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Big English MEDUCA

FAQ

1. What is it?

New primary course that engages students with fun topics and activities that motivate them to learn English

With **Big English** teachers can deliver great lessons and help students achieve excellent results: rich content and photo-intensive design, a real world focus, integrated assessment and an online practice & diagnostic tool

The core of this course is the balanced development of language skills combined with 21st century skills and CLIL lessons

2. How many levels does it have ?

6 levels

CEFR A1 – B1

3. Who's it for?

Teachers and Schools with intensive English language programmes that aim to prepare students for external exams.

Students who enjoy learning English and using it in daily life, who want to achieve good results and make their parents proud. 6-12 years old young children

Parents with ambitions for their child to excel at English to optimise opportunities in future life.

4. What components?

Students

Student's Book
Workbook
Student CD-Rom
MyEnglishLab

Teachers

Teacher's Book
Class Audio CD's
Assessment Pack
ActiveTeach
MyEnglishLab
Flashcards
Posters



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5. What's in the teacher's Edition

Teacher's Book – 1 per level

Tips and guidance to make the most of the course

- Provides a comprehensive overview of each unit, with step-by-step lesson plans and teaching tips
- Games and ideas, additional to those in the Student's Book and Workbook
- Student's Book and Workbook audio scripts
- Workbook Answer Key
- Notes and audio scripts for using the YLE Practice Materials
- Assessment for Learning techniques and ideas for incorporating 21st Century Skills into each lesson plan

6. What is the assessment package

Assessment Package – 1 per level

Key performance measurement tool

- Overview of language assessment for young children
- Comprehensive range of tests including placement test, practice tests, unit tests, materials for oral assessment and final exam
- ExamView test generating software

7. What is the active Teach

ActiveTeach – 1 per level

Interactive Whiteboard tool on disc that doesn't require internet connection

- Interactive versions of Student's Book activities for use on interactive whiteboard, computer and projector
- Theme based documentary clips focussing on CLIL content with accompanying video guide and questions for discussion
- Teacher's Resources, including supplementary games, activities, worksheets, sound and letter flashcards and a Grammar Handbook for students



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8. What is in the class audio Cd

Class Audio CDs – 1 per level

Main in-class listening tool

- Songs including karaoke versions
- Unit stories
- CLIL readings

9. How many Flashcards are there?

Picture Cards - 2 packs x 250 cards (Levels 1-2 and Levels 3-4)

Perfect for big classes, extra-large cards illustrate target vocabulary

- Available in print and digital format

10. What is My English Lab?

MyEnglishLab

An online learning tool for personalized practice and assessment

- Provides instant grading to help teachers make the most of their time
- Offers instant access to a range of diagnostic tools to assess student and class performance, allowing teachers to identify strengths and weaknesses
- Enables teachers to personalise tasks for each student to help them reach their goals

11. What is a Student book like?

Student's Book - 1 per level

The main Coursebook, 9 units per book

- Each thematic unit presents language in context via multiple activities including songs, stories, sticker activities, phonics, CLIL, Culture Connection and Values
- Content Connection, Culture Connection and Values lessons expose students to the wider world, introducing vocabulary needed to learn other academic subjects and presenting longer and more complex authentic texts
- Think Big activities help students develop critical thinking skills, communication skills and the ability to work together to solve problems creatively



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- At the end of each unit, Review and Checkpoint pages provide insight into student progress and the opportunity to provide relevant remediation
- Exam preparation pages are integrated through all levels of the course, exposing students to exam style formats and questions, building familiarity and confidence in taking external exams

12. What is workbook like?

Workbook - 1 per level

Key homework and practice tool

- Additional practice for each lesson in the Student's Book
- Designed to be used at home for independent study and can be used for reinforcement in the classroom

13. What makes it great?

CLIL: because students are learning English and so much more (CLIL lessons in every unit: **Connections**)

21st Century Skills: because students want to get ahead and be prepared for the world around them (**Think Big** questions & collaborative and communicative **Speaking** activities in every unit)

Assessment for Learning: because students need confidence to lead them to success

MEL: our first primary MEL – more than just an online workbook!

14. What is CLIL?

There are many definitions widely available to describe this approach to teaching, but the acronym itself stands for Content and Language Integrated Learning. The approach basically refers to teaching content such as geography, science, or art to students through the medium of a foreign language, in our case, English.

"It can be very successful in enhancing the learning of languages and other subjects, and developing in the youngsters a positive 'can do' attitude towards themselves as language learners." (Marsh, 2000)

So **CLIL** is neither a language lesson nor a content lesson; it is a combination of the two. A successful CLIL lesson should incorporate elements of the 4 Cs: **content; communication; cognition; culture;**



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What are the benefits?

CLIL builds confidence: because students are motivated to learn what you are teaching them, CLIL can build confidence and help motivate them to progress more quickly.

CLIL develops academic success: academic vocabulary and critical thinking skills applicable to a wide range of subjects help strengthen students' efficacy and improve chances of success across the curriculum.

CLIL broadens perspective: because CLIL integrates culture and elements from the real world, the combination of language and content helps expand cultural and real-world knowledge.

CLIL provides a sense of achievement: it is no doubt challenging, but because students are talking and writing about complex material in English, there is a real sense of progress and accomplishment.

15. WHAT ARE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS?

The fundamental principles of 21st-century education/learning are based on the notion that in order to keep pace with the demands of the 21st century and its rapidly changing technology, we need to rethink the skills being taught in today's classroom.

"Learning and innovation skills increasingly are being recognized as those that separate students who are prepared for a more and more complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not. A focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future." Partnership for 21st Century Skills

In order to develop critical thinking skills, students must be given the opportunity to think deeply about issues, solve problems creatively, work in teams, and communicate clearly using a variety of media. It is less about students getting the right answers and more about students asking the right questions.

A 21st century classroom involves:

- Up-to-the-minute content that is relevant to students' lives
- Bringing the world into the classroom and promoting global connections
- Taking the students out into the world beyond the classroom
- Creating opportunities for students to interact with each other and work collaboratively
- Creating authentic learning experiences for students, including the use of technology

We must prepare students for the future and for the demands of jobs that have not yet been created! One way to accomplish this is to build a classroom that integrates the 4 skills with creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.



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16. What is Assessment for Learning?

Assessment for Learning is based on the principles that students will improve if they know and understand the goals of each lesson and where they stand in relation to those goals. Feedback provided along the learning path is both clear and constructive and builds students' confidence that they can achieve the goals if they take certain steps. Above all, Assessment for Learning is grounded in the firm knowledge that all learners can improve and should achieve their full potential. Every child knows how they are doing, where they are going, and how they are supposed to get there.

Every teacher is equipped with the knowledge they need to deliver ongoing, accurate assessment and has manageable tools for measuring results.

How Does it work?

- Lesson goals are shared with the students, making sure they understand what they are aiming towards.
- Learners are empowered to take active progress checks that may involve self-assessment and peer assessment.
- Teachers and students review, challenge, reflect and modify goals...together!
- Teachers provide feedback to students in a way that informs their learning plans and encourages awareness.
- Assessments take into consideration the whole learner, including learning styles, feelings, and barriers to understanding.
- Assessments encourage students to be responsible for their own learning and must create an "I can" attitude.

Assessments ensure that all students are aware of what they are doing and why they are doing it. Teachers and researchers are finding that when students are clearly involved in this form of classroom assessment, they become more aware of their strengths, and they feel a much stronger sense of accomplishment when goals are met. Students are also empowered by the knowledge and awareness of the areas for improvement, and by the belief that they have the power to do something about it!