Basic Course Information

Semester:	**Spring 2026**	Instructor Name:	**Ingrid Sbacchi Bairstow**
Course Title & #:	**ESL 015 Speaking & Listening for Low Advanced ESL**	Email:	**Ingrid.bairstow@imperial.edu**
CRN #:	**20609**	Webpage (optional):	**n/a**
Classroom:	**2735**	Office #:	**Building 2700; 2799**
Class Dates:	**Feb. 17 - June 12, 2026**	Office Hours:	**M 1-3; Tu 5-6pm; W 5-6pm Other times by appointment**
Class Days:	**Wednesdays**	Office Phone #:	**PRONTO**
Class Times:	**6-8:30 pm**	Emergency Contact:	**Lency Lucas 760-355-6337**
Units:	**5**	Class Format/Modality:	**HYBRID**

Course Description

ESL 015 is a listening and speaking course for ESL students who want to develop oral language and listening skills at the low-advanced level. Students learn to comprehend authentic lectures, talks and reports and effectively express ideas and points of view in spoken English on a variety of common academic topics. This course may be taken concurrently with other Level 5 ESL courses. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for COMM 100. (CEFR B2) (Nontransferable, nondegree applicable)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

PREREQUISITES: ESL 014- or appropriate placement.
RECOMMENDED COMPANION COURSE: ESL 005 and ESL 025

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Apply knowledge of English pronunciation rules in oral and/or aural exercises.
2. Participate in speeches/ conversations/ presentations utilizing the format and vocabulary of the identified speech act.
3. Listen to a passage or conversation and identify the main ideas and supporting details, either orally or in writing.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a high proportion of the sounds in the target language despite a few systematic mispronunciations;

2. Generally use appropriate intonation, place stress correctly, and articulate individual sounds clearly;

3. Distinguish main themes provided the lecture or talk is delivered in standard language or familiar variety;

4. Follow the organization of academic lectures, take notes, and respond to questions;

5. Give a clear, prepared presentation, giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view and giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options;

6. Initiate, maintain and end discourse appropriately with effective turn taking;

7. Use a range of vocabulary to express themselves on most topics pertinent to everyday life such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

You will not need to buy any textbooks.
You will use these three resources for the class: (details on creating your account will be discussed in class).

- CANVAS
- Elli.com
- Chattybots

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Communicate in English as much as possible. This course is designed to help you improve your speaking and listening skills in English. If you do not practice using English or do not use English to communicate online with your classmates or with your teacher, your progress will be slower.

You may be expected to speak in English online in the following contexts:
(1) with a partner;
(2) in a small group;
(3) with your teacher;
(5) in recorded, online assignments;
(6) with strangers in out-of-class assignments.

You will also listen to audio clips and watch videos and will be expected to discuss and write about the content in English. Sometimes there will be lectures and you will take notes. Other times, you will do individual writings and exercises.

Success: Acquiring another language requires focused effort. Completing online activities is simply not sufficient for you to succeed. You must study, speak, read, and listen to English as much as you possibly can outside of class. College guidelines suggest that you study two hours for every hour of class. Since this is a five-hour class, this would mean that you are expected to study or participate in some other learning activity for an additional ten hours every week.'

Instructional Methodology: Demonstration, Discussion Group Activity, Distance Learning, Audio/Visual, Computer Assisted Instruction.

Ellii

Ellii is an online platform we will be using in our class. It takes the place of a textbook. Doing exercises on Ellii is not optional.

Manage your time. Do not try to complete your assignments in one day. It will be too much for you to do and too much for your brain to handle. If you do not do your work, or you do not submit your work when it is due, you will not pass the class.

Success: Acquiring another language requires focused effort. Sitting in class is simply not sufficient for you to succeed. You must study, speak, read, and listen to English as much as you possibly can outside of class. College guidelines suggest that you study two hours for every hour of class. Since this is a five-hour class, this would mean that you are expected to study or participate in some other learning activity for an additional ten hours every week.'

Instructional Methodology: Demonstration, Discussion Group Activity, Individual Assistance Lecture, Distance Learning, Audio/Visual, Computer Assisted Instruction.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Communication	10%
Speaking Skills	25%
Listening Skills	25%
Grammar	10%
Speeches & Presentations	30%
TOTAL	100%

To pass this class, you need 70% (C).

