

Course 1

Basic Grammar and Sentence Structure

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Cover key areas such as phonetics, grammar, and sentence structure.
- Ensure students establish a solid foundation in English language proficiency.
- Assist students in developing fundamental English language skills.



INTRODUCTION

This course has been designed to empower you with essential language skills to build a strong and confident command of the English language.

Throughout this course, we will delve into key aspects of English, including phonetics, grammar, and sentence structure, to ensure you develop a solid foundation upon which to build your language proficiency

1. PHONETICS

Phonetics is the study of the sounds of human speech, In architecture, effective communication is essential among architects, clients, builders, and other stakeholders. Clear and precise pronunciation of architectural terms can make a significant difference in conveying ideas accurately.

Basics of Phonetics

A. Consonants and Vowels:

1. Consonants: These are sounds produced by obstructing or restricting the airflow in some way. In architectural terms, consider the pronunciation of the word "column" ['kɒləm], where the "c" and "l" sounds are consonants.

2. Vowels: These are sounds produced with an open vocal tract. For example, in the word "architect" ['ɑ:rkitekt], the "a" and "i" sounds are vowels.

B. Articulation Points:

1. Understanding where speech sounds are produced can help in proper pronunciation.

Basics of Phonetics

Examples:

- 1.Architect:** /'ɑ:r.kɪ.tekt/ (AR-ki-tekt) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 2.Structure:** /'strʌk.tʃər/ (STRUK-chur) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 3.Facade:** /fə'sɑ:d/ (fuh-SAHd) - Stress on the second syllable.
- 4.Column:** /'kɒl.əm/ (KOL-uhm) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 5.Roofline:** /'ru:f.laɪn/ (ROOF-line) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 6.Window:** /'wɪn.dəʊ/ (WIN-doh) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 7.Materials:** /mə'tɪə.ri.əlz/ (muh-TEER-ee-uhlz) - Stress on the second syllable.
- 8.Staircase:** /'steɪ.keɪs/ (STAIR-kays) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 9.Courtyard:** /'kɔr.tjɑrd/ (KOR-tyahrd) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 10.Balcony:** /'bæl.kə.ni/ (BAL-kuh-nee) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 11.Archway:** /'ɑ:rtʃ.weɪ/ (ARCH-way) - Stress on the first syllable.
- 12.Atrium:** /'eɪ.tri.əm/ (AY-tree-uhm) - Stress on the first syllable.

2. SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Now, let's explore sentence structure, which is the arrangement of words to create meaningful sentences:

1. **Subject:** The subject is the main focus of the sentence and usually consists of a noun or pronoun.

Example: "The architect."

2. **Verb:** The verb is the action or state of being in the sentence.

Example: "designed."

3. **Object:** The object receives the action of the verb.

Example: "the building."

4. **Modifiers:** Adjectives and adverbs provide additional information and detail.

Example: "unique style."

By combining these elements, you can construct clear and concise sentences that effectively convey your architectural ideas and concepts.

3. BASIC GRAMMAR

Why Grammar Matters ?

In architecture, where precision and clarity are essential, understanding and applying grammar rules correctly is crucial for successful communication.

Let's start with some basic grammar concepts that will aid you in constructing grammatically correct sentences:

1. **Nouns and Pronouns:** Nouns are words that represent people, places, things, or concepts. Pronouns are substitutes for nouns.

Example: "The architect (noun) designed the building".

"She (pronoun) created its unique style".

2. **Verbs and Tenses:** Verbs express actions or states of being. Tenses indicate when an action occurred.

Example: "The construction of the project will begin (verb) next month(future tense)."

3. **Adjectives and Adverbs:** Adjectives describe nouns, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Example: "The tall (adjective) skyscraper rose (verb) quickly (adverb)."

4. **Subject-Verb Agreement:** Ensure that the subject and verb in a sentence agree in number.

Example: "The architects (plural subject) create (plural verb) innovative designs."

"The architect (singular subject) creates (singular verb) innovative designs."

Construction Terminology

Instead of	Try
make	build, construct, assemble, manufacture, fabricate
do	carry out, prepare, execute, implement
need	require, call for
take	remove, draw (inspiration)
use	operate, apply, make use of, employ
make it better	improve, enhance, refine
make better use of space	maximise
arrange in a line	align
create something new	develop
give an idea	propose, suggest
change	transform
different options	alternatives

PHRASAL VERBS COMMONLY USED BY ARCHITECTS

aim for: to strive to accomplish a particular goal (aim for + noun).

E.g. We are **aiming for** a maximum amount of sunlight in this room.

aim to do (something): to plan or hope to achieve something (aim to + verb).

