

Welcome to ESL Graduate Studies

2025-2026

- Welcome (5 minutes)
- Review Calendar (5 minutes)
- Review Learning Units (15 minutes)
- Instructor Introductions: 5 Things We Cannot Live Without (15 minutes)
- Language Lesson: American English is THE BEST! (45 minutes)
- Homework: 5 Things YOU Cannot Live Without (5 minutes)

ESL Graduate Studies Calendar, 2025 - 2026

Unit 1 - Character - Blind Date With A Book		Unit 4 - Creative Communications - Music Festival	
19 Aug	Introduction - Learning Unit 1	6 Jan	Introduction - Learning Unit 4
21 Aug	Student Introductions	8 Jan	Songs as Language Learning Tools
26 Aug	Personality	13 Jan	Sound Devices (alliteration, rhyme, rhythm)
28 Aug	Personality	15 Jan	Sound Devices in Daily Communication
2 Sep	NO CLASS	20 Jan	Figurative Language (similes, metaphors, etc.)
4 Sep	Intensive vocabulary practice	22 Jan	Figurative Language in Daily Communication
9 Sep	Physical Traits	27 Jan	Rhetorical Techniques (repetition, structure, etc)
11 Sep	Physical Traits	29 Jan	Rhetorical Techniques in Daily Communication
16 Sep	Emotional Characteristics	3 Feb	Music Festival Creative Communications Activity
18 Sep	Emotional Characteristics	5 Feb	Music Festival Creative Communications Activity
23 Sep	Moral Characteristics		
25 Sep	Moral Characteristics		
30 Sep	***Blind Date With A Book		
Unit 2 - Setting - Travel Channel Film Festival		Unit 5 - Persuasive Communications - Shark Tank	
2 Oct	Introduction - Learning Unit 2	10 Feb	Introduction - Learning Unit 5
7 Oct	Setting - Same Time, New Place	12 Feb	Persistence & Overcoming Setbacks
9 Oct	Setting - Same Time, New Place	17 Feb	Problems & Solutions
14 Oct	NO CLASS	19 Feb	Building Credibility & Authority
16 Oct	Intensive vocabulary practice	24 Feb	Handling Objections & Counterarguments
21 Oct	Setting - New Time, Same Place	26 Feb	Emotional Connection & Storytelling
23 Oct	Setting - New Time, Same Place	3 Mar	Innovation & Creating Excitement
28 Oct	Setting - Scary Places	5 Mar	Shark Tank Persuasive Communication Activity
30 Oct	Setting - Scary Places	10 Mar	Shark Tank Persuasive Communication Activity
4 Nov	Travel Channel Film Festival	12 Mar	Shark Tank Persuasive Communication Activity
6 Nov	Travel Channel Film Festival	17 Mar	NO CLASS
		19 Mar	NO CLASS
Unit 3 - Plot - White Elephant Gift Exchange		Unit 6 - Celebrate Learning - Capstone Presentation	
11 Nov	Introduction - Learning Unit 3	24 Mar	Introduction - Learning Unit 6
13 Nov	Intensive vocabulary practice	26 Mar	Sharing Your Ideas (video)
18 Nov	Plot - Cause & Effect	31 Mar	Uncovering Your Best Ideas (video)
20 Nov	Plot - Cause & Effect	2 Apr	Exceptional Presentation Skills (book excerpts)
25 Nov	NO CLASS	7 Apr	Communicating Your Ideas Clearly (video)
27 Nov	NO CLASS	9 Apr	Best Way to Deliver Your Presentation (video)
2 Dec	Plot - Ambiguous Endings	14 Apr	Public Speaking Secrets (book excerpts)
4 Dec	Plot - Ambiguous Endings	16 Apr	Speaking with Meaning (video)
8 Dec	***ESL Family Holiday Party	21 Apr	Connecting with Your Audience (video)
11 Dec	Plot - Internal / External Conflict	22 Apr	Capstone Presentations
13 Dec	Plot - Internal / External Conflict	28 Apr	Capstone Presentations
18 Dec	Semester 1 Learning Assessment	30 Apr	NO CLASS
20 Dec	***White Elephant Gift Exchange	5 May	Capstone Presentations
25 Dec -	NO CLASS	7 May	Capstone Presentations
Jan 1		12 May	Capstone Presentations
		24 May	***Celebration of Learning / Last Day of Class