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Updated 11/2024

AI and this class:

"It is better to know how to learn than to know." - Dr. Seuss

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a tool taking the world by storm. It was first created to speed up business processes, but now it influences how we think, write, and create. While AI is powerful, the way humans truly learn has not changed: **learning requires effortful work**.

As your teacher, my goal is to help you grow into a strong, independent thinker who can express yourself clearly in this new world. AI can do the *work for you, but it cannot do the learning for you*. Real learning only happens when you practice thinking, analyzing, and creating for yourself.

I am not against AI — I use AI, but I also know how to read, write, and think critically. I believe before you can use artificial tools well, you need a strong foundation in your own skills. My responsibility as your teacher is to help you build that foundation.

This is my policy:
>   1. **I appeal first to your integrity** — if you want to learn, do the work yourself.
>   2. **Unless otherwise stated, all assignments in this class are to be completed <mark>without</mark> the use of AI tools.**
>   This includes ChatGPT, Grammarly (beyond basic spell check), and any other AI-assisted writing tools. Spell check is fine. We will have specific moments in the semester to explore AI together in a guided way, so you can learn how to use it responsibly and with purpose.

Consequence for AI use:
>   3. I love my job because I get to help students grow, not because I want to spend my time acting like a "police officer" checking for cheating. This is what is happening in schools now. If I must put on my "police hat" instead of my "professor hat,":
>> a. I will always talk to you first. You will have the opportunity to redo the assignment within a specific amount of time (with penalty of being late).
>> b. If cheating or plagiarism continues, I will report you to my department chair, who will have the same discussion with you. We cannot give a college degree to a person who does not know how to think.

When can you use AI:
I have created assignments where we can practice using AI responsibly and ethically together. This will be very clear in the assignments.

If you don't know or are you confused about AI – always come to me FIRST

These are examples of AI which are NOT allowed:

- ChatGPT Grammarly
- Grammarly Pro
- You.com
- Microsoft Co-Pilot
- Google Gemini
- Any other AI

Para esta clase:

A veces, puedo pedirte que uses CHAT GPT para una tarea.

Si te pido que uses CHAT GPT, esta; bien. Sin embargo, usar Chat GPT u otro software de IA para escribir tu trabajo es una forma de deshonestidad academica y no esta permitido. El trabajo que entregues para nuestra clase debe ser tu trabajo. Si descubro que entregas un trabajo que no escribiste tu mismo, recibiras un CERO (0) para el trabajo o puedo pedirte que lo escribas nuevamente. Estos son ejemplos de IA que NO estann permitidas: ChatGPT Grammarly Grammarly Pro You.com Microsoft Co-Pilot Google Gemini

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through ***DSPS***, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

- **When do modules open and close?** You have one week to complete each module. Modules open on **Wednesday morning at 8 am** and close at **11:59 pmTuesday** night the next week (7 days).
- **Can I complete work when I want?** Yes, you can! However, you must complete each module by the deadline. (Sunday night at 11:59 pm).
- **Can I complete my work after the module closes?** Yes. However, you will lose **1% per day**.
- **What happens if I have a problem?** If something happens, please email me as soon as possible! I will work to help you!

ATTENDANCE

Any student who does not complete the orientation unit or take at least one practice quiz by the end of the first day of class will be dropped. If you want to add the class, there must be space in the class. I do not drop students at any other time during the semester.

CLASS ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is required for this course. You will also have exercises on Canvas and on Elli, but you must also attend class.

- Regular participation is required. Participation includes:
- Completing weekly work on Canvas;

- Completing weekly work in Ellii;
- Completing Chattybots;
- Submitting your work on time;

If there is a problem with completing your work (such as being in the hospital or being sick), please let me know. I am willing to help you, but you need to make sure you communicate with me.

Other Course Information

Late Work Policy: Any student struggling with a deadline should contact the instructor as soon as possible. With prior notice, some deadlines may be adjusted at the instructor's discretion. Without prior notice or contact, assignments may be submitted in the week following the original due date, but you will lose **1% per day**.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Calendar for ESL 015

