



Sharing One Language

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES 2012

Our very successful English language courses are now in their 21st year. We have now welcomed over 38,000 students to these courses, almost all from Eastern Central Europe. Most students come as part of a group with their regular teachers. Our pre-course consultation with you ensures that what we provide is what will most help your students! Where numbers from one school make things uneconomic, we try to link schools together, but our new open courses make that much less of a problem.

The overwhelming feedback on courses is excellent - very practical and concentrating on giving students confidence to **use** English naturally. On visits fieldwork is now being introduced to provide more opportunity for using English. Also the tasks set for the evenings give a chance for our host families to help with this, both in the evenings and on Sunday. If a student only has a short time with us for a language course, we want that time made maximum use of, and all their time with us is very important!! Our ideal locations in Barnstaple, Bideford, and Tiverton, further enhance our courses.

The daytime is usually divided into two; one half classes, the other short trips or activities. Lessons involve a great deal of practical use of language, dealing with real situations, and are often related to work done with the families or in the activities or visits undertaken. The visits are both to beautiful places and with guides who further engage the students in using the language.

POINTS TO NOTE

- We are not a language school but we offer an outstanding cultural and language experience for students and teachers
- This offers the best value in terms of motivating students and giving them confidence to use English for real purposes
- Our experience with students and teachers from central and eastern Europe is second to none
- One teacher comes free for every complete group of 8 students
- 10% deposit confirms the booking – which is held provisionally for one month.
- We are open ALL year! The climate is moderate, and winters are mild - the Atlantic Ocean is just 10 km away!
- The price is **INCLUSIVE** - no hidden extras, other than any special visits or requests e.g. Youth hostels, or visits after leaving Devon.
- Full 8½ hour programme each day including fieldwork on visits, plus tasks with the family in the evening. Sunday is family day.
- Students are placed in friendly and supportive families, preferably with friends as they speak more English this way.
- 1 half price place is available, for children of accompanying teachers for every 15 students brought - these do not count towards determining the number of teaching groups or free teacher places.
- We can book Youth hostels to extend the stay in the UK, but must be paid for at the time of booking (exact price + £20 fee/group)
- For schools with small groups of students who wish to travel by coach we can sometimes find similar schools to join with them.
- We do cover expenses incurred by the organising teacher, so no teacher will be out of pocket organising a group.
- Additional teaching groups can be agreed. Normally 1 is given for up to 18 fully paid students, 2 for 19 - 40 students and 3 if more.
- **Safety and security** of students are paramount – evenings are with the families unless responsibility is transferred to the visiting teacher.
- Adults are welcome but only as participants and there is a small daily supplement to pay.
- SOL is a small organisation and treats everyone personally before during and after the stay.

LOCATION

SOL has three centres in Devon; Barnstaple & Bideford and Tiverton. All three towns are safe environments, have populations under 30,000 and are situated 300 km due west of London in the beautiful South West of England. This is the REAL England!!!

OTHER COURSES RUN BY SOL

Each summer we run outstanding courses for TEACHERS with excellent trainers. Because our commitment is to support teachers of English in their work, we run this on a highly subsidised basis - and without any loss of quality. It is definitely the lowest UK price by far (from 440 GBP)!! A slightly longer course eligible for Comenius funding is also run.

THE FAMILIES

All families have been carefully selected and are personally visited in their homes by SOL, to ensure that we only use good, supportive friendly hosts. They provide all meals (including packed lunch on course days), and take responsibility for getting the student to and from the SOL centre. If any problems arise, they are dealt with on a personal level. Bedroom accommodation will provide necessary privacy for quiet reading and study, though much of the evening time and Sunday will be spent with the family itself. Many families enjoy welcoming more than one student at a time and we have found that when students are placed together they help and encourage each other to use English in a family environment. It is sometimes possible to place students from different nationalities together in a family, but whatever the situation the language of the home is English!!

Students and teachers are asked to complete a simple information sheet about themselves in order to help us match them up with families. These sheets need to be received by us at least 6 weeks before the course begins.

TRAVEL

By coach: This is usually your most economical way of travelling, and you see a lot of Europe en route! You arrange the coach transport in your own country, we organise the ferry and driver accommodation and the coach is used for all trips. Linking with other schools in the area may make this more of a possibility as a full coach will mean lower costs to the students.

By air or public service coach: We meet you at your arrival point in London (or Bristol) and provide all the transport within England. For a group of 40 students, the cost of the course is almost the same as by coach.