Six Learning Units

Semester 1:

- 1 Characterization (WHO)
- 2 Setting (WHERE / WHEN)
- 3 Plot (WHAT)

Semester 2:

- 4 Creative Communication
- 5 Persuasive Communication
- 6 Putting it all Together

Learning Unit 1:



Characterization (WHO)

Communicating about people (personality, physical, emotional, behavioral, and moral traits)

Independent Reading

Activity:

Blind Date With a Book

Learning Unit 2



Setting (WHERE / WHEN)

Communicating about time and place

Independent Reading

Activity:

Travel Channel Film Festival

Learning Unit 3



Plot (WHAT)

Communicating about action, events, and conflict

Independent Reading

Activity:

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Learning Unit 4



Creative Communication

Communicating artfully & creatively

Independent Reading /

Listening Activity:

Music Festival

Learning Unit 5



Persuasive Communication

Communicating persuasively

Team Reading / Research

Activity:

Shark Tank

Learning Unit 6



Putting it All Together

Celebrating your 2025-2026
ESL Graduate Studies
learning journey

**Independent Reading /
Research Activity:**
Capstone Presentation

Getting to Know Your Instructors:

Five Things Ann & Lori Cannot Live Without

Hyperbole in American English

Hyperbole (hi-PER-bow-ly) is extreme exaggeration used for emphasis or effect. It's not meant to be taken literally.

It is saying something is much bigger, better, worse, or more extreme than it really is.

Examples:

- "Lori would rather starve than eat tofu" (Lori really does not like tofu.)
- "Ann would go crazy if she could not exercise." (Ann really enjoys exercising)

Hyperbole in American English

Hyperbole is very common in casual American English. It shows enthusiasm, humor, or strong feeling. It's generally acceptable in informal settings but should be used carefully in academic or professional contexts. (Unless, of course, you're the President of the United States. 😊)

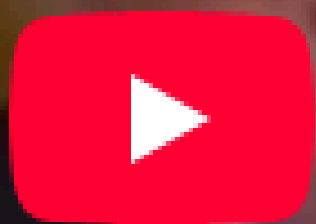


Hyperbole compilation - Hyperbolic Fallacy - Fallacious Trump e20



Copy link

American English is THE BEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



>> BREAKING NEWS

TRUMP: "NOBODY THAT I KNOW OF" HAD CONTACTS WITH RUSSIA DURING CAMPAIGN

LIVE

MSNBC

Watch on YouTube

"NO DOUBT" RUSSIA HAS "EITHER INTERFERED OR THEY I

Part 1: Hyperbole Detective (8 minutes)

Instructions: Read each statement below. Circle **H** if it's a **hyperbole** or **L** if it's **literal**. Discuss your answers with your group.

1. I've been waiting here for two hours. H / L
2. I've been waiting here forever! H / L
3. That movie was really good. H / L
4. That movie was the best thing I've ever seen! H / L
5. My backpack weighs 15 pounds. H / L
6. My backpack weighs a ton! H / L
7. I'm very hungry right now. H / L
8. I'm so hungry I could eat a horse! H / L
9. The test was challenging. H / L
10. The test was impossible! H / L

Part 2: Talk Like TRUMP! (10 minutes)

Instructions: Complete each hyperbole using creative exaggeration. Be dramatic!

I'm so tired, I could _____

I'm so smart, I could _____

My car is so _____ it _____

It's so hot outside, I _____

My phone is so old, it _____

The smell was so strong, it _____

She talks so fast, she _____

Part 3: Hyperbole in Action (20 minutes)

Instructions: Choose ONE scenario below OR make up your own. Create a 30-second conversation where at least one person uses hyperbole. Be ready to perform!

Scenario A: Students complaining about homework

Scenario B: Classmates describing their weekend plans

Scenario C: Friends talking about the weather

Scenario D: People describing their favorite food

Scenario E: Make up your own!

What 5 Things Can't YOU Live Without?

For your first homework assignment, please place in a small bag five items or pictures of items that represent things you can't live without.

Bring your bag to our next class (Thursday, August 21st) and be ready to share a little about yourself with the group.