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# Cambridge Academic English

## An integrated skills course for EAP

### Student's Book

### Intermediate

Craig Thaine

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Frontmatter
More information

# Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| **Acknowledgements** | *Page 3* |
| **Introduction** | *Page 8* |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Academic orientation** *Page 10* | Setting study goals in academic English<br>Focusing on academic study<br>Reading and writing in academic English<br>Attending lectures<br>Studying independently on an academic English course<br>Thinking about the role of language in academic English |

| **Unit 1 Styles of learning** *Page 14* | Reading | Listening and speaking | Writing | Grammar and vocabulary practice |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Reading for key terms and guessing meaning in context<br>Grammar in context: *-ing* forms<br>Grammar in context: present simple in academic English<br>Scan reading<br>Reading for your course<br>Gist reading | Asking for study help | Organising ideas<br>Linking words 1 | Noun forms<br>*-ing* forms<br>Present simple in academic English<br>Sentences with *if* that talk about what is generally true<br>Collocations with *conclusion* |

| **Unit 2 Problems in the natural world** *Page 26* | Reading | Listening and speaking | Writing | Grammar and vocabulary practice |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Understanding essay questions<br>Identifying the relevance of the text<br>Grammar in context: noun phrases | Making sure you have understood | Paragraph building<br>Grammar in context: present perfect | Word families<br>Quantifying expressions<br>Noun phrases<br>Clause structure<br>Present perfect and past simple |

| **Lecture skills A** *Page 38* | Preparing for lectures | Listening | Language focus | Follow-up |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Talking about products<br>Vocabulary for the context | Listening for gist and detail | *If* structures 1<br>Vocabulary: key expressions<br>Pronunciation: emphasising words | Organising notes<br>Further listening |

| **Unit 3 Indications and trends** *Page 42* | Reading | Listening and Speaking | Writing | Grammar and vocabulary practice |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Deciding what to read for an essay<br>Approaches to note-taking 1<br>Grammar in context: past perfect | Planning the main paragraphs of an essay<br>Writing a short report<br>Vocabulary in context: language for describing trends | Giving advice<br>Asking for help | Corpus language<br>Past simple<br>Past perfect<br>Language to describe statistics<br>Words for economic graphs |




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| **Unit 4 The information age** *Page 54* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Interactive reading<br>Grammar in context: phrases of frequency<br>Reading for the main ideas in a text<br>Grammar in context: prepositional phrases | Outlining issues and putting forward your point of view | Drafting and building arguments | Word building<br>Noun phrases<br>Phrases of frequency<br>Vocabulary families<br>Prepositional phrases<br>Reporting verbs |

| **Lecture skills B** *Page 66* | **Preparing for lectures** | **Listening** | **Language focus** | **Follow-up** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Women scientists in history<br>Vocabulary for the context | Listening for gist and detail | Signposting language in lectures<br>Pronunciation<br>Useful phrases | Further research<br>Further listening |

| **Unit 5 On budget** *Page 70* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Reading for key information and concepts<br>Grammar in context: expressing different levels of certainty<br>Vocabulary in context: language to define terms | Describing a process in a seminar presentation<br>Giving a presentation: describing a process | Drafting and revising content | Words associated with planning<br>Language of possibility<br>Definitions<br>Language of presentations<br>Word families from the Academic Word List |

| **Unit 6 Being objective** *Page 82* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Close reading for key ideas<br>Analysing information in more complex texts<br>Grammar in context: modal expressions<br>Grammar in context: relative clauses | Agreeing and disagreeing | Paraphrasing information for essays<br>Avoiding plagiarism<br>Linking words 2 | Verb and noun collocations<br>Language of agreement<br>Modal expressions<br>Relative clauses<br>Linking words and phrases |

| **Lecture skills C** *Page 94* | **Preparing for lectures** | **Listening** | **Language focus** | **Follow-up** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Chemical elements<br>Predicting information from visuals<br>Vocabulary for the context | Listening for gist and detail | Language for focusing on visuals<br>Beginnings and endings<br>Intonation | Critical thinking<br>Further listening |



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| **Unit 7 Innovation** *Page 98* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Approaches to note-taking 2 | Turn-taking in discussions | Paraphrasing by using synonyms<br>Grammar in context: comparing and contrasting | *Innovation* word family<br>Synonyms<br>Comparative language<br>Articles<br>Joining ideas |

| **Unit 8 Sensing and understanding** *Page 110* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Text organisation 1<br>Grammar in context: passive constructions<br>Vocabulary in context: word building | Signposting in seminar presentations<br>Giving a presentation | Linking words 3<br>Grammar in context: using the passive to manage information in texts | Art and design vocabulary<br>Passive forms<br>*Perceive* word family<br>Signposting in seminar presentations<br>Linking words |

| **Lecture skills D** *Page 122* | **Preparing for lectures** | **Listening** | **Language focus** | **Follow-up** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Discussion on global warming<br>Vocabulary for the context<br>Predicting | Listening for gist and detail | Referring words<br>Emphasising structures | Taking action<br>Further listening |

| **Unit 9 IT issues** *Page 126* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Text organisation 2<br>Grammar in context: hedging language | Problem–solution patterns and repair strategies | Generating ideas<br>Grammar in context: cohesive devices<br>In-text referencing | Subordination<br>Crime vocabulary<br>Hedging language<br>Cohesion |

| **Unit 10 Culture shock** *Page 138* | **Reading** | **Listening and speaking** | **Writing** | **Grammar and vocabulary practice** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Text organisation 3<br>Grammar in context: reduced relative clauses | Concluding a presentation | Planning the overall shape of an essay<br>Reading for relevant information<br>Writing the conclusion<br>Creating a bibliography | Word building<br>Reduced relative clauses<br>Participle clauses<br>Compound words |

| **Lecture skills E** *Page 150* | **Preparing for lectures** | **Listening** | **Language focus** | **Follow-up** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Discussion<br>Vocabulary for the context | Scan listening and interactive listening | Guessing the meaning of vocabulary<br>*If* structures 2 | Discussion<br>Further listening |

**Audioscript** *Page 154*
**Appendix 1 Functional language for writing** *Page 168*
**Appendix 2 Useful phrases for speaking** *Page 170*
**Appendix 3 Userful grammar terms** *Page 171*
**Wordlist** *Page 172*




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Frontmatter
More information

# Introduction

**Who is the course for?**

*Cambridge Academic English* is for anyone who needs English for their academic studies.

