Frequently Asked Questions (Instructors)

Course Structure & Scheduling

Are the lessons group lessons or 1:1?
Group lessons, typically with 12-15 students. Realistically, not all students on a class list will attend classes regularly due to challenges presented by the ongoing genocide..

Are lesson times fixed, or do we schedule them with students?
Instructors set the days and times for class. We recommend meeting for at least one hour of synchronous instruction each week.

How many hours per week will we be teaching?
In addition to a weekly online meeting, there is also asynchronous instruction (reviewing writing, preparing lessons). We do not expect more than 1.5 hours of asynchronous instructions. We respect the time of our volunteers and know they have other commitments.

Is the content fixed, or do we create our own lessons?
Courses are aligned with CEFR (A2-C1/C/2). Each course has learning objectives aligned with a CEFR level. Curriculum and lesson plans are decided by the instructor. We welcome innovative and creative ideas (books, podcasts, TED Talks, etc.) for teaching. We have a Google Folder with shared resources: ASWP Shared Teaching Resources that can help with planning.

Technology for Teaching

Is it necessary to use Zoom for teaching?
No. Feel free to use whichever platform works. Unfortunately as an NGO we do not have a professional version of any online meeting platform. Therefore, options include:

- Zoom (free – 40-minute limit)
- Google Meet (free – 60-minute limit)

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Can I use my own account with an online platform for teaching?

We do not place any restrictions on platforms or teaching resources, but there is no expectation that teachers pay for platforms or other teaching resources out of pocket. We encourage instructors to use their own judgment if using a personal or professional platform of their own.

Student Levels & Background

What level are the students—beginners or advanced?
Students range from A2 Beginner to C1/C2 Advanced. Students are placed based on Placement Test scores, Duolingo English Test scores, or previous English Language Program course placement. If there is a student in your class who seems out of place with other students, please let the coordinators know.

Are the students college age or high school age?
All students are 18+. We do not register or teach elementary or high school level students.

Is this survival English?
Not exactly. The focus is on continuity in education and supporting long-term goals. Many students are working toward educational opportunities outside Gaza.

Communication & Support

Is there a WhatsApp group for teachers?
Yes! We have an active WhatsApp Group for sharing ideas and support, plus

Is it okay to communicate with students using my personal phone number and email?
Yes. Use whatever method you are most comfortable with. Most students respond best on WhatsApp because it easily handles images, videos, documents, and offers end-to-end encryption.

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Expectations

Are students expected to have their camera on during class?
Students are not expected to keep their cameras on during class. We recognize that many students have limited or unreliable internet access, use older devices, or join class from shared living spaces where privacy may be limited. While students are always welcome to turn on their cameras if they feel comfortable, participation is never contingent on being visible. We encourage engagement through whichever means are most accessible, including audio, chat, and other class activities.

Do we need to keep track of attendance?
We do not take attendance in the traditional sense. We recognize that all of our students are living under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and interruptions to internet access, electricity, and daily life can make regular attendance impossible. If a student stops participating altogether—including in the WhatsApp group—please let us know.

Do you share contact information?

We do not share instructor email addresses or WhatsApp numbers with any person or organization. We use email for official ASWP communications (announcements, and important correspondence).

We do not share any information with students. We leave that outreach up to you. WhatsApp is the most common way students communicate due to unreliable internet access.