

Course Title Starting Out
Course Level Absolute Beginners
Course Description 6 sessions 90 minutes £115 (5 sessions £99)
Course Progression Breaking Thro'; Moving On; Moving On Up; Starting Out Summer I,II,III

Aims This course provides an intensive focused approach ideal for language newbies who want to acquire the practical speaking and listening skills needed to cope with day-to-day scenarios when socialising and travelling abroad. The course is communicative in approach focusing on speaking and listening, and employing a range of participative activities in order to revisit the topic areas detailed below. Key structures of basic grammar are introduced inductively. Learn how to order drinks and food at a café, how to exchange greetings, get directions, and get about. The course provides the building blocks to enable learners to progress to the next stage: Breaking Thro' (Beginners Plus Level) and then continue to progress all year round.

Who is it for? For those with no previous knowledge/those wish start at the beginning and progress at absolute beginner pace.

Programme	Open to discussion and amendment at any time
Meeting & greeting	Greeting people appropriately; introducing yourself and others; reviewing registers and pronunciation; coping strategies. Ordering something to drink for self and others.
Getting to know you	Exchanging personal info, saying who you are, where you're from, spelling your name, exchanging phone number
Getting to know you	Exchanging personal info, talking about family, occupation ,nationality,
Getting about	Travelling around, asking for and following directions
At the cafe	Ordering snacks and drinks for self and others from a tourist menu
Language Work Out	Flexing and strengthening new language muscles

You should be able to . . .No previous learning required

Indicative structures to be covered at Beginner Level: definite, indefinite articles; registers; question formation, negation, noun endings, adjectival agreement; indicative present tense 1pps, 2pps, 3pps of core regular and irregular verbs. Numbers and alphabet.

Indicative structures covered at Beginner Plus Level: Numbers and alphabet. Nouns ,gender, plural endings, definite and indefinite articles, partitive article, adjectival agreement in outline, present tense – regular verbs, modals, and some key irregulars, subject pronouns, direct object pronouns; (contracted) prepositions, conjunctions ,interrogatives and negatives. Further structures may be taught globally and/or in context: some reflexives, imperative and conditionals necessary for polite requests. Present perfect tense, where appropriate.

Working towards CEFR* A1 level - *Common European Framework

Speaking and Listening: Intended outcomes at this level

Listening

A1

- I can understand basic greetings and phrases (e.g. 'hello', 'good morning', 'excuse me', 'sorry', 'thank you').
- I can understand simple questions about myself when people speak slowly and clearly.
- I can understand very simple information concerning numbers and time (e.g. days of the week, months of the year, numbers, prices and times).
- I can understand short simple instructions and directions given in clear slow speech.
- I can understand very short dialogues when people speak slowly and clearly.
- I can understand simple words concerning myself, my family, my immediate environment when people speak slowly and clearly.

Speaking

A1

- I can make basic introductions (e.g. say who I am, ask someone's name and introduce someone).
- I can use basic greetings and courtesy phrases (e.g. 'please', 'thank you', 'how are you?', 'I'm fine').
- I can make simple purchases, using pointing and gestures to support what I say.
- I can ask and answer very simple questions about myself if I can take my time and get help from the person I am talking to.
- I can reply to simple direct questions about personal details if these are spoken very slowly and clearly in standard language.
- I can indicate that I understand or do not understand.

This is not prescriptive; structures covered will vary from one language to another, as appropriate and in accordance with student need.

Levels Explained

Each course we offer is mapped to the Common European Framework, CEFR or the International Curriculum of Chinese Language Education, ICCLE. The CEFR was established by the Council of Europe and grades language attainment levels from A1 beginners to C2 mastery level: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2. A good GCSE C- A*, for example, represents level B1 on the CEFR. Find out more in our FAQs section where you can download our Language Bio questionnaire to assess your skills level.

Beginners: This level is for absolute beginners and is suitable if you wish to start from the beginning and have no previous knowledge of the language or if you wish to progress at absolute beginner pace. [∞ Working towards CEFR A1 0 contact hours needed](#)

Beginners Plus: This level is for those who have completed an introductory survival course, our Starting Out Module or Weekender for Beginners or if you are a 'false beginner' or rusty returner' wishing to learn at beginner level. You can exchange some personal information and use a few set phrases. This level is made up of 6 incremental evening modules or two daytime modules. [∞ Working towards CEFR A1 from 5-9 hours needed for first module](#)

Post Beginners: For those who have completed a beginner's course have equivalent experience or are returning to learn having learnt at a higher level. You should be able to get by well in a range of predictable day-to-day situations, although key 'beginner level' topic areas will be revisited and reinforced. At this stage you will learn to handle problems linguistically in familiar situations. You may be able to talk about past events, such as what you did on holiday last year, although this will be introduced/consolidated within the first two modules of the Headway programme. [∞ Working towards CEFR A2 from approx 50 hours needed for first module](#)

Pre - Intermediate: For those who have completed a post-beginners course recently, have equivalent experience or are returning to learning having learnt in the past at a higher level. You may have studied to GCSE or 'O' Level in the past. You wish to reactivate/consolidate prior learning progressing to a higher level. You can cope adequately in predictable day to day situations. You will be able to talk about what you usually do, what you have done, used to do and will do (use present, present perfect, imperfect and future) though you may still make basic errors. You will be able to interact with a native speaker providing they speak slowly and clearly. There is still a strong emphasis on listening and speaking. An 'Easy reader' reading text will be introduced at this level. [∞ Working towards CEFR A2 from approx 100 hours needed for first module](#)

Intermediate: Working towards this level you should be able to communicate in everyday situations and on common topics using set phrases with confidence. You should be able to use present, future and some past tenses with reasonable accuracy and deal fairly confidently with authentic listening and reading materials at basic level. You will be able to give commands, make polite requests, cope with problems and unpredicted events in everyday routine situations and justify opinion simply. [∞ Working towards CEFR B1 from approx 150- hours needed for first module](#)

Intermediate Plus: You may have lived abroad, or studied for more than 4 years in adult education or equivalent. You will be able to discuss topical issues and express yourself fairly well. You can confidently deal with authentic listening and standard reading material. You'll be able to cope with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. You'll be able to produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest [∞ Working towards CEFR B2 from approx 200 hours needed for first module](#)

Pre - Advanced: At this level you should be able to express yourself quite fluently, although not always accurately, with a wide range of vocabulary and a command of comprehensive grammar structures. You should be able to use the target language in a variety of contexts. You can marshal arguments and express opinions. You can interact with a degree of spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. You can write discursively to explain and sustain argument and debate about topical issues. You will be fairly comfortable reading most authentic texts of contemporary writing. [∞ Working towards CEFR B2 from approx 200+ hours needed for first module](#)

Advanced: You will be able to find strategies to understand a wide range of more challenging longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. You can express yourself comfortably, fluently and spontaneously without too much obvious searching for expressions. You'll be able to use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. You can produce succinct well-organised writing on complex subject. [∞ CEFR B2 + from approx 200+ hours needed for first module](#)

fluent Advanced: You can understand lively conversation with several fast speakers, even on unfamiliar topics with ease. You can take part in extended discussions and debates on complex areas of personal, professional or cultural interest. You'll be able to summarise information from different spoken and written sources, rehearsing arguments presented. You can express yourself spontaneously, fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations. You'll be comfortable reading a range of texts, contemporary novels and important literary works. At this level you'll be able to maintain your level of proficiency through a range of cultural, literary and media-based activities. [∞ CEFR C1-2 + from approx 200+ hours needed for first module](#)