E.g. We **aim to** reduce the amount of carbon dioxide levels by planting trees.

apply to (apply something to something): to make use of something for a practical or real situation)

E.g. We **applied** the rules of the standard **to** the design of the new public space

allow for: to take things into account when making plans

E.g. We need to **allow for** the extra centimetre of overlap, so it will fit correctly.

back up: in this context (to become congested)

E.g. The traffic is starting to **back up** on the freeway/highway.

(not to be confused with **a backup** which is, for example, saving a second copy of a file as a backup)

get through: pass a difficult or testing experience or period or complete a task, amount of work or meeting.

E.g. We need to start on time today. We have a lot of work to get through.

To get through this meeting we are going to need a lot of coffee.

get through to: to communicate successfully with someone or be understood .

E.g. We managed to get through to the client and now they've agreed to the changes.

get underway: to start something .

E.g. With all the delays and restrictions happening I'm concerned we won't be able to get underway until early next year.

get up to: to do something.

E.g. What did you get up to this morning?

go about: begin or carry on with doing an activity or task.

E.g. I think we are going about this in the wrong way.

go ahead: permission to proceed or continue with something.

E.g. Can I schedule a meeting with the engineer for tomorrow? Sure, go ahead.

go for: to choose something.

E.g. We want to go for something that complements your colour palette.

go into: investigate or inquire into something.

E.g. I think it would be good to go into more detail about some of the frustrations we are having with the rest of the team.

check out: look at or take notice of someone or something.

E.g. I'm **checking out** Robin Boyd's Wall Street House.

clear up something: to remove doubts, confusion or wrong ideas.

E.g. Before we finish this meeting, I want to **clear up** any confusion you might have.

close something off: to **close** something **off** means to **separate** it from other things or people so that they cannot **go** there.

E.g. The architects decided to **close off** the property behind a large **impenetrable** brick wall.

come up with: produce something such as ideas or a design concept.

E.g. Today we'd like to present the ideas we **came up with**.

cut in: interrupt someone while they are speaking (one meaning).

E.g. Sorry, can I just **cut in** here to say that the architect is coming on Tuesday next week so we'll be able to discuss in more detail then?

cut off: to cut off a supply of something means to stop providing it or stop it being provided or connected to something else or it can also mean to interrupt.

E.g. The road **cuts off** access to the park from the northern boundary.

E.g. Sorry to **cut** you **off** but I have something to say here.

draw up: prepare a plan, agreement, or another document in detail.

Before we start, we need to **draw up** a rough schedule of our next few meetings with the client.

draw on / draw upon: make use of a skill or expertise or be inspired by something

We need to **draw on** the expertise of the engineer

Take into account: with kind regard for someone or something.

E.g. There are so many factors we need to **take into account** when planning this space.

Take into consideration: to allow for something when you're considering your options.

E.g. There are so many factors we need to **take into consideration** when planning this space.

take something on: to agree to do some work or be responsible for something.

E.g. We have decided that next year we will **take on** more projects.

take up:

1. occupy time, space, or attention.

E.g. There are tons (lots) of storage all through here, but it's not **taking up** a huge amount of space.

2. become interested or engaged in a pursuit such as a hobby.

E.g. I'm going to **take up** a drawing class next year.

think through: think about all the different parts or effects of (something) before arriving at a solution

E.g. That's a really great point. Can I **think** that idea **through** and get back to you with some other options before the end of the week?

think over: consider the options

E.g. Thanks for making that suggestion. Could you give me a week to **think** it **over** before I get back to you? get back to you = give you an answer

figure out: to understand or to solve something.

E.g. I've been trying to **figure out** how to use Vectorworks for the last week.

fill (someone) in: inform someone more fully of a matter.

E.g. "I'm going to **fill** you **in** on a few things I've been working on recently."

fit in: If you say that someone or something fits in, you understand how they form part of a particular situation or system.

E.g. Why Don't Architects Just Make Buildings **fit in**?

follow up: to stay in contact with someone to get something done or achieved.

E.g. I just wanted to follow up to see where you're at with those plans?

Where you're at - A question to ask someone how far along they are with finishing something.

Can you send a follow-up email after our discussion today?

follow through: 1. the action of completing something 2. to complete a plan to do something.

This pattern with the windows **follows through** to the next room.

I'm going to **follow through** with the promise I made to myself to start something new this year.

get across: to communicate an idea successfully, to make someone able to understand something.

E.g. Do you understand what I'm trying to **get across**?

get around to: to do something after you have intended to do it for some time.

E.g. A: Did you happen to **get around to** calling that supplier we talked about?

