar topics such as food and travelling.
- Identify different grammar points at the low elementary level.
- Use low elementary grammar, vocabulary to write simple, and compound sentences about places to eat or travel.

EN 2.3

This is the third course in the elementary cycle of the English Now program. This course continues to strengthen communication skills, grammar points and vocabulary that focus on the practical use of the English language.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize phrases and content words in simple recorded podcasts, dialogues or narratives (e.g. life events, stories, entertainment, shops and services).
- Complete short texts using vocabulary words from familiar topics.
- Ask and answer simple questions in a face-to-face survey about familiar topics (people, life experiences, entertainment, shopping).
- Give a short rehearsed talk about something/someone (place, famous person, band/singer) they like and have researched about.
- Make simple, direct comparisons between two people or things using common adjectives.

- Ask for and give opinions, agree and disagree using basic fixed expressions when talking about familiar topics such as famous people, entertainment, shops and services.
- Identify general meaning of short, simple informational material and descriptions if there is visual support.
- Identify different grammar points at the high elementary level.
- Use high elementary grammar and vocabulary to write short descriptive texts about familiar topics (e.g. life events, entertainment, shops and services).

EN 2.4

This is the fourth and final course in the elementary cycle of the English Now program. This course consolidates knowledge from previous levels to strengthen students' ability to manage structures and patterns of English so they can sustain interaction at the high elementary level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize phrases and content words in simple recorded podcasts, dialogues or narratives related to general topics.
- Complete short texts using vocabulary words from familiar topics at the pre intermediate level. (e.g. people and personality, clothes, animals, music, plans and activities, celebrations and parties).
- Identify general and specific information in short, simple oral and written narratives containing familiar vocabulary.
- Initiate, maintain and close simple, face-to-face conversations on everyday topics. (e.g. people and personality, clothes, animals, music, plans and activities, celebrations and parties).
- Give an extended description of everyday topics (e.g. people and personality, clothes, animals, music, plans and activities, celebrations and parties).
- Use simple language to express belief, opinion, agreement and disagreement on familiar topics.
- Identify different grammar points at the pre-intermediate level.
- Use pre-intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write short paragraphs about familiar topics.

EN 3.1

This is the first course in the pre-intermediate cycle of the English Now program. This course introduces business English to students who are already familiar with the basic structures of the English language. There is emphasis on communication skills, grammar points and vocabulary that focus on English in the workplace.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify simple information on a work-related spoken situation (e.g. names, dates, hours when scheduling a meeting)
- Identify general and specific information in short, written business text (an email, a company webpage)
- Introduce themselves and others in professional and social situations.
- Ask for and give descriptions about career history and future goals
- Start, maintain and close simple conversations about job related topics such as arranging a meeting, comparing information, etc.
- Deliver a short prepared presentation about their job/company
- Identify different grammar points at the low intermediate level.

- Use low intermediate grammar and vocabulary to exchange information by e-mail or in short letters, responding to questions the other person had (e.g. an order inquiry, a meeting).

EN 3.2

This is the second course in the pre-intermediate cycle of the English Now program. This course continues to develop communication skills, grammar points and vocabulary that focus on English in the workplace.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify simple information on a work-related spoken situation (e.g. meetings, delays and traveling, technical problems, change of plans)
- Identify general and specific information in short, written business text (an email, a company webpage, schedules, timelines)
- Briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions, plans and actions in a business meeting.
- Make suggestions, agree and disagree when participating in a business related discussion.
- Make use of small talk and greetings to interact socially at conferences, social settings.
- Identify different grammar points at the low intermediate level.
- Use low intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write e-mails, short letters, text messages of a factual nature, for example to give instructions, updates, etc.

EN 3.3

This is the third course in the pre-intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students continue to reinforce communication skills, grammar points and vocabulary to improve their ability to communicate in English in business situations.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify main points in authentic business readings and listenings.
- Follow straightforward talks on familiar business topics.
- Successfully exchange information in a basic and structured business telephone call.
- Participate in simple conversations in different social settings.
- Interrupt politely and clarify specifics in a meeting.
- Identify different grammar points at the low intermediate level.
- Use low intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write business related emails, surveys, text messages, summaries.

