

Modern Language Centre

Evening | Intensive Evening | Saturday | Summer Language Courses



Course Description

Bengali Level 1

How long does the course last?

45 hours of tuition - 3 parts of 15 hours each

Part 1: 15 hours

Part 2: 16-30 hours

Part 3: 31-45 hours

The length of each part depends on the type of language course.

Evening Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 10 weeks and last 1.5 hours each.

Intensive Evening Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Saturday Language Courses & Evening Fast-track Language Courses: Lessons take place once a week over 5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Summer Fast-track Language Courses: Lessons take place twice a week over 2.5 weeks and last 3 hours each.

Summer Intensive Language Courses: Lessons take place 5 times a week and last 3 hours each.

Who is the course for?

The course is aimed at a wide range of students with a general interest in Bengali. No prior knowledge of Bengali is required as the course is for complete beginners.

What are the objectives of the course?

To acquire basic language skills and to achieve the equivalent of A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), entry level of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

By the end of the course you will:

- be able to communicate in very basic everyday-life situations, including greetings, daily activities, finding your way, telling the time and date, making simple purchases, ordering a meal, etc
- be able to understand very simple oral and written texts and ascertain specific information on simple topics
- have developed an insight into Bengali -speaking life, culture and society

How is the course taught?

A communicative approach is used. All four skills (speaking, reading, listening and writing) are practised, with the main emphasis on speaking.

Students engage in interactive language activities, participating in group and pair work according to a syllabus based on systematic grammatical progression.

Students will also be offered guidance in self-study and set optional homework tasks.

Students will have access to KEATS, King's e-learning platform.

What course can I do next?

After completing all three parts of this course, students should be ready to join a Bengali Level 2 course at the MLC.

Course outline

Part 1

Topics

Alphabet – vowels and sign vowels

Pronunciation

Numbers 1-20

Days of the week

Parts of the body

Directions

Colours

Family and friends

Formal and informal ways of addressing people

Functions

Greeting and responding to greetings

Expressing thanks and apologies

Exchanging personal details such as nationality and occupation

Addressing people formally and informally

Talking about oneself and family

Meeting a new neighbour

Asking and answering simple questions

Describing objects, people (colour, size, location, appearance)

Grammar

Personal subject pronouns

Question words and sentences

Simple Present

Simple Future

A list of common verbs

Simple structure-person, verb relations [Simple Present tense only]

Part 2

Topics

Currency

Numbers up to 50

Shopping

Household items

Home and school

Time, day and date

Likes and dislikes

Bengali Level 1

Directions
Post office, bus station and railway station
The weather

Functions

Buying fruits and vegetables
Describing towns
Asking for and giving directions
Asking for and telling the time
Expressing likes and dislikes
Arranging a holiday tour
Speaking about daily life
Ordering and requesting

Grammar

Demonstrative adjectives
Possessive pronouns
Object pronouns
Present Continuous tense
Articles
Postpositions
Plural of personal pronouns
Reflexive pronouns
Infinitive

Part 3

Topics

Daily routine and weekends
Comparison: smaller and bigger
Health and diet
Personal letters
At the hotel
Transport
Numbers up to 100

Functions

Asking and talking about health
Offering, accepting and refusing an offer
Answering the telephone
Buying tickets
Booking a hotel
Travelling by bus

Grammar

Nouns: genitive plural, prepositional plural
Adjectives: genitive plural

Present Perfect tense
Conditional
Past tense
Adverbs
Comparatives
Relative pronouns

Learning resources

Textbook and exercise book

- BEGINNER'S BENGALI (BANGLA) with Audio CD by Hanne-Ruth Thompson,
ISBN: 9780781813525

Students are expected to purchase their own textbook. An exercise book may also be recommended. The teacher will supply additional material, both tailor-made and taken from other sources (textbooks, newspapers and new media).

Recommended additional material

- Learning Bengali, M. R. Hilali, Rupshi Bangla, London, 1990
- My Talking Dictionary with CD Rom (Bengali-English text)
- Colloquial Bengali book & 2 CDs by Nasrin B. Mithun & W van der Wurff
- Bengali a comprehensive grammar by Hanne-Ruth Thompson

Online language learning resources

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/modern-language-centre/language-resources-centre.aspx#ad-image-0>

Independent study

Research indicates that successful language learners revise new material and review their progress on a regular basis. The Language Resources Centre (LRC), situated in room K-1.072 in level minus one of the Strand Building, houses a wide collection of learning material including text and grammar books, magazines and newspapers, CDs, DVDs, and self-access e-learning language programmes.

During term time the LRC facilitates free speaking practice sessions as well as a range of workshops on language learning. For a list of topics and all dates and times, including the opening hours of the LRC, please go to the website: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/modern-language-centre/language-resources-centre.aspx#ad-image-0>