



**Bachson Academy at Assumption College**  
**500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609**  
[info@bachsonacademy.org](mailto:info@bachsonacademy.org) tel. 857-498-5430

## **Course Descriptions and Schedule – Spring 2018**

### **Pre-Intermediate Listening and Speaking (Monday and Wednesday 4 – 6 PM)**

This course develops students' academic and everyday listening and speaking skills through audio, video, and discussion. Students will be introduced to a variety of cultural and contemporary topics. Students will also learn to organize and give short presentations on topics of personal knowledge and interest. Each class will also include pronunciation focus, with special attention given to commonly confused consonant and vowel sounds, the concept of word and syllable stress, and intonation patterns for questions and statements.

### **Intermediate Listening and Speaking (Monday and Wednesday 6:30 – 8:30 PM)**

In this course, students will improve their listening skills with audio, video, and in-class dialogue and discussion, expand their vocabulary, and improve their speaking fluency, accuracy, and pronunciation through conversation, discussion, dialogues, chants, and short presentations about life experiences, practical and everyday topics, students' own interests, and current events. Students will significantly increase their vocabulary and learn common phrasal verbs, prepositional phrases, useful expressions and structures for conversation. In each class, there will also be emphasis on improving pronunciation of sounds and developing more natural rhythm and intonation.

### **High Intermediate Listening and Speaking (Monday and Wednesday 6:30 – 8:30 PM)**

This course builds on the previous level, and is suitable for those students who can function participate in 1-1 conversations in their daily lives but who sometimes do not have the words or knowledge of how to express their ideas and ask the questions they want to ask, especially in less routine situations. Students will develop their listening comprehension and learn to better understand relationships between ideas in longer talks and extended discussions, identify speakers' use of figurative language, understand implied ideas and speakers' opinions and moods. Students will learn to express opinions with reasons, describe people, places, events, hopes, problems, and processes with detail, talk about possible and probable events, make suggestions and give warnings, and maintain longer conversations on most general topics. Students will also continue to improve their pronunciation and learn to give a short, clearly organized presentation using visuals.

### **Advanced Listening and Speaking (Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM)**

This course is for students who have general fluency but who wish to use more natural, everyday expressions and varied, more precise vocabulary in their conversations and presentations and to improve their understanding in group discussions and meetings, of different native speakers' accents,



**Bachson Academy at Assumption College**  
**500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609**  
[info@bachsonacademy.org](mailto:info@bachsonacademy.org) tel. 857-498-5430

and of talks and recorded audio and video. Classes will include focus on learning idioms, phrasal verbs, prepositional phrases, collocations (word combinations in English), and higher-level vocabulary, and students will also learn strategies and be directed to useful apps and resources for further, independent study. Stimulating discussions, talks, videos and assignments will cover many fields and contemporary topics and are designed to stretch students' abilities into new areas. Students will also receive individual evaluations, study plans and recommendations for pronunciation improvement.

### **Pronunciation Improvement: Stress, Rhythm, and Sounds (Saturdays 10:30 – 12:30 PM)**

This course is designed for non-native speakers who have at least an intermediate level of fluency and comprehension in English, but who need help with pronunciation, which limits them socially and professionally. People are often uncomfortable spending much time talking with speakers they have difficulty understanding. Also, non-native speakers' unnatural intonation (the musical melody of English) can cause many misunderstandings as speakers can sound rude, aggressive, bored or uncertain without intention. In this course, we will work hard on specific problem sounds each student has (students will be assigned individual homework practice) and learn and apply some common rules about the connections between sounds and spelling. Students will also learn to recognize and replicate stress and intonation patterns of American English and the effect these have on meaning. We will practice the flow, rhythm and melody of common structures through chants, dialogues, poetry, songs, and short speeches, and students will learn how to use their voices more effectively to communicate feelings, give presentations, make requests, and tell stories and jokes.

### **Intermediate Reading and Writing (Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 12 PM)**

If you are at the intermediate level of English, a good next step toward fluency is immersing yourself in reading and writing. Written language is richer, more colorful and more precise than conversational English. Some linguists and neuroscientists say that reading is the best way to gain fluency in a language. By reading, you learn vocabulary, useful phrases and grammar in the context of stories and interesting information – and seeing words and phrases and writing them in a meaningful context increases your ability to remember them. In this class we will learn specific strategies to learn vocabulary from reading, to determine meaning of text even if you don't know all the words, and to increase reading speed and fluency. We will read short stories, personal essays, and articles, a longer book, and write about the ideas we have read about in paragraphs, journal entries, and short 3- to 5-paragraph essays.

### **Business English (Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM)**

A course for intermediate to advanced students who want to improve their communication in a business setting. The class focuses on English as it is used in the workplace. We learn vocabulary and practice



**Bachson Academy at Assumption College**  
**500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609**  
[info@bachsonacademy.org](mailto:info@bachsonacademy.org) tel. 857-498-5430

everyday language for a variety of work situations, including discussing schedules, making plans and appointments, making polite requests and offers, placing orders, participating in meetings, giving presentations, discussing numbers and financial figures, giving instructions, explaining problems, describing cause and effect, asking for clarification and confirmation, giving positive and negative feedback, and more, in consideration of students' needs and priorities. Students practice listening and speaking skills, read and discuss business materials, and practice writing e-mail and business letters.

### **TOEFL Test Prep (Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 6 PM)**

An intensive course that helps students prepare for the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). This course will provide intensive review of the four key skills tested on the TOEFL exam: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with a review of grammatical structures as needed. We will practice with common question types, improve academic vocabulary, and learn key strategies for success on each section of the exam. Book included in tuition.

#### **Did you know?**

The TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is not only required for admission to many universities, medical and licensing agencies use them for professional certification and immigration departments use them to issue residential and work visas.