English Conversation Groups

Important Note:
Our English Conversation Groups will continue to meet virtually this spring. Questions? Email Assistant Director for Programs, Molly Hampton [1]. These groups are only open to Yale affiliates.

Our daily English Conversation Groups will be virtual this fall!

Join us on Zoom for a daily conversation to:

- practice your English conversational skills
- check in and connect with other international community members

These Zoom calls take place every weekday (Monday through Thursday) from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. Most calls are led by a volunteer English Conversation Facilitator.

Zoom Guidelines & Instructions for English Conversation Groups

Setting Up & Using the Platform

Zoom [2] is a conference platform available online or over the phone. We will be using Zoom to continue our English Conversation Groups virtually for the rest of the spring semester. To join the Zoom call, you can join via computer or phone. If possible, we recommend everyone to join using your computer with a webcam, so you can stay connected to the group virtually.

These Zoom meetings are scheduled for Monday through Thursday from 12:30-1:30pm, and you will use the same login information every day. If you are a member of the Yale Community and would like to join, please email Assistant Director for Programs, Molly Hampton [1], to receive the Zoom details.

The first time you join the Zoom call on your computer, you may be asked to download Zoom on your computer. This typically only takes a few minutes but give yourself some time before the call to get this set-up.

- Watch this short video for helpful tips [3] on using the platform and joining with video and audio.
- Watch this video to learn more about Zoom controls [4] and how to best use the system.
- More video instructions for using Zoom [5]

Group Guidelines

When you join the call, make sure to put yourself on mute (either on your computer or on your phone). This will help to keep background noise to a minimum. Just remember to unmute yourself whenever you speak (see videos above for guidance). We suggest wearing earbuds or headphones to avoid feedback and echoes.
When the group has an English Conversation Facilitator, they will help to lead the call and direct conversation.

When the group does not have a Facilitator, please use this time to check-in on one another and pick a topic to discuss. Please make sure everyone has a chance to talk throughout the conversation.

If everyone joins with a computer, Zoom has a chat function that you can use to ask questions or “raise your hand” to speak next. If everyone joins by video, you can also physically raise your hand so that participants aren’t speaking over one another.

Additional English Language Programs

The English Language Program at Yale (ELP) [6]

The ELP was created specifically to support the English language academic and professional development needs of Yale students and scholars. The ELP offers academic courses in speaking, writing, vocabulary, Teaching in the American Classroom, and Professional Communication Skills to prepare students for their academic classes, teaching, professional presentations, and careers beyond Yale. The twelve-week courses meet in the Center for Language Study (CLS) [7] Well-equipped multimedia facilities with specialized software and self-study material are also available for use in the CLS by Yale international students and scholars with a valid ID.

Yale English Language Institute [8]

Offered during Yale Summer Session B, these non-credit summer certificate programs offer international students the opportunity to participate in the classroom experience offered by our amazing instructors. You'll improve your English and develop skills that will help you with your academic or professional careers.

The New Haven Public Library [9]

Besides a multitude of books and other media, the New Haven Public Library [10] also offers some literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) resources.

Gateway Community College [11]

Gateway Community College [12] offers a variety of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to meet students’ academic, professional, and personal goals. Classes are scheduled mornings, afternoons, and evenings to meet students’ diverse needs.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven [13]

Literacy Volunteers [14] offers free small group classes at their offices, libraries and community organizations around New Haven, Meriden/Wallingford, and The Valley. Classes are held mornings, afternoons, and evenings to fit into your busy schedule. Email info@lvagnh.org [15] or call (203) 776-5899 for more info.

Bridges English as Second Language [16]

Bridges English as Second Language [17] is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides free small-group English tutoring to immigrants and visiting internationals in the Yale and New Haven community. The program offers several levels of instruction depending on each student’s needs. The levels are Survival, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. Classes are held on Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Asian American Cultural Center (295 Crown Street, New Haven, CT) and La Casa (301 Crown St, New Haven, CT). Student registration for Bridges classes is at the beginning of each school semester. Email bridgesesl@gmail.com [18] for more info.

New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center [19]
The New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center offers a free English as a Second Language Program for New Haven residents [20] (non-residents must pay a fee). They offer 7 different levels of classes from Literacy to Advanced. All classes include instruction in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Call (203) 492-0213 or email erica.walden@nhboe.net [21] for more info.

ERACE (East Shore Region Adult & Continuing Education) [22]

ERACE offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes [23] at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels of instruction at multiple locations. They have a great, friendly, certified staff to assist you with your language and culture development here in the United States. Classes are free to residents of Branford, Clinton, Guilford and North Branford; non-residents are welcome to attend for a nominal fee. Call (203) 488-5693 or email shorelineadulted@branfordschools.org [24] for more info.