


# **“An Introduction to EAP – Academic Skills in English”**

## *Lesson 1*

Academic English  
Seminar Skills



# English for Academic Purposes

- **What is Academic English?**  
“EAP is concerned with those communication skills in English which are required for study purposes in formal education systems”(ETIC 1975).

# What is Academic English?

- You may be confident in using English in everyday situations, but the kind of English you need for study is rather different. It is what is known as 'Academic English' and is the type of English you need for
  - reading and understanding your study materials
  - writing about your subject.
- Academic English is different from everyday spoken English. It may be used to
  - describe an object, a situation, a process or how something works
  - explain something.

# What is Academic English?

- Much of Academic English is about expressing the relationship between ideas. Although the language may be more complex than in everyday English, good academic writers aim to be as **clear, precise and simple** as possible. **They think about what their readers know already, and aim to guide them towards less familiar areas and topics.**

# Welcome to Academia!!!

- What elements make up a country?
  - Language
  - People
  - Provinces
  - Laws
  - Communication
  - Currency

# Language

- Objective
- Straightforward
- Impersonal tone communicating ideas and information
- Academic vocabulary
- Clear and logical structure

# People

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- The academic community or academics
- Professional researchers and writers
- Professors and lecturers
- Research students
- Undergraduates and post-graduates

# Provinces

- Different fields of study
  - Literature
  - Linguistics
  - Medicine
  - Accounting
  - IT
  - Economics



# Laws

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- How data is collected
- What cheating and plagiarism mean
- How academics should relate to each other
- How facts are established and theories disproved

# Communication

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- Academic journals
- Conferences and reports
- Learned societies
- Seminars and lectures
- Theses and dissertations
- Books

# Currency

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- Academic qualifications and publications

# EAP as a CODE

- EAP - English for Academic Purposes – refers to the **language and associated practices** that people need in order to undertake study or work in **English medium higher education**. The objective of our course will be to help you learn some of the **linguistic and cultural – mainly institutional and disciplinary – practices** involved in studying through the medium of English.

# Seminar Skills 1

## • Task 1: Expressing an Opinion/ Agreement and Disagreement

1.1 Underline the phrases in the sentences below that you can use to express an opinion.

- a) Personally, I think that it was the worst film I've ever seen.
- b) My impression is that the storyline was too weak.
- c) It's my belief that she's an excellent actress.
- d) My personal view is that she should win the Oscar.
- e) I feel sure that she will win the Oscar this year.
- f) I don't think there can be much doubt that the recent rise in the cinema ticket price has affected audience numbers.

# Seminar Skills 1

**1.2** Can you think of any other phrases that are used to express an opinion?

**1.3** Write down your views on the following topics and give reasons, e.g. *Personally, I think that*

- Non-native speakers do not need to speak like native speakers, nor should they feel inferior to them.
- Only one 'correct' and authentic variety of English exists and it is British English.
- The English language is the most flexible and adaptable language in the world.
- Fluent communication is more important than accuracy when you speak English.

# Seminar Skills 1

- 1.4 Work with a partner. Write down all the phrases you know for expressing agreement, disagreement and partial agreement.
- 1.5 Discuss the opinions you wrote down in exercise 1.3 and comment on each others opinions using the expressions above, e.g.
  - **Student A:** *Personally, I think that English is the greatest language on the planet.*
  - **Student B:** *You have a point, but don't you think....?*

# Seminar Skills 2

- **Task 2: Asking for Opinions or Clarification**

Sometimes you won't understand clearly the point another student has made, or you might want to hear their opinion on what has been said.

**2.1** Look at the following phrases and mark them C (asking for clarification) or O (asking for an opinion).



# Seminar Skills 2

- **Example)** Any comments? ○
- a) What's your reaction to.....?
- b) What did you mean when you said.....?
- c) Could you explain in more detail?
- d) What do you think about.....?
- e) If I understand you correctly, you're saying....
- f) So what you're saying is that....?
- g) Do you mean.....?
- h) How do you feel about that?
- i) What are your views on this?

## Seminar Skills 2

**2.2** Work in pairs to complete the sentences below, using a suitable phrase from task 2.1.

**a) Student A:** *I think living in a flat is better than living in a house because you have fewer expenses.*

**Student B:** \_\_\_\_\_ you have to pay more to rent a house?

**b) Student A:** *In my opinion it's better to work from home than go to an office every day.*

\_\_\_\_\_?

**Student B:** *I'm not sure I agree with you about that.*

## Seminar Skills 2

**c) Student A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*children being educated at home rather than going to school?*

**Student B:** *It's my belief that these children do not have an opportunity to develop strong social skills.*

**d) Student A:** *It's important that we acknowledge all the sources we refer to in our essays.*

**Student B:** \_\_\_\_\_ we  
*have to put the author's name and the date of the publication after each paraphrase?*

# Seminar Skills 3

- **Task 3: Useful Vocabulary**

## 3.1 Being objective

You may need express an idea on a topic more objectively rather than give your own personal opinion. To show that your comment is not subjective begin your sentences with one of the following phrases.

In most cases, .....

Broadly speaking, .....

On the whole, .....

In general, .....

**e.g.** *In most cases, it is difficult to stay motivated when you work from home.*

# Seminar Skills 3

## 3.2 Interrupting

Sometimes other students may dominate the conversation and you would like to give your opinion. Here are some phrases you can use to politely interrupt.

- Sorry to interrupt but.....
- Can I just ask.....?
- Yes, but.....
- Excuse me, can I just say.....?
- Could I come in here, please?