WHEN TO VISIT

Inevitably we have too many requests for the spring and summer vacation periods. It is very busy then, so we do urge teachers to discuss with their Head about a term-time visit if at all possible. The educational value to a student of our language and cultural experience is enormous!! It benefits more than just their English and can be the most significant experience of their school career.

As for the weather, the climate is moderate in all seasons, and the good sunshine record is one of the reasons why it is such a popular holiday area. Although it can be unpredictable most groups find it much better than its image!! When it rains, it rarely lasts long, and, even in winter, day temperatures are always above 0°C.

Arrival in Devon will normally be on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon (Sunday for 7 day visits). The departure, the following week, will be early enough to allow a full 8+hour day in London for groups using their own coach. In Devon the whole programme is fully organised, but after leaving Devon the responsibility lies with the group leader, though SOL is ready to give as much assistance as needed in planning further visits. Many groups plan extra nights near London or elsewhere enabling the group to visit other places of interest (e.g.: Bath, Oxford, Stratford). SOL is ready to help with all this but much can be arranged nowadays on-line!

LANGUAGE COURSE PRICES 2012

Groups booked and 50% paid for by Dec 24th are able to pay 2011 prices for all students booked in at that point in time

COACH GROUPS

The price does not include travel, but includes accommodation, full board, tuition and guiding, all admission charges in Devon plus Stonehenge, return ferry crossings and guest-house accommodation for 2 coach drivers.

A small budget for each group is set aside to cover organising teachers' expenses.

Days in UK <small>(includes Stonehenge & London).</small>	Nights in Devon	STANDARD PRICE 12 Mar – 2 June; 26 Aug - 6 Oct	Winter Season To 11 Mar and From 7 Oct	Mid Season 3 - 27 Jun 15 – 25 Aug	Summer Season 28 Jun - 15 Aug
10	9	£336	£296	£351	£396
9	8	£310	£270	£325	£370
8	7	£284	£244	£299	£344
7	6	£258	£218	£273	£318
6	5	£232	£192	£247	£292

Additional days beyond 10: + £26 per day

Less days than 6: - £21 per day

Additional teaching groups: are provided automatically and free for groups of 41 or over, as long as the numbers have been confirmed as final at least 6 weeks beforehand. Otherwise a third teaching group will cost £10 per student on a 10day course, or £7 for a 7day course. Such a request must also be made 6 weeks before the course.

Adult participants will be charged **£4 per night extra** (full-time non-employed University students (under 25) count as students).

For small groups prices hold for 34 + 3 teachers. For each student less than 34 in number add £15 per day to the total GROUP price. So 30 students on a 7day course means $(34-30) \times 15 \times 7 = £420$ is added to the TOTAL group cost.

AIR GROUPS (or other groups arriving by public transport)

The price excludes the travel to the UK, but includes everything else including all the Devon programme travel, plus direct transfers between any London arrival/departure point and North Devon at suitable times (we have NO night arrivals or departures in Devon which is 4-5 hours from London). There will be a supplementary cost for any change from the direct route to and from Devon, e.g. for a short visit to central London if flight and journey times permit.

A small budget for each group is also set aside to cover visiting teachers' expenses, except travel.

The prices given below are per student for groups between 17 and 23 in number. Otherwise the price will vary with the size of the group, as indicated. All prices are reduced by 5% during the winter season above.

6 – 7 students	+ 40 %	13 – 16 students	+ 10%	36 – 40 students	- 15%
8 – 9 students	+ 25%	24 – 29 students	- 5%	41 – 47 students	- 20%
10 – 12 students	+ 17.5 %	30 – 35 students	- 10%	48+ students	- 25%
7 days**	£390	8 days**	£425	9 days**	£455
10 days**	£490	11 days**	£525	12 days**	£560

**The number of nights in Devon is one less than the number of days IN the UK.

Adult participants will be charged **£4 per night extra** (full-time non-employed University students (up to 24) count as students).

OPEN COURSES run through the summer and are a fixed price of **£455** per student for a 10 day course. Special 7 day Open courses start on July 8 & 22 (**£365**) and 8 day Open courses start on July 15 & 29 (**£390**).

These courses are for smaller groups which come by air or public coach and combine together in our centres. The price does not depend on the number of students and the free teacher ratio is 1:8.

The prices include direct transfer between London (central or airport) and Devon. SOL is responsible for the timings involved which are subject to the different flight arrangements of each participating group. Flights in to London on arrival day must be before 15.00 and return flights should be booked after 14.30 (13.00 Heathrow).

Your local contact is:.....

The 2012 OLYMPICS in London are between July 27th & Aug 12th. Throughout July & August, any additional accommodation required in London will probably need to be booked by November to avoid disappointment.