Week	COMMUNICATION Vocabulary	LISTENING	SPEAKING	GRAMMAR	SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS
Week 1 SPEAK UP!	Introduction and orientation to the class Vocabulary SPEAK UP	Introduction to taking notes Introduction to class song: "It's My Life" by Bon Jovi Listen: Brene Brown "The Power of Vulnerability"	Introduction to pronunciation: Letters, words, sentences. Letters: Pronunciation: short and long vowels Change: Introduction to Chattybots Chattybot #1	Review: Verb tenses **(Elli)**	**Prepare:** Who Am I? 2- minute speech
Week 2 SPEAK UP!	Vocabulary - SPEAK UP	Listen: The Power of Vulnerability: tone and body language Notes: Listing method It's My Life	Pronunciation: Voiced vs Voiceless sounds Pronunciation: Final ending sounds: 's' Regular vs plural nouns **(Elli)** Asking questions: Chattybot #2	Simple present and present progressive	**Present:** Who Am I? **Ask: Yes/No** questions
Week 3 LISTENING TO LEARN	Vocabulary: LISTENING TO LEARN	Notes: Outline method Listening for key ideas "Why Some People Learn Faster"	Pronunciation Final sounds: 'ing' Final sounds: 'ed' Asking better questions: WH questions Chattybot #3	Simple past and past progressive **(Elli)** -ing/-ed adjectives **(Elli)**	**Listening to learn summary presentation using past tense and notes** **Ask WH questions**
Week 4 LISTENING TO LEARN	Vocabulary: LISTENING TO LEARN	Notes: Outline Method Listening: "How to study for	Pronunciation: 'ed' Asking better	Reported Speech Asking Y/N questions **(Elli)**	**Listening to learn using reported speech presentation**

		exams"	questions: WH Chattybot#4		**Ask WH questions**
Week 5 MISSION POSSIBLE: MAPPING YOUR FUTURE	Vocabulary: Expressing goals	Notes: Mapping Method Listen: Why You Should Define Your Fears Instead of Your Goals" (Tim Ferriss)	Pronunciation: Word stress Questions: Embedded questions Chattybot #5	Future tenses : Simple Future **(Elli)**	Prepare: Vision (Goals) Poster
Week 6 MISSION POSSIBLE: MAPPING YOUR FUTURE	Vocabulary: Expressing goals	Notes: Mapping Method 2 Listen: "How I Stay Motivated"	Pronunciation: Word stress; Sentence stress Chattybot #6	Future tenses: Future Progressive **(Elli)**	Practice: Vision Poster
Week 7 MISSION POSSIBLE: MAPPING YOUR FUTURE	Vocabulary: Expressing goals	Notes: Choose Listen: AI Predicts Your Future Career	Pronunciation: Review word and sentence stress for poster presentation Chattybot #7	Future tenses: Future perfect **(Elli)**	Present to the public: Vision Poster
Week 8 MIDTERM					MIDTERM: Conversation with the teacher
Week 9 DEBATE SKILLS	Vocabulary: Debate skills	Notes: Cornell Method Listening: What I Learned from My 15 Years in Prison	Pronunciation: Pitch and volume for persuasion Chattybot #7	Conditionals: Zero Conditional **(Elli)**	**Prepare** for your debate
Week 10 DEBATE SKILLS	Vocabulary: Debate skills	Notes: Cornell Method Listening: The Future of Cultural Heritage	Pronunciation: Stress for contrast Chattybot #8	Conditionals: First Conditional **(Elli)**	**Practice** for your debate
Week 11 DEBATE SKILLS	Vocabulary: Debate #1	Notes: Choose Listening;	Pronunciation: Intonation for questions Chattybot #9	Conditionals: Second Conditional (**Elli)**	**Present** your debate
Week 12 COMPLAINTS AND THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE	Vocabulary: Complaints and the power of your voice	Notes: Choose Listening: Meetings	Pronunciation: Stress for politeness and correctness Chattybot #10	Modals **(Elli)**	Prepare your complaint

| Week 13

COMPLAINTS AND THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE | Vocabulary: Complaints | Notes: Choose

Listening: Meetings | Pronunciation: Intonation for requests

Chattybot #11 | Modals **(Elli)** | Practice your complaint |
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| **Week 14**

COMPLAINTS AND THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE | Vocabulary: Complaints | Notes: Choose

Listening: Meetings | Pronunciation: Intonation for requests

Chattybot #12 | Modals **(Elli)** Tag questions | Present your complaint |
| **Week 15** 11/18 | Vocabulary: Review All | Review All | Review All | Review All | Reflective Panel Presentation |
| **Week 16** | | FINAL EXAM WEEK | | | |

*The professor reserves the right to make changes as needed.