Stockholm University

Introduction to English

(7.5 credits) Spring 2025

Teachers: Andrew Cooper, Marina Ludwigs, Peter Sundkvist, Phyllis Boumans, Axel Linder Olsson, Tesfaye Ayele, and Josep Soler (module coordinator)
Email: firstname.lastname@english.su.se

Module Description

This module provides an introduction to the English language. The module specifically focuses on English vocabulary and grammar in oral and written academic communication. Students develop an understanding of study techniques and use these to expand their English vocabulary and knowledge of grammar. Special focus is given to strategies for vocabulary learning. In addition, students are trained in oral academic discourse.

The module comprises **7 lectures, 5 workshops and 6 seminars. Students are expected to prepare for each session by completing assigned tasks and readings.** Active participation in the seminars, workshops and tutorials is expected and will further the academic advancement of the student.
The examination includes an oral presentation and a final sit-down exam on vocabulary and grammaticalknowledge.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the module, students are expected to be able to:

- Apply knowledge about vocabulary learning strategies;
- Use an extensive vocabulary in English;
- Identify, explain and use grammatical phenomena;
- Express themselves adequately in academic presentations and conversations by adapting to purpose and situation.

Grading

The module adopts the 7-grade SU scale.
To receive a final grade, students must have completed all examination assignments including the final exam (missing an assignment will result in no grade).
To receive a passing grade (A to E), students must demonstrate that they have achieved all the learning outcomes at least at the minimum level by having passed all the examination assignments including the final exam.

Module activities

The module consists of the following activities:

- Lectures: 7 lectures. For lecture notes/readings/ppts, see Athena.
- Workshops: 5 workshops (incl. one exam preparation workshop). For pre workshop tasks, see Athena
- Seminars: 6 seminars on campus. For the pre-seminar tasks, see the seminar presentations and hand-outs on Athena.
- Before each session, including the lectures, students are expected to complete all assigned tasks to be able to participate meaningfully.

Examination

Students are required to complete the following:

1) Oral assignment (5-minute presentation): pass/fail
2) Final exam on grammar and vocabulary: (approx. 20% vocab, 80% grammar) 7-grade SU scale

Module format

The module combines a range of teaching forms. The lectures introduce weekly topics. In the workshops the students will apply and deepen this knowledge through the completion of a number of tasks and quizzes. In the seminars, students will advance their oral communication skills by discussing issues relevant to the topic of each week. The final exam preparation workshop focuses on the sit-down exam.

Required reading

Biber, D., Conrad, S., Leech, G. (2002) *Longman Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Longman. (Chapters 1-7, ca. 200 pages)

Conrad, S., Biber, D., Leech, G. (2002) *Workbook*. (Supplement to Biber et al.)

Recommended reading

Chivers, B. & Shoolbread, M. (2007). *A Student's Guide to Presentations*. London: SAGE. (Available as e-book at SU library)

Hyland, K. (2009). *Academic Discourse*. London: Continuum. (Chapter 4). (Available as e-book at SU library)

