English for Freelancers

Presented by the British Council and Gaza Sky Geeks

What is English for Freelancers?

English for Freelancers is an online course co-created by the British Council and Gaza Sky Geeks, a program of Mercy Corps, in response to the difficulties that young Palestinians face when trying to earn an income online. This self-paced course is tailored to boost freelancers' overall confidence when communicating in English by focusing on the language and skills that freelancers need to improve their negotiation skills, master useful business and freelancing terminology. The course is hosted on the Edapp platform.

The British Council enlisted the assistance of UK learning design expert 'Learn Jam' to conduct research into the English language needs of freelancers and design a course relevant to the Palestinian context. The self-study course materials were developed in collaboration with Gaza Sky Geeks, who is recognized as a leader in training and mentoring young people through freelancing, entrepreneurship, and coding programs. In 2022 the British Council will make the training course available to other tech training programs in the MENA region, widening the reach and impact of this unique and needed curriculum.

English for Freelancers Components

The self-study course: This free 12-module course is available to anyone, anywhere in the world on the platform EdApp. It is designed for adults with an intermediate level of English. Each module includes three short lessons and a bonus lesson for review and extra practice. It covers various topics like negotiating, collaborating, troubleshooting problems and issues, and upskilling.

Live lessons and supplementary materials: These are intended to be delivered by a trainer using a complementary approach to supplement the self-study course. Learners will first complete an online, self-study module on EdApp before participating in a lesson led by a trainer for additional communicative practice. A bridging assignment connects the life lessons to the self-study course and homework tasks for additional practice. All of this is contained in a playbook for students.

Train-the-trainers course: This is a hybrid course designed for trainers who want to deliver the English for Freelancers course to students. It focuses on the methodology for delivering lessons, and an overview of the material and tools that can be used to support learning. The self-study component is available on Edapp.

Gaza Sky Geeks Results

Since 2021, Gaza Sky Geeks has enrolled 1,884 students in the course (59% women) and trained seven English instructors and three Gaza Sky Geeks team members. Furthermore, Gaza Sky Geeks and the British Council have created a new curriculum that was delivered as a blended course through self-study, live sessions, and supplemental materials. It has benefited over 100 young people interested in a career as a digital freelancer.

To learn more about the English for Freelancers course click here

To enroll in the course with Gaza Sky Geeks click here

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