

## English: Language Practice A (A703033)

**Course size** (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

**Credits 4.0**

**Study time 120 h**

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

independent work  
seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Alger, Mari

LW22

staff member

Baeyens, An

LW22

staff member

Van Liefferinge, Joeri

LW22

staff member

Woumans, Evy

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)

4

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)

4

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Italian)

4

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)

4

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)

4

A

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Language Studies: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)

4

A

Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies

4

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages, Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages and Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, French)

4

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Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages, Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages and Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, German)

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Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages, Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages and Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Russian)

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Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages, Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages and Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Spanish)

4

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Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Interpreting: a combination of at least two languages, Master of Arts in Translation: a combination of at least two languages and Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages(main subject Dutch, English, Turkish)

4

A

## Teaching languages

English, Dutch

## Keywords

Translation, phonetics, vocabulary

## Position of the course

The study unit "English Language Practice A" (EIPA) has the following objectives:

- Training students' pronunciation to reach a near-native level of standard (British) English. As such, the course serves as a basis for speaking practice in Bachelor and Master years.
- To reach an RP standard, the student learns to distinguish systematic connections and contrasts between spelling and pronunciation, both in individual words and in connected speech. Students should eventually be able to read texts in IPA script and take down a dictation of individual words.
- Teaching students to translate English text into fluent and correct Dutch. The translation context and correct interpretation of the source text are paramount in this.
- Systematically enlarging the vocabulary students have acquired during their secondary school training to some 3000 words and expressions.

## Contents

"English: Language Practice A" comprises the following components

- phonetics (EIPA\_FO)
- translation English-Dutch (EIPA\_EN)
- vocabulary (EIPA\_WO)

### EIPA\_FO

After an introduction to concepts like phonetics and phonology, RP (received pronunciation), and on the operation of the speech organs, all English phonemes are discussed in detail and practised at length. The contrast/connection between spelling and pronunciation is an important feature. The students also learn to transcribe English words into IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols. Finally, some time is devoted to the study of stress placement, and rhythm in English.

### EIPA\_EN

General texts (advanced/proficiency level) are translated with special attention to structural issues at text and sentence level, to grammar and spelling. Students are also confronted with an extensive set of typical translating challenges, mostly false friends and specifically cultural translation problems. The professional working conditions of the translator are discussed as well.

### EIPA\_WO

During class time, the focus is on exploring systematic vocabulary learning techniques and learning how to efficiently manage the vocabulary learning process. Furthermore, socio-cultural aspects of life, register (formal/informal) as well as significant vocabulary differences between British and American English are discussed. Each week, students independently study vocabulary which covers themes including communication, education, health, and leisure, and familiarise themselves with meanings, synonyms, collocations, and false friends. Students assess their progress through weekly vocabulary quizzes on Ufora and are given opportunities to practise using words in context together with their peers.

## Initial competences

Mainstream secondary school-leaving level for English.

If their English knowledge is sufficient, exchange students may take up modules EIPA\_FO and EIPA\_WO **together**, worth 3 credits. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required for these modules.

## Final competences

- 1 Having a command of English at B2 level of the CEFR for oral skills (pronunciation) and vocabulary
- 2 Having sound knowledge of general English vocabulary [B12; assessed]
- 3 Having command of standard British pronunciation [B12; assessed]
- 4 Having knowledge of English phonetics and phonemic transcription [B13; assessed]
- 5 Recognising English language varieties, in particular with respect to vocabulary and pronunciation. [B 13; assessed]
- 6 Having knowledge of lexical structures in English and developing awareness of contrastive options in English and Dutch [B.13; assessed]
- 7 Developing a strong awareness of the English language [B.3.1; assessed]

- 8 In translation, understanding the meaning of the source text and rendering it independent of the source text wording. [B.1.6, assessed]
- 9 Having knowledge of aspects of text structure (such as information structure, referential coherence). [B16; assessed]
- 10 Having knowledge of relevant dictionaries, reference works and electronic aids, using them adequately and efficiently, and critically evaluating them. [B.6.5, not assessed]

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

EIPA\_FO: seminar (on campus and online)

EIPA\_EN: seminar (on campus and online)

EIPA\_WO: seminar (on campus and online)

#### **EIPA\_FO**

Students practise pronunciation in language lab or online sessions; these also include transcription and spelling exercises. If they so desire, students can take a pronunciation assessment test (with feedback).

#### **EIPA\_EN**

The course deals with problems which typically occur in translation from English into Dutch; classes both on campus and online consist of active translation practice with feedback.

#### **EIPA\_WO**

Students are guided to take a systematic approach to vocabulary expansion. Students assess their progress through weekly quizzes and practise using vocabulary in context.

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Consultation, e-mail, support via Ufora.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Skills test, Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Skills test, Written assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Skills test

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

!!!Depending on the Covid-19 situation changes are not to be excluded!!!

Written exam + Continuous assessment (only EIPA\_FO)

#### **EIPA\_FO (40%)**

The written exam evaluates the student's knowledge of a theoretical description of the standard pronunciation of (British) English, of IPA symbols and of the relationship between spelling and pronunciation. A pronunciation test (continuous assessment) will instruct the student to correctly pronounce a new, unseen text in normal spelling. RP will be the standard.

#### **EIPA\_EN (40%)**

Written exam: translation of an original and not previously discussed English text. The use of an explanatory dictionary is allowed.

#### **EIPA\_WO (20%)**

Written exam: expanding sentences with the correct word / term, creating idiomatic sentences with a given word/term.

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Second session: Same as first

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

See heading evaluation methods.

For E1PA\_FO, a score of at least 50% for both exams (written and pronunciation) will be necessary to succeed. Otherwise the highest mark that can be awarded is 9/20. The deadline for the pronunciation test will be communicated during class. It is strict and not extendable. Only when a timely and motivated request is made (at least two weeks prior to the deadline), exceptions may be granted. In case the deadline is not met, the grade for the pronunciation test will invariably be 0.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

It is possible to be exempted from class attendance for some parts.

Requests for different assignment or examination dates cannot be granted

Depending on the situation, individual feedback can be given via email or by appointment

Additional information:

E1PA\_FO en E1PA\_EN are practical course. Not participating in the seminars can be a handicap. Students choosing not to be present at the seminars should be aware of this.

### **Addendum**

E1PA