

Course Title Weekender
Course Level Beginnerplus to Post Beginner
Course Description 2 days 10 - 4pm £199
Course Progression Headway, Post Beginners Level

Aims This course is ideal for those who have completed a beginners course and can get-by in some basic, day-to-day scenarios, but who want to acquire the practical speaking and listening and confidence needed to cope comfortably at post – beginner level. The course is communicative in approach focusing on speaking and listening, and employing a range of participative activities in order to visit the topic areas detailed below. Key structures of basic grammar will be looked at deductively. Learn how to talk about work, daily routines and then build on this to talk about your travels and holidays: what you usually do and what you have been doing, and where you’ve been. The course provides the building blocks to enable learners to progress to the next stage: Headway, Post Beginners Level.

Who is it for? For those who can get-by well in day to day situations* using the present tense and wish to extend their knowledge of basic language structures and move on to talking about what they usually do, where they’ve been and what they did. CEFR* Level A1 Intensive transition from Beginners Plus to Post Beginners

*Exchange personal information; get about; order food and drink at a snack bar and restaurant; make purchases obtaining goods and services; talk about hobbies, pastimes, likes and dislikes and make arrangements; talk about family and friends coping at a social gathering.

Programme	<i>Open to discussion and amendment at any time</i>
Day I	
Talking about daily routine	<i>Talking about daily routine, home, work and free time. Using verbs & registers</i>
Talking about work patterns	<i>Talking about daily routine, home, work and free time. Using verbs</i>
Who are you?	<i>To be or not to be. Looking at key irregular verbs</i>
What Katie did...	<i>Talking about what you’ve done*</i>
What Katie bought..	<i>Talking about what you have bought*</i>
Where Katie went next	<i>Talking about travels and where you have been</i>
A day out ..	<i>Describing a day out in London</i>
Talking about your holidays	<i>Talking about where you usually go on holiday, where you went last year and what you did.</i>

You should be able to . . .

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