B: I didn't get around to it, but I'll do it **first thing** on the 4th of January.

first thing: early in the morning; before anything else.

get away with: to do something successfully even though it may not be the best choice or way.

E.g. I think we could **get away with** just gluing the wood together, rather than nailing it in place

get down to something: to start to direct your efforts towards doing something with more focus.

We need to **get down to** business on this project or we'll never get our proposal submitted on time.

get into: to start discussing something.

E.g. I'd like to **get into** why we have made these decisions.

get something across: to manage to make someone understand something

E.g. What I'm trying to **get across** is that it's going to be difficult.

get through: pass a difficult or testing experience or period or complete a task, amount of work or meeting

E.g. We need to start on time today. We have a lot of work to **get through**.

To **get through** this meeting we are going to need a lot of coffee.

get through to: to communicate successfully with someone or be understood

E.g. We managed to **get through** to the client and now they've agreed to the changes.

go over: consider examine or check something

E.g. Could you **go over** this email for me?

Could we **go over** the plans together?

go up/ went up: When houses go up / or they went up it means they were constructed.

E.g. The houses in the neighbourhood went up before the end of the century

kick off: to begin something

E.g. Before we **kick off** the meeting, I want to say thank you for all your hard work this year.

knock off - to finish work for the day.

E.g. What time are you going to **knock off?**

Knock out - produce work at a steady fast rate.

E.g. I **knocked out** the whole proposal in 30 minutes yesterday.

knock over - to make a strong and surprising impression on someone.

E.g. The client was seriously **knocked over** with the concept ideas

Knock up - make something in a hurry.

E.g. We **knocked up** a concept plan in about 20 minutes just in time for the meeting.

go through with: perform an action despite challenges or difficulty.

E.g. I think we will **go through with** our initial plan and see how they respond.

lay out:

1. explain something clearly and carefully.

E.g. We need to methodically **lay out** all the ideas to guide the client to make decisions.

2. spread something out to its full extent, especially so that it can be seen.

E.g. We need to **lay out** all the material samples on the table so they can touch and experience them.

Note: Not to be confused with the noun (**layout**): the way in which the parts of something are arranged or laid out.

line up: to arrange a number of things or people in a straight row.

E.g. The columns go all the way through and they **line up** with the cables.

look back on: look at something in the past and usually used to reflect on something.

E.g. **Looking back on** how this project turned out helped me see how well we dealt with challenges as a team.

look into: to try to discover the facts about something

E.g. If we are going to slightly raise the level of the adjacent pavers, we will need to **look into** a masonry waterproof product for the bricks.

look out for: to pay more attention to something and to look carefully at things around you.

E.g. When you go to the site today can you **look out for** any defects in the paint finish?

look over: inspect something to check it's correct and acceptable.

E.g. Could you **look over** these plans before I send them?

boil down to: if a situation or problem boils down to something, that is the main reason for it.

E.g. This all **boils down to** one thing - the client's expectations which need to be managed carefully.

bounce off: if light or sound bounces off a surface, it hits it and then moves away from it again to make a space bright. **Literal:** You can always see the light **bouncing off** in the lounge.

E.g. : If you have a moment I'd like to **bounce** some ideas **off** you.

blend in: to look or seem the same as the surroundings and not easily noticeable.

E.g. Without a steel edge around the garden bed, the planting between the pavers will really **blend in** with the rest of the garden beds.

break down: to separate something into smaller parts.

E.g. Can you **break down** the design into the three different stages?

bring something up: to talk about something or raise an issue.

E.g. I need to **bring up** something important.

brush up on: improve one's existing knowledge or skill in a particular area.

E.g. By thinking through your responses beforehand and **brushing up on** your English, the meeting with your client can be less stressful.

call for: to make something necessary

E.g. The situation **calls for** a lot of attention to detail.

pencil in:

1. to put (someone or something that may be changed later) on a schedule, list, etc

E.g. When could we **pencil in** our next meeting?

2. sometimes we might say this when working through draft plans

E.g. I'll **pencil in** those ideas on the plans and we can discuss them at the next meeting.

point out: to tell someone about some specific information.

One thing I'd like to **point out** is we can't get access to the site until the end of the month.

put something across: to express your ideas or opinions clearly so that people understand them easily.

E.g. It's such a great idea. Thanks for **putting it across.**

put (something) behind someone: try to ignore or forget something unpleasant

E.g. I'd like to **put** this year **behind** us; it was challenging for many of us.

put something down to something: if you put something down to something, you think it happened because of that particular thing.

E.g. I **put** the success of this project **down** to our persistence and hard work.

put something together: created something by assembling different parts.

