

insight

Online Practice guide

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Get started

Welcome to *insight* Online Practice, the perfect companion to *insight*. *insight* Online Practice has been designed to support and develop the themes and ideas covered in the course, as well as practise **all four language skills** and **all the grammar and vocabulary** from the course.

The organization of *insight* Online Practice is similar to the *insight* Student's Book. Each Online Practice unit includes:

- ▶ Vocabulary
- ▶ Grammar
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Speaking
- ▶ Writing
- ▶ Video

Vocabulary

The vocabulary activities give students further opportunities to review and recycle all the target language from the Student's Book. This includes the vocabulary presented in the Vocabulary Bank. Students can access the Wordlist for additional support should they need it.

Grammar

The grammar activities provide further controlled practice of the target grammar from the Student's Book. Activities practise meaning, use and form of grammar structures. Students can access the Grammar Reference for additional support should they need it.

Reading

The reading texts are linked to the themes and topics presented in the Student's Book. As with the reading texts in the Student's Book, the texts are thought-provoking, information rich and educational. Activities require students to engage with the texts and to process the information contained within them moving from gist to detailed understanding. Additionally, each reading text is accompanied by a vocabulary development activity. The final activity is a class discussion in the Online Discussion Forum based on a question arising from the topic of the reading text.

Listening

Each Online Practice unit includes a recording on a topic connected to the Student's Book unit. Accompanying activities develop students' ability to understand the detail of each recording. Additionally, if there is a listening strategy in the Student's Book unit, one of the activities provides further practice of it.

Speaking

Each Online Practice unit offers students a supported spoken task, based on the functional language presented in the Student's Book unit. Students can record their own voice and play the recording back allowing them to practise the language and improve their pronunciation and intonation. The recordings can be sent to the teacher for assessment.

Writing

The writing activity gives students a guided written task to complete, based on the topic of the Student's Book unit. The activity takes students through the stages of brainstorming ideas, planning, writing and checking their work. The task is different to those in the Student's Book and Workbook, and provides further practice of the language points addressed in the Student's Book. Once students have completed the task, they can submit it to the teacher for assessment and comment.

Video

The course video is available on *insight* Online Practice. There is a video clip which relates to the topic of each Student's Book unit. Each clip is accompanied by interactive activities which check students' comprehension. The final activity is a class discussion in the Online Discussion Forum based on a question related to the topic of the video.

Teacher tools

Using *insight* Online Practice gives you access to a wide range of classroom management tools which are only available to teachers using the online practice. The tools are designed to allow the teacher more flexibility: you can adjust the course content to fit your own teaching situation, so giving students a more **personalised learning experience**.

Classroom management

- Assign activities to students for homework or for extra practice in class. Activities can be hidden from view so that you can show only the content which you decide students need to see. Activities can then be revealed to students whenever you choose.
- Organize students within a class into groups. The **Groups** tool enables you to create classes and to group students. This is useful for mixed-ability situations, as you can assign specific activities to learners according to their level
- Track students' progress with the **Gradebook** and **User Progress** features. The Gradebook shows how much material has been completed by each student and the first scores students achieved for each completed activity. The **automatic marking** enables you to see this at a glance. The User Progress feature shows in more detail exactly which activities have been visited, including the teacher-marked and teacher -managed activities such as Dropboxes and Discussions (see below). The information in the Gradebook can be filtered and sorted. You can also export the Gradebook as an XLS file and print it for later reference.
- Set dates by which activities need to be completed with the **Calendar** tool. Other course events, such as tests, presentations or assessments can also be stored here so that students only have to go to one place, even when they have several tasks to complete.

Create a list of things for students to do with the **Checklist** tool. You can set up lists with all the items students need to complete before the next class. This provides them with a record of items, allowing them to manage their time more effectively. You can track completed checklists by using the **User Progress** tool.

Communication

- You can set up your own discussions for your classes to participate in by posting an initial comment in the **Discussions** tool. Students can then respond to your comment and discuss their opinions on it. This encourages critical thinking and gives students further opportunity to practise the language of stating opinions, giving reasons, and supporting arguments. The Discussions tool can also be used as a collaborative area where students can work together to discuss assignments or projects. Use these tools to gather feedback on the course, or as a way of finding out opinions on a specific theme from *insight*.
- The **Chat** tool can be used for students to have an online conversation in real-time. This mirrors an increasingly-common activity in students' own lives and represents a motivating, real-world, learning experience for students. Use this tool to brainstorm ideas on a topic, or to hold a debate or a discussion on a given topic.
- The **Survey** tool allows you to set up **classroom surveys** on a topic. For example, you could put together a survey on life experiences as a way of practising the Present Perfect tense. Students could complete the survey and then discuss their responses with a partner via the *Discussions* tool, or they could write a summary of the results of the survey and submit it using the *Dropbox* tool (see below).

Marking and feedback

- There is automatic marking and feedback of controlled exercises.
- In addition to the automatic marking, students can submit free-writing and free-speaking exercises to you for marking using the **Dropbox** tool. When you assign freer written or spoken homework, you ask students to submit their work via this tool. Students upload Word documents or audio files and you receive a notification when they do. You can then access the files, review the work and give feedback to students individually. It is a good idea to save students' speaking and writing activities to your Desktop. If you do this you can build a portfolio of their work and monitor their progress.

Bespoke testing

- With the **Test** tool you can create **bespoke tests** and **practice exercises** to support and extend those covered in *insight* Online Practice. You can tailor these so that they target specific areas of difficulty for your students or so that they are only available to specific students in your class. The tests are totally customizable. You can also decide how many attempts at each question students are able to have and whether or not the results contribute to the Gradebook.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Step-by-Step Guide.

Integration into the classroom

The material in each unit of *insight* Online Practice is designed to be flexible whilst also linking to the language activities and skills development in the *insight* Student's Books. The activities are linked thematically, grammatically, and lexically so that they can be assigned for homework, used in class for further practice in the key skills areas, or as a revision tool. If you are teaching with a limited number of hours, you can choose the sections which are most interesting and relevant to your learners' needs or you can reorder the activities to create a customized learning experience.

There are many ways of using the material. The exercises could be used for diagnostic purposes, to see how well students can already use language before you cover it in class, giving you a clear idea of how familiar students are with the target structure. You can then adjust the timing you have allocated for a particular language point accordingly.

Or you can use *insight* Online Practice to assess how well students are able to deal with a language point after it has been covered in class.

Some of the activities, such as the video resources, class discussions and chats can be used at any point in the course. Use your working knowledge of your class and your teaching environment to decide when would be the best opportunity to vary the pace and to make use of a different form of input. The fact that these activities deal with topics that are familiar from students' everyday lives means that they are engaging and motivating for students.

There are many different ways to use *insight* and *insight* Online Practice. By combining *insight* and *insight* Online Practice, you can provide an effective and up-to-date learning experience that will prove rewarding for both students and teachers.