

Citizenship Language Pack For Migrants in Europe - Extended

English

Multimedia Course in Language and Culture for Migrants

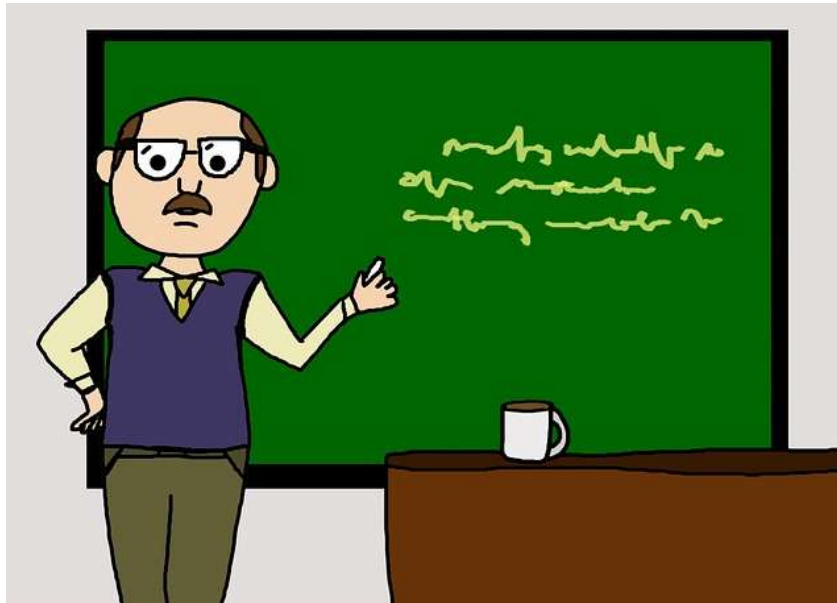
A2 Level

To aid communication in everyday English in Ireland

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School 9:

School



Introduction

Here we see the teacher of a school, Mr Hayes, dealing with the difficult situation of detailing to a concerned mother issues surrounding her son. The family is experiencing difficulties at home and the boy is stressed and not behaving correctly or completing his homework exercises. We will learn of these issues and the associated terminology and vocabulary. In an attempt to solve these problems the teacher offers a suggestion.

Dialogue 1 – Parent and Teacher Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAHmRvsK0yq3eKIr35DOT7-5M2f7ynI4m>

 Mrs Flaherty		<p>Situation: Phoning a school</p> <p>Characters: Mrs Flaherty and Niall Hayes</p>
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Mrs Flaherty- Good afternoon, Mr Hayes. I got your message yesterday and was wondering what is going on with Alan.

Niall Hayes- Good afternoon, Mrs Flaherty. Well, it is not going very well. Alan has failed the last six tests...

Mrs Flaherty- I had a suspicion that he was not doing very well at school, even though he assured me that everything was OK.

Mr Hayes- Yes, I understand. Well, Alan is always in a fluster these days. It's difficult for him to concentrate on what the rest of the class is doing. Homework is often not done at all.

Mrs Flaherty- I did not know this. He always told me that his homework was done.

Mr Hayes- He is not doing very well in mathematics, Irish, or history. In other classes, I have to say he is fairly good.

Mrs Flaherty- I will try to work with him more at home.

Mr Hayes- Alan recently started to behave boldly. Sometimes he even starts fights with the other children.

Mrs Flaherty- He's quite peaceful at home. But I suspect that this may be due to the fact that we're having some problems in our family at the moment.

Mr Hayes- Ah, well, I advise you to take Alan to meet our school counsellor. She is really qualified and knows how to work with children very well. I think that it would do you and Alan a great deal of good.

Mrs Flaherty- Thank you again, Mr Hayes. We will definitely take your advice.

Mr Hayes- Ok, see you now, Mrs Flaherty.

Oral Comprehension

Answer the following questions. The correct answers can be found in the key on the last page.

Exercise 1-4:

State whether the following sentences are true or false:

- Alan has not passed his last six tests
- Alan told his mother he was not doing well in school
- Alan is calm and well behaved at home
- Alan causes trouble with the other children

Exercise 5:

Fill in the blanks:

Mrs Flaherty- I had a _____ that he was not doing very well at _____, even though he assured me that _____ was OK.

Mr Hayes- Yes, I _____. Well, Alan is always in a fluster these days. It's difficult for him to _____ on what the rest of the class is doing. _____ is often not done at all.

Mrs Flaherty- I did not know this. He always told me that his _____ was done.

Mr Hayes- He is not doing very well in _____, _____, or _____. In other classes, I have to say he is fairly _____.

Grammar

Present simple passive:

The passive voice is used to bring the focus on the action (the object) rather than who is doing the action (the subject).

The structure of the sentence in passive form:

- Affirmative form:
Object + verb to be + verb in past participle
- Negative form:
Object + verb to be + not + verb in past participle

Examples:

- Affirmative sentence:
He always says that the homework is done
- Negative sentence:
Homework is often not done at all.

Links:

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/activepassive.html>

<http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/passive.htm>

<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/passive/exercises?simple-present>

<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/passive>

In Ireland

Children are usually about twelve years old when they go to secondary school. They start out in first year where they must study the same core subjects: maths, Irish and English, along with additional compulsory subjects, such as science; geography; history; civic, social and political education; and physical education. They must also choose a foreign language to learn. In most Irish schools, the choice is between French or German, with French being the most popular choice. However, Spanish and some other languages are also becoming increasingly more common. In addition to these subjects, students also have the opportunity to choose from a number of optional subjects, including business, technical graphics, technology, art, and music.

There used to be two official state examinations, the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate. However, it is now being changed so that there will be just one state examination at the end of secondary school with everything previous now being based on continuous assessment. After third year, teenagers will often have the opportunity to take a year called 'transition year'. In this year, they work on building their CV, taking classes as normal but also doing work in the community, developing extracurricular abilities, and getting work experience. This year is not offered in all schools and is usually optional. Students then enter the Leaving Certificate cycle, which gives them two years to prepare for their final exams. The exams are assessed using a points system. They must choose any college courses they are interested in before the exams and try to get enough points to do that course. When the results of the exams come out, colleges release what the official point requirement for each course is that year, based on demand and average results, and the students receive an offer to study as long as they reached the requirement.

Vocabulary

Bold – usually means 'daring' but, in the Irish vernacular, 'bold' is also used to describe someone who is badly behaved or disrespectful.

Message	Yesterday	Wondering
Fail	Test	Suspicion
Assure	Understand	Fluster
Difficult	Concentrate	Homework
Mathematics	Irish	History
Behave	Fight	Advise
Peaceful	Qualified	Counsellor

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Key

After you have completed the exercises, check your answers here.

Exercise 1 – 4:

- a. True
- b. False
- c. True
- d. True

Exercise 5:

Mrs Flaherty- I had a **suspicion** that he was not doing very well at **school**, even though he assured me that **everything** was OK.

Mr Hayes- Yes, I **understand**. Well, Alan is always in a fluster these days. It's difficult for him to **concentrate** on what the rest of the class is doing. **Homework** is often not done at all.

Mrs Flaherty- I did not know this. He always told me that his **homework** was done.

Mr Hayes- He is not doing very well in **mathematics**, **Irish**, or **history**. In other classes, I have to say he is fairly **good**.