We **put together** our ideas for how to design the kitchen.

There are lots of things to consider when **putting** a design concept **together.**

put up with something: to accept a situation the way it is

E.g. I'm not willing to **put up** with how badly the work was executed.

run through: to go through every aspect of something.

E.g. Today we're going to **run through** the electrical design.

run out of something: if a supply of something runs out, the supply of it has been used or is finished.

E.g. We need some more yellow trace paper. We've **run out** of it.

to (not) rush into something: to make your decision too quickly

E.g. Let's **not rush into** this or we might regret it later.

sign off on: to give official approval for something.

E.g. The purpose of today's presentation is to get **sign off on** the concept stage of the design.

sort itself out: to resolve or stop being a problem without anyone having to take action.

E.g. I think you should just forget about it. It will **sort itself out** in the end.

sort out something: to successfully deal with a problem or situation.

E.g. I'm going to call them. We really need to **sort** this **out** before the problem becomes bigger than it needs to.

step in: become involved in a difficult situation, especially in order to help or to stop something.

E.g. I'm really happy you **stepped in** to speak to the builder before they finished because now with the open steel purlins and no roof we can have more plants.

stick with something: maintain the decision

E.g. Can we just **stick with** Besser blocks?

work through: methodically resolve something such as the design concept or construction challenges.

E.g. We need to **work through** some of the electrical design.

wrap up (informal): to complete something successfully or finish doing it.

E.g. Okay, we're going to need to **wrap it up** there.

I've got a few other projects I need to **wrap up** before I'll start this next one.

4. Common Construction Verbs

replace /rɪ'pleɪs/- provide a substitute for (something that is broken, old, or inoperative).

require /rɪ'kwaɪə/- make something necessary

request /rɪ'kwɛst/- an act of asking politely or formally for something.

revise /rɪ'vaɪz/- examine and make corrections or alterations to something

specify /'spesɪfaɪ/- identify clearly and definitely.

submit /səb'mɪt/- present (a proposal, application, or other documents) to a person or body for consideration or judgement.

establish - /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ - set up on a firm or permanent basis or establish something
exclude - /ɪk'sklu:d,ɛk'sklu:d/ - remove from consideration
follow /'fɒləʊ/ - be logical in a sequence of something or come behind someone
identify /aɪ'dentɪfaɪ/ - establish or indicate who or what
include /ɪn'klu:d/ - comprise or contain as part of a whole.
install /ɪn'stɔ:l/ place or fix (equipment or machinery) in position ready for use.
integrate /'ɪntɪgreɪt/ - combine (one thing) with another to form a whole.
involve /ɪn'vɒlv/- have or include (something) as a necessary or integral part or result.
issue /'ɪʃu:,'ɪʃu:/- supply someone with (something).
obtain /əb'teɪn/ - get, acquire, or secure (something).
perform/pə'fɔ:m/ - carry out, accomplish, or fulfil (an action, task, or function).
prepare /prɪ'peɪ:/ - make (something) ready for use or consideration.
present /prɪ'zent/ - show something or give something to someone
propose /prə'pəʊz/ - put forward (a plan or suggestion) for consideration by others.
provide /prə'vaɪd/- equip or supply someone with (something useful or necessary).
refine /rɪ'faɪn/ - tweak/make minor changes so as to improve or clarify (a theory or method)

align /ə'laɪn/ - place or arrange (things) in a straight line.

allow /ə'laʊ/ - make provision or provide scope for.

apply /ə'plai/ - put or spread (a substance) on a surface.

attach /ə'tætʃ/ - join or fasten (something) to something else.

assess /ə'ses/ - evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of something

complete /kəm'pli:t/ - finish (can also be used as an adjective to say something has all the necessary parts)

cover /'kʌvə/ - to put something on top of something else

define /di'faɪn/ - state or describe exactly the nature, scope, or meaning of something

describe /di'skrɪb/ - give a detailed account

determine /di'tə:mɪn/ - ascertain or establish exactly by research or calculation.

detach - /di'tætʃ/ - remove something

develop /di'veləp/ - grow or cause to grow and become more mature, advanced, or elaborate.

ensure /ɪn'ʃʊ:/ - make certain that (something) will occur or be the case.



Conclusion

As you continue on your architectural path, remember that language is not merely a tool but a gateway to creativity, collaboration, and global engagement. Embrace the power of language, harness its potential, and let it be the foundation upon which you build your future as a successful architect. Your ability to articulate, express, and innovate through language will be a driving force in shaping the inspiring and transformative buildings of tomorrow.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

See you in the next lesson!