



ITL 210

Intermediate Italian I

S1 Online 2019

Dept of International Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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AHH L2 North Wing

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

ITL103 or HSC Italian Extension or Continuers Band 4 or 5 or 6 or E3 or E4

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is intended for students who have completed one year of Italian, for students who have completed Italian studies at HSC level, and for students who have equivalent knowledge of the language. The unit aims to develop students' competence in understanding and speaking, reading and writing standard Italian.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.

To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.

To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.

To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.

To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.

To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

General Assessment Information

Indicative examples of assessment tasks will be available on iLearn.

Late Assessment Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Oral Presentation</u>	10%	No	week 13
<u>Participation</u>	10%	No	Ongoing
<u>Listening comprehension</u>	10%	No	Week 13
<u>Assignments</u>	40%	No	Week 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 & 11
<u>Final Test</u>	30%	No	13

Oral Presentation

Due: **week 13**

Weighting: **10%**

The oral presentation will be submitted in week 13 and takes the form of a VIDEO production. In groups of 2 or 3, students must produce a "cut out scene" of approx 5 minutes (External students who are unable to meet can provide a "single" production of about 2.5 minutes). The scene:

- cannot be the final scene of the movie
- cannot be READ out
- must fit in the movie (as if it was cut off from it) in terms of story, characters, timing, type, attitude etc
- must be handed in on DVD or USB stick
- will not be judged on acting skills

- will not be judged on the quality of the video production
- will be screened in week 13

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Class and iLearn participation (including completion of homework tasks and in-class activities, initiating discussion, asking questions, speaking in Italian). Specially external students are **strongly** encouraged to engage with the *General Discussion Forum*; as the name suggest it is not just for unit related topics and you can start a conversation of any type - just be "nice" ;-).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Listening comprehension

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **10%**

M/C and/or short answers questions based on an audio file

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.

- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.

Assignments

Due: **Week 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 & 11**

Weighting: **40%**

3 online quizzes and 3 written assignments to be **electronically** submitted through iLearn.

Assignments are due in Week 3, 8 & 11; Quizzes are due in week 4, 7 & 10.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Final Test

Due: **13**

Weighting: **30%**

End of semester final written test to be held in class in week 13. external students will complete this on-line with a time limit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.

Delivery and Resources

Required Texts

The prescribed texts are available from the Macquarie University Co-op bookshop.

- Balì, M. & G. Rizzo (2014) *Nuovo Espresso 2. Corso di italiano. Libro dello studente ed esercizi*. Florence: Alma (**Note:** external students must also order the Espresso listening cd)
- Germano, Joseph E. & Schmitt, Conrad J. (2014), *Schaum's Outline of Italian Grammar*, McGraw-Hill Education

We will also be watching a recent Italian movie to further enhance your language skills; this year it is *Nove lune e mezza*, directed by Michela Andreozzi (2017). This can be easily found on the internet.

Recommended references

- **Monolingual dictionary:** **Zingarelli**, Vocabolario della lingua italiana (copies in the library and Italian/French/Greek workroom)
- **Bilingual dictionary:** **Collins** English-Italian, **Italian-English** dictionary (copies in the library and Italian/French/Greek workroom)

The *Espresso* answer keys are in the back of the book.

Note: The tasks set from *Schaum's Outline of Italian Grammar* may not always correspond exactly to the grammar learned in *Espresso*. The tasks from *Schaum's Outline of Italian Grammar* are intended to extend your understanding and usage of grammar.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Online Unit

Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>

Is my unit in iLearn?: <http://help.ilearn.mq.edu.au/unitsonline/> to check when your online unit will become available.

Technology

Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.

For students attending classes on campus we strongly encourage that you bring along your own laptop computer, ready to work with activities in your online unit. The preferred operating system is Windows 10.

Students are required to access the online unit in iLearn by the end of Week 1 and follow any relevant instructions and links for downloads that may be required. If applicable, students are

required to download the relevant language package prior to Week 2.

Please contact your course convenor **before** the end of **Week 1** if you do not have a suitable laptop (or tablet) for in-class use.

- For central technical support go to: http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/
- For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students>

Unit Schedule

	Libro di testo: <i>Espresso 2</i>	Libro di testo: <i>Schaum's outlines</i>	Homework	Assessment	Film <i>Nove lune e mezza</i> + Notes
Wk 1	Ripasso generale	The pronunciation, of Italian Cap 1, pp. 1-14	Note: Spend this week revising <i>PREGO!</i> Focus on vocabulary and grammatical rules.		Intro al film
Wk 2	1. In giro per i negozi pp 5-13 Imperativi Pronomi tonici Piacere I comparativi	Imperatives Cap 6, pp.173-178 Pronouns Cap 9, pp. 205-216	<i>Espresso 2</i> pp. 160-162		Film viewing (part 1)
Wk 3	1. In giro per i negozi pp 13-20 Imperativi Pronomi tonici Piacere I comparativi	Reflexive verbs Pronouns Cap 9, pp. 216-232	<i>Espresso 2</i> pp. 163-164	Written assignment 1: Check on iLearn	Film viewing (part 2)
Wk 4	2. Quando ero piccola... pp 21-27 p 29 imperfetto Vs Passato prossimo	Present Perfect Cap 6, pp. 138-151	<i>Espresso 2</i> pp. 166-168	Online quiz 1	Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 5	2. Quando ero piccola... pp 28-36 p 29 imperfetto Vs Passato prossimo	Present Perfect Cap 6, pp. 138-151 + p. 152	<i>Espresso 2</i> pp. 169-173		Reviewing and study of a film section