EN 3.4

This is the fourth and final course in the pre-intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students continue to reinforce communication skills, grammar points and vocabulary to improve their ability to communicate in English in business situations at a low intermediate level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify main points in authentic business readings and listenings.
- Follow straightforward talks on familiar business topics.
- Provide solutions and respond to suggestions when negotiating in a meeting.
- Participate in informal work related discussions with coworkers taking turns to keep the conversation going.
- Give a prepared presentation about a product and answer clear questions.
- Identify different grammar points at the low intermediate level.
- Use low intermediate grammar to write short letters/ brief reports on business topics.

EN 4.1

This is the first course in the intermediate cycle of the English Now program. During this course, students start to develop a more solid command of the language. They work on the different skills in order to develop strategies necessary to interact with some degree of spontaneity in both written and oral tasks related to business topics.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Follow the main points of business discussions.
- Distinguish between different points of view in a business discussion or presentation.
- Recognize significant points and arguments in straightforward business articles.
- Take part in meetings about office matters setting objectives, asking questions, giving opinions and summarizing ideas.
- Make routine business calls to make or change arrangements, cancel appointments, etc.
- Identify different grammar points at the intermediate level.
- Use intermediate grammar to write professional communication texts (memos, meetings minutes, reports, summaries, emails, etc.).

EN 4.2

This is the second course in the intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students continue to work on the different skills in order to develop strategies necessary to interact with some degree of spontaneity in both written and oral tasks related to business topics.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Follow the main points of business discussions.
- Distinguish between different points of view in a business discussion or presentation.
- Recognize significant points and arguments in straightforward business articles.
- Deliver a structured presentation about a business topic
- Interact and network appropriately in various social and professional situations
- Identify different grammar points at the intermediate level.
- Use intermediate grammar to write professional communication texts (memos, meetings minutes, reports, summaries, emails, etc.)

EN 4.3

This is the third course in the intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students continue to work on the different skills in order to develop strategies necessary to interact with some degree of spontaneity in both written and oral tasks related to business topics.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Follow a presentation and take notes on main points
- Extract the main points, details, purpose and audience from spoken and written business texts.
- Identify and use key terms and expressions used in a negotiation
- Compare and contrast opinions, alternatives, solutions, discuss what to do, ways to go.
- Identify and use international business etiquette vocabulary (ways of greeting, expressions, safe topics, etc.) in social and professional settings.
- Answer, maintain and end appropriately a business telephone conversation.
- Identify different grammar points at the intermediate level.
- Use intermediate grammar to write professional communication texts (memos, meetings minutes, reports, summaries, emails, etc.).

EN 4.4

This is the fourth and final course in the intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students continue to work on the different skills in order to develop strategies necessary to interact with some degree of spontaneity in both written and oral tasks related to business topics at the intermediate level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Follow a presentation and take notes on main and secondary ideas.
- Extract the main points, details, purpose and audience from spoken and written business texts.
- Take part in a negotiation simulation using appropriate terms and expressions.
- Participate with some confidence and spontaneity in conversations related to business topics.
- Deliver an effective presentation and participate in Q&A afterwards.
- Identify different grammar points at the intermediate level.
- Use intermediate grammar to write professional communication texts (memos, meetings minutes, reports, summaries, emails, etc.).

EN 5.1

This is the first course in the upper intermediate cycle of the English Now program. Students will start to develop more complex communicative skills related to business topics at the high intermediate level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the details of someone's personal and professional experience from an interview or presentation
- Identify the main points of feedback from clients and colleagues if delivered slowly and clearly
- Use polite questions to build rapport in work-related social situations
- Use appropriate linking expressions to signal transitions within a presentation
- Identify key information in an extended text or article
- Apply different grammar points at the high intermediate level
- Use high intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write an email giving some detail of work-related news and events

EN 5.2

This course will continue to develop complex communicative skills related to business topics at the high intermediate level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify a range of questions in a job interview
- Recognize advice and instructions for resolving a problem with a product or piece of equipment
- Discuss their own achievements in previous jobs during a job interview
- Express opinions as regards possible solutions, giving brief reasons and explanations
- Support a main idea with examples and reasons
- Compare a resume/CV against a job posting to determine if key requirements have been met
- Apply different grammar points at the high intermediate level
- Use high intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write a letter of application with appropriate register and supporting details, given a model

