

Meet Alexander Pikalov, Russia

General English Standard



From: Moscow, Russia

Occupation: Marketing student, *Moscow State University*

Course: General English Standard

Length: 3 weeks

Accommodation: International Students House

Previous courses at Central School: General English Standard 10 weeks, Summer 2010

Biggest achievement at CSE:

"I started learning English at level 2 and finished at level 4! I would have never thought I'd be able to do it!"

Why did you choose Central School of English?

"I need to learn English because it is an international language and the language of business. I was given advice at an agency in Russia about CSE. It was the right choice because the time I've spent at CSE was absolutely amazing!"

Firstly, I really improved my level of English. Secondly, I have met more than 100 such nice people from all over the world. My initial goals were to improve my grammar, and to overcome the language barrier, and I can now say I have successfully done it. I will always recommend CSE courses to others."

"Alex is a really great addition to the class; energetic, motivated, friendly, he is always smiling and is an active learner."

Robin Smith, CSE teacher

Advancing Alex's English

Feedback from Robin Smith, Alex's Accuracy teacher

Grammar - Tenses

Although Alex's accuracy and grammar is solid, he does tend to rely on simple and straightforward structures in order to express himself.

For example, an over-reliance on simple and continuous tenses, when a perfect tense may be more appropriate; I was / I had been.

To amend this I placed focus on speaking tasks in pairs to advance the use of perfect tenses - with written tasks for homework and a test on Friday to consolidate the week's work.

Vocabulary

Occasionally Alex has confusion over exact usage. For example, when learning personality adjectives he used 'soft-touch' as a synonym for "easy-going", which, although it has an approximate meaning, is markedly different in the way it is used and conveys a quite different connotation.

We used error correction techniques in class to find more appropriate adjectives, for example; writing the phrase on the whiteboard and inviting the class to discuss and suggest alternatives.

Pre-intermediate Level 2	Intermediate Level 3	Upper Intermediate Level 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the gist of news from newspapers & TV - Give & receive information relating to self/ country/job/travel - Conduct a simple, prepared talk on a topic of their choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take part in social conversations with native and non-native speakers - Understand English accents - Express opinions on topics of general interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competent in social interaction & ability to participate in discussions - Good pronunciation to communicate information & ideas - Responding to unrehearsed questions
Introduction to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present simple - Present continuous - Present perfect - Past simple - Past continuous - Introduction to phrasal verbs Vocabulary building on various topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforcement of present and past tenses - Perfect tenses Practice of phrasal verbs - Compound nouns - Prefixes & suffixes - Introduction to conditionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competent use of tenses - Indirect question forms - Conditionals - Idioms/colloquial language - Rhetorical language
IELTS level 3 BULATS - A2 KET	IELTS level 3 - 5 BULATS - B1 PET BEC Preliminary	IELTS level 5 - 6.5 BULATS - B2 FCE BEC Vantage

"Every teacher has a different style of teaching, which is very interesting. I don't think there are necessarily any particular areas of English that Russian speakers find difficult. It depends on the person, it depends on your aims!"

Alexander Pikalov