Wk 7	3. Un tipo interessante p 37-43 il comparativo, il condizionale presente	Comparatives and superlatives <i>Cap 4, pp59-68</i> The conditional <i>Cap 6, p.153</i>	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 174-176</i>	Online quiz 2	Reviewing and study of a film section
Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
Wk 8	3. Un tipo interessante p 44-52 il comparativo, il condizionale presente	Ripasso e attivazione	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 177-180</i>	Written assignment 2: Check on iLearn	Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 9	4. Ti va di venire? p 53-59 <i>stare</i> + gerundio, pronomi diretti + passato prossimo	Gerund Cap 6, pp.178-186	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 180-183</i>		Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 10	4. Ti va di venire? pp 60-66 I pronomi relativi <i>che</i> e <i>cui</i>	Pronouns Cap 9, pp.232-235	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 184-186</i>	Online quiz 3	Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 11	5. Buon viaggio! pp 67-72 Volare, sapere e conoscere al passato	Special Uses of Verbs Cap 11, pp. 257-265	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 187-190</i>	Written assignment 3:	Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 12	5. Buon viaggio! pp 73-79 p 63 passato prossimo e imperfetto (II), <i>nessuno, volerci</i>	Rivedere Cap 6, pp. 148-150	Espresso 2 <i>pp. 191-195</i>		Reviewing and study of a film section
Wk 13	Prova d'ascolto Visione Video Studenti Final Test				

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)

- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships

with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.

- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and

they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To understand and gain proficiency in the mechanics of writing Italian.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and

aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active

participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To hear, speak, read and write modern Italian language in a variety of registers.
- To read, listen to, comprehend and discuss a variety of Italian texts.
- To attain a good level of spoken and written Italian through practice in class and completion of exercises and assignments.
- To revise grammatical structures previously studied and learn new structures essential to oral and written fluency and accuracy.
- To gain an appreciation of the Italian culture through textual (including literature) and aural material introduced in the class resources and discussed in class as well as online.

Assessment tasks

- Oral Presentation
- Participation
- Listening comprehension
- Assignments
- Final Test

Additional Information

Unit requirements and expectations

This unit will assess students' progress regarding the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar. The assessment aims to cover each skill and to offer fair and varied types of evaluation. You will need to actively participate in all classes. The language of instruction is mainly Italian. You will be expected to regularly access iLearn for extra revision and task completion. Those of you who do not have a computer at home can work in the University's computer labs. It is expected that all external students use a computer, preferably with high-speed internet to facilitate access to the online resources.

Homework is to be completed on a continual basis. Remember that language-learning is cumulative, and it is in your best interest to regularly complete homework tasks. You will regularly be given exercises to complete at home from both texts.

Please submit electronically your written assignments through iLearn as required. Assignment cannot be accepted in class or by other means.

We value student feedback, and take student comments into serious consideration when revising our courses. During the semester you will be asked to participate in formal and informal feedback sessions. Feedback is voluntary and anonymous, and comments on your experience of the Unit of Study are much appreciated.

Form of Assessment	% Weighting	Note for External Students
Class and iLearn participation (including completion of homework tasks and in-class activities, initiating discussion, asking questions, speaking in Italian)	10%	For external students, more weight will be placed on iLearn participation
1 listening comprehension	10%	External students to complete this task at home and submit electronically.
1 video presentation	10%	External students to complete this task at home and send video to tutor.
3 online quizzes and 3 written assignments.	40%	External students to submit their written assignments through iLearn by the due date (the same as internal students).
End of semester final written test to be held in week 13	30%	External students to submit this test electronically.

Assignments are compulsory and must be handed in at the time specified. Information on late assessment penalties can be found under General Assessment Information at the top of this unit guide.

Preparation: Students are expected to prepare the course work to be covered in class in advance, as set out in programs or announced in class.

Punctuality: Please arrive on time for classes. Arriving late is very disruptive. All classes start five minutes past the hour. If you should arrive late, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

Plagiarism

Assignments are to be your own work. Using someone else's words (either another student's, from a book, a journal article or a website) without clear acknowledgement is plagiarism and can incur serious penalties. The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. Information about plagiarism can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies*, on the web at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism>. If you are in doubt consult your lecturer or tutor.

Text-based work submitted by students for assessment will be subject to **plagiarism detection software**, such as **Turnitin** or similar approved software, unless otherwise approved.

Grading

The university has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction.

HD	High Distinction which denotes work of outstanding quality . This may be demonstrated in areas such as criticism, logical argument, interpretation of materials or use of methodology. This grade may also be awarded to recognise a high order of originality or creativity in student performance;
D	Distinction which denotes work of superior quality in the same areas of performance as above. This grade may also be awarded to recognise particular originality or creativity in student performance;
Cr	Credit which denotes work of predominantly good quality , demonstrating a sound grasp of content together with efficient organisation, selectivity and use of techniques;
P	Pass which denotes a clear pass and satisfactory achievement of unit objectives;
F	Fail which denotes that a candidate has failed to complete a unit satisfactorily.

The guidelines are designed to ensure comparability across the University

Student support services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need help and see the range of services (such as counseling and writing skills) available at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

Class Timetable

	Stream 1	
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Tutorial 1	Monday 12-2 13 Hadenfeld Ave - G13	
Tutorial 2	Wednesday 12-2 13 Hadenfeld Ave - G15	

Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

The unit aims at fostering language skills to level B1, described as follows in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR): Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.