It is an integrated skills course, which means that at each of the levels you will develop your abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking in an academic context. In your class there will probably be students studying or hoping to go on to study many different subjects. With this in mind, *Cambridge Academic English* includes topics and texts that will be of interest to students from all disciplines (subject areas), and teaches language and skills that will be of use to students working in all subjects. However, some parts of the course also help you to develop abilities relevant to your particular area of study.

Student's Book B1 is aimed at students who need to improve their English significantly in order to guarantee success in higher education. If you are familiar with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) proficiency levels, Student's Book B1 is likely to be most useful for Independent Users at level B1 and above. Student's Book B2 is aimed at students who will soon be starting undergraduate or postgraduate studies and are Independent Users at level B2 and above. Student's Book C1 is aimed at students who may already have begun their academic studies. It will also be of interest to non-native English-speaking academics who need to present and publish in English. It will be of most use to Proficient Users at level C1 and above.

**How is the book organised?**

The introductory unit, *Academic orientation*, introduces you to aspects of studying academic English. For example, you will learn about academic culture and consider possible differences in study methods in different countries and in different subject areas.

The Student's Book is organised into integrated skills and lecture skills units:

- **Integrated skills units 1–10 (with separate Audio CD)**

Ten units are organised around a broad topic of interest and help you develop your skills in reading, speaking and writing academic English. Each of these units ends with a grammar and vocabulary focus that is of particular importance in academic written and spoken communication. The cross references in the margins point to further information, strategies, or extra practice which can be found in the *Grammar and vocabulary* section of that unit.

The separate Class Audio CD includes all the recordings needed for the listening and speaking sections and gives students focused listening practice, strategies to participate in tutorials and group work.

- **Lecture skills units A–E (with separate DVD)**

After every two integrated skills units there is a *Lecture skills unit* to help you develop skills in listening to lectures and taking notes. For this course, a variety of lectures were recorded at the University of Cambridge and a separate DVD accompanies the Student's Book, containing clips of these lectures and of students talking about their experience of studying in English at university.

Extracts from these lectures have been used in the lecture skills units to help you understand, for example, how lecturers use language, visual information, gesture and pronunciation to present content and show how they are organising the lecture.

**What kind of language does the course teach?**

*Cambridge Academic English* uses authentic academic texts. The texts you will read are taken from the kinds of textbooks and journal articles that your subject tutors might recommend you to read. You may find these challenging at first but you will learn strategies in the course to help you to cope with them. We believe that working with authentic texts in EAP is the best way of preparing to read them during your academic course of study.



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The lectures you will watch are delivered by experienced lecturers and researchers. In many colleges and universities around the world you will be taught in English by some tutors who are native English speakers and others who are non-native English speakers. To help you prepare for this, both native and non-native English-speaking lecturers have been included in this course.

The vocabulary focused on in the course has been selected for being of particular importance in academic writing, reading, lectures and seminars. In choosing what to teach we have made use of the Academic Word List compiled by Averil Coxhead (see www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/ for more information). This list includes many of the words that you are likely to encounter in your academic studies.

**What are the additional features?**

Each unit contains the following additional features:

The *Study tip* boxes offer practical advice on how you can improve the way you study.

The *Information* boxes provide useful background on language or academic culture.

The *Focus on your subject* boxes encourage you to think about how what you have learnt applies to your own subject area.

The Corpus *research boxes* present useful findings from the CAEC.

- The *Word list* at the back of the Student's Book covers key academic words essential for development of academic vocabulary.
- For each level of the course, a full-length version of one of the lectures from the DVD is available online. This gives you the opportunity to practise, in an extended context, the listening and note-taking skills that you develop in the *Lecture Skills* units. The video and accompanying worksheets are available for students at www.cambridge.org/elt/academicenglish.

To make sure that the language we teach in the course is up-to-date and relevant, we have made extensive use of the Cambridge Academic English Corpus (CAEC) in preparing the material.

**What is the Cambridge Academic English Corpus (CAEC)?**

The CAEC is a 400-million-word resource comprising two parts. One is a collection of written academic language taken from textbooks and journals written in both British and American English. The second is a collection of spoken language from academic lectures and seminars. In both parts of the corpus a wide variety of academic subject areas is covered. In addition to the CAEC, we have looked at language from a 1.7-million-word corpus of scripts written by students taking the IELTS test.

Conducting our research using these corpora has allowed us to learn more about academic language in use, and also about the common errors made by students when using academic English. Using this information, we can be sure that the material in this course is built on sound evidence of how English is used in a wide variety of academic contexts. We use the CAEC to provide authentic examples in the activities of how language is used, and to give you useful facts about how often and in what contexts certain words and phrases are used in academic writing.

We hope you enjoy using *Cambridge Academic English* and that it helps you achieve success in your academic studies.

**Craig Thaine**



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