

General Course Info

English LK 2018/2019

Congratulations for your choice of and welcome to our English-LK! Here are some useful tips and some info on our course and its contents.

1) GENERAL: COMMUNICATION

- a) **In class you are expected to communicate in English.** Even if this feels funny in the beginning, you will have to get used to and comfortable with it. Listening to others speak English (be it on TV or in movies or to your teacher) or reading English are very useful and important aspects when getting better at a foreign language. Speaking, however, is the crucial factor that will help you advance much faster! It gets your brain working on multiple levels at the same time (yes, your brain can do that!) and it will help memorizing words and phrases much effortlessly. So: Speak it!
- b) When we are not in class please make use of **e-mail**. I check my emails regularly, so that you can be sure that the info will get to me. I will not be a member of any messenger groups since I am legally not allowed to do so (and I don't have enough nerve to do it, either ;-)).

Send to: tapp@tappmadam.de

2) WORK IN CLASS

In class you have to be **actively involved** in whatever we are doing – discussing, group work, partner chats, written assignments, reading, etc. If you don't actively participate you are missing the best part! Use your time in class wisely; there's always time for bumming around after class/school.

3) WORK @HOME OR FOR CLASS

Please refer to the aforementioned e-mail address.

Instead of handing paper in to me I prefer you create a **digital document** and send it to me for revision. The document should be in .pdf-format (preferred!) or a text document (.docx, .doc, .odt). You will be asked to layout your written texts in paragraphs and certain fonts and sizes, so that pure text formats do not work here.

There are two perks to that:

1st you use spell-check and get a better feel of spelling and a better view on your work, plus you hand in a neat and clean piece of writing and

2nd I can actually read what you wrote and can value your work better.

4) TOOLS AND GADGETS

In class and at home you can work with several different tools of your choice. You may bring your **tablet** to class and work digitally (our English book GreenLine is also available as an eBook for 3.95€). Note, however, that there might not be WIFI available.

Your **cellphone** will be of good use as an online dictionary at times.

Oh yeah – **pen and paper** (or, for teachers: chalk and talk) work very well, too ;-). Sometimes it might force you to do work over again when you want to turn it into a digital document.

5) HOMEWORK

There will be two sorts of homework: **obligatory and voluntary homework**.

All preparational and productive work is obligatory; that may be reading, research, brainstorming/note-taking, illustrating or text production.

Voluntary homework is mainly for skills practice (writing, analysis, mediation, etc.). Please send me your work per e-mail (you can also take a photo (good quality) and send it).

You will always get a feedback on your work from me.

If you want me to review other work, you can send it as well. It helps a lot if you ask for specific feedback (e.g. grammar constructions or structure of paragraphs etc.)

6) VOCABULARY

Expanding your vocabulary is a central goal for the two years ahead. You are always expected to look up words you do not understand and memorize them. You might use your phone or tablet in class or a simple dictionary. Vocabulary work means

- **understanding the meaning** of a word (German translation and English explanation/context)

- **correct pronunciation**

- **correct spelling**

In order to keep you motivated we will have quizzes and tests regularly; **one test** towards the end of the quarter and about **4 quizzes (smaller tests) per quarter**. The quizzes and tests will have different formats, thus English-German and vice versa, translation, synonyms, word families, etc.

7) WEBSITE / ARCHIVE

I am hosting a website that I want to use as an archive for you. I will store relevant material from class as well as useful links for our topics and skills.

Please visit <http://tappmadam.de>.

Go to the tab **FOR STUDENTS** and then **LK 2020** to find the stuff from and for our class.