EN 5.3

This course will strengthen the students' communicative competence by way of constant practice with typical work related situations at the high intermediate level

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Extract the key details from discussions in meetings conducted in clear, standard speech
- Recognize the use of persuasive language in a simple presentation or lecture
- Make and justify a simple point of view on a work-related topic
- Respond to conflict in a simple negotiation using fixed expression.
- Express support or disagreement in a manner that shows they were actively listening to the other person
- Extract key, factual details from a company blog, article or emails.
- Apply different grammar points at the high intermediate level
- Use high intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write a simple summary of factual work related information

EN 5.4

This course will help students to communicate with greater fluency, appropriate grammatical use and a wide use of business related vocabulary at a high intermediate level.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Extract the key details from discussions in meetings conducted in clear, standard speech
- Infer speakers' opinions in conversations on familiar and business related topics
- Follow an everyday conversation or informal interview on common business related topics
- Express and comment on ideas and suggestions in informal discussions
- Use a basic repertoire of conversation strategies to maintain a discussion
- Express their thoughts in some detail on cultural topics
- Respond to interruptions in a meeting using fixed expressions
- Make suggestions and recommendations on work-related topics
- Identify problem and solution relationships in a structured text
- Apply different grammar points at the high intermediate level
- Use high intermediate grammar and vocabulary to write a work-related report outlining key issues

EN 6.1

This is the first course in the advanced cycle of the English Now program. It aims to provide students with oral communication concepts and practice to prepare them for success in English-speaking business environments.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the advantages and disadvantages of different options during a discussion
- Recognize the speaker's point of view on most topics delivered at natural speed and in standard language
- Take part in routine formal discussions conducted in clear standard speech in which information is exchanged
- Describe in detail why they agree or disagree with a suggested work related change
- Discuss a plan of action for dealing with a work-related task
- Scan a long text or a set of related texts in order to find specific information
- Interpret the main message from complex diagrams and visual information
- Apply different grammar points at the advanced level
- Use advanced grammar and vocabulary to write a business proposal with supporting details

EN 6.2

This course continues to provide students with oral communication concepts and practice to prepare them for success in English-speaking business environments.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant content in extended informal speech
- Recognize specialized vocabulary used in presentations or discussions within their field
- Bring relevant personal experiences into a conversation to illustrate a point
- Explain information in detail in graphs and charts
- Present a summary of a straightforward business proposal
- Describe future plans and intentions in detail, giving degrees of probability
- Identify the main conclusions in a text that presents and contrasts arguments in a clearly signaled way
- Infer the meaning of words from context in work-related documents on familiar topics
- Apply different grammar points at the advanced level
- Use advanced grammar and vocabulary to write a brief standard report conveying information, stating reasons for actions

EN 6.3

This course integrates complex communication and business skills to help students successfully interact in any business situation in which English is the medium of communication.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify details that support a point of view when taking part in a general discussion
- Recognize when examples are being given in a structured presentation on an unfamiliar topic
- Justify and sustain views clearly by providing relevant explanations and arguments
- Describe objects, possessions and products in detail, including their characteristics and special features
- Ask questions about challenges someone may be facing in their job
- Discuss details of a work-related task (e.g. deadlines, specifications)
- Summarize, comment on and discuss a wide range of factual and imaginative texts
- Infer the meaning of words from context in work-related documents on familiar topics
- Apply different grammar points at the advanced level
- Use advanced grammar and vocabulary to express news and views effectively in writing and relate to those of others

EN 6.4

This is the last course of the advanced cycle of the English Now program. During this course, grammar and complexed structures are reviewed and business vocabulary is broadened so that the students can interact successfully in any business situation in which English is the medium of communication.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify main points and check comprehension by using contextual clues
- Follow in detail work-related phone messages
- Recognize that a speaker is expressing concerns in a formal discussion
- Justify and sustain views clearly by providing relevant explanations and arguments
- Propose action to be taken to resolve a conflict in a negotiation using fixed expressions
- Ask open-ended questions to better understand the specific details of a problem

- Give detailed opinions during work-related meetings if provided with sufficient background information
- Make inferences or predictions about the content of newspaper and magazine articles from headings, titles or headlines
- Infer the meaning of words from context in work-related documents on familiar topics
- Apply different grammar points at the advanced level
- Use advanced grammar and vocabulary to write an effective and informative summary