Schedule

Unit/ Time period	**Content (lectures, workshops and seminars on campus)**	**Reading and tasks to complete (to do before the seminar)**
1	Lecture 1: introduction to the module *(studying linguistics, grammar and oral communication*)	**Biber et al. chaps 1**
	Lecture 2: Vocabulary learning	Word lists on Athena
	Workshop 1: Vocabulary learning	Exercises on Athena
	Seminar 1: Introduction to oral communication strategies • Analysing academic presentations • Structure and style in academic presentations	---
2	Lecture 3: Grammar 1: word classes and phrases	**Biber et al. chaps. 2-3A**
	Lecture 4: Grammar 2: Phrases and clauses	**Biber et al. chap. 3B**
	Workshop 2: word classes, phrases and clauses	Workbook for chaps. 1-3
	Seminar 2: Preparing an academic talk (1) • Preparing an academic talk: audience and purpose • Presentation skills: getting your audience's attention • Effective introductions in oral presentations	Think of a topic to develop your presentation (see list from Sem 1) Prepare a one-minute introduction of your presentation
3	Lecture 5: Grammar 3: Nouns, pronouns and noun phrases	**Biber et al. chap. 4**
	Lecture 6: Grammar 4: Verbs and auxiliaries	**Biber et al. chap. 5**
	Workshop 3: Nouns and verbs	Workbook for chaps 4-5
	Seminar 3: Panel discussions, including Q&A • Asking and reacting to questions in oral presentations • Panel discussions (small groups) on a given topic	Prepare for a panel discussion on a given topic (list of topics predetermined beforehand)
	Seminar 4: Preparing an academic talk (2) • The main body and conclusions of an oral presentation • Body language and visuals in oral presentations • Useful tips and advice	Find and analyze one academic oral presentation online. Bring your analysis to class
4	Lecture 7: Grammar 5: More Verbs	**Biber et al. chap. 6 & 13**
	Seminar 5: Peer-review of outline and plan for your final Oral Presentation (1-hour seminar).	Bring the outline (main points and arguments) for your OP (to be shared in small groups).
	Workshop 4: More verbs	Workbook for chap. 6
	Workshop 5: Review, exam preparation	
5	Seminar 6: Oral presentation assignment (3-hour Seminar) • In-class final presentations • Summary and final reflection	Prepare final oral presentation

Exam: Final week of Module (check date and room on TimeEdit) Resit exam: (check date and room on TimeEdit) Oral presentation examination: Seminar (S6) (check date and room on TimeEdit) Date for re-take oral presentation: (check date and room on TimeEdit)

Please note that there may be occasional changes to seminar dates/times and rooms. Check Time Edit regularly for updates.

Module grading

Exam grading criteria

Grade	Criteria
A: Excellent	The student displays excellent skills in: • Demonstrating an understanding of vocabulary learning strategies • Recognising and explaining grammatical terms • Applying grammatical structures And achieves 90-100% of the exam points
B: Very good	The student displays very good skills in: • Demonstrating an understanding of vocabulary learning strategies • Recognising and explaining grammatical terms • Applying grammatical structures And achieves 80-89.9% of the exam points
C: Good	The student displays good skills in: • Demonstrating an understanding of vocabulary learning strategies • Recognising and explaining grammatical terms • Applying grammatical structures And achieves 70-79.9% of the exam points
D: Adequate	The student displays adequate skills in: • Demonstrating an understanding of vocabulary learning strategies • Recognising and explaining grammatical terms • Applying grammatical structures And achieves 60-69.9% of the exam points
E: Minimally adequate	The student displays minimally adequate skills in: • Demonstrating an understanding of vocabulary learning strategies • Recognising and explaining grammatical terms • Applying grammatical structures And achieves 50-59.9% of the exam points
Fx: Failure (Inadequate)	The student displays some but not all of the skills on the level of E and achieves 45-49.9% of the exam points.
F: Fail	The student's work does not demonstrate the achievement of the course outcomes and has achieved less than 45% of the exam points.
Fx and F result in having to repeat the exam.	

Oral communication grading criteria

Criteria	Pass	Fail
Organisation/ Structure & Audience orientation	The presentation contains a good structure, it is clearly organised, with a good use of transition signals and signposting. The introduction is effective to grab the attention of the audience, which is successfully kept throughout the body of the talk. The conclusion provides an effective summary of the presentation. Questions are answered comprehensively.	The presentation fails to show a good structure, it is poorly organised, and poor use of transition signals and signposting is made. The introduction is not effective to grab the attention of the audience. The conclusion does not provide an effective summary of the talk. Responses to questions are not adequate.
Vocabulary, Language & Style	The presentation indicates good knowledge and use of key vocabulary, which is wide and varied. The language used during the presentation and question and answer part is grammatically correct and does not contain any severe mistakes. In addition, during the presentation good eye contact with the audience is made, with good body language, and a clear tone.	The presentation indicates poor knowledge and insufficient use of key vocabulary, which is not wide and varied. The language used during the presentation and question and answer part is grammatically poor and contains significant mistakes. In addition, during the presentation eye contact with the audience is not made, and body language and tone are not effectively used.