

# REEP ESL Curriculum for Adults

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## COURSE PLANNING Initial Needs Assessment Activities

The purpose of course planning/initial needs assessment is to:

- assess learners' language learning goals, interests, and needs and
- select the units to cover based on learners' language learning goals, interests, and needs.

**Does "course" mean the same thing as "level"?** Not necessarily. At REEP, courses run 11-12 weeks and vary in intensity from 4-15 hours per week (or 44-180 hours of instruction per course). Each REEP level is designed for between 120-180 hours of instruction. Depending on the intensity of the course, it will take learners more than one course of study to advance to the next level.

**How many instructional units are there per level?** Each level contains up to 10 units. See *unit index in Curriculum Content*.

**How long does each unit take?** This depends on learner needs, but typically you can plan between 20-30 hours of instruction per unit.

**Are any of the units required?** Only the "Getting Started" and "Final Reflections" Units are required.

**Is it necessary to cover all of the units for each level in one course?** No! the curriculum is not designed so that all units are covered in one course. In courses of 180 hours, for example, it is reasonable to have learners select 3-4 lifeskills units in addition to the "Getting Started" and "Final Reflections" Units. Less intensive courses will not be able to cover as many units in one course.

**How are the units selected?** The learners select 3-4 priority units based on their language learning goals, interests, and needs. In this way, learners decide the contexts through which they wish to learn the language skills for a particular level.

**How do I meaningfully involve my learners in selecting which units to cover?** Needs assessment is an objective in the "Getting Started" unit at each level. Resources, ideas, and activities are suggested in the Getting Started Unit. Also, see *Needs Assessment* in this section for background information and needs assessment activities.

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