

myClass Newsletter

October 2018



 **1800 1299**

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The world's English experts

Message from Andy

Dear myClass students,

I hope you have had an excellent summer.

The myClass team has had some nice holiday time, but we've also been busy making some improvements to our Adult programme and we have lots of exciting news for our myClass students in Ho Chi Minh City this term.

Most importantly, of course, is the closure of the British Council offices at 25 Le Duan, and the opening of our new main office and myClass centre in the modern Viettel building in Cach Mang Thang Tam. We hope you have had a chance to join some classes there already and that you have experienced the great new facilities.

Secondly, we have a new Adult Courses Coordinator joining the team. Preston is not new to the British Council or to Vietnam and joined us from our Hanoi office this summer. He speaks Vietnamese really well but may need your help adjusting to the Saigon accent.

Thirdly, we have been thinking hard about new ways to support you in getting the most out of myClass and making faster progress. This has led to the creation of a free online support site for our Adult learners where you will be able to get guidance on how to study better, practise your language and skills, and learn lots about how to succeed at IELTS.

In other exciting developments, we have responded to your feedback on assessment, as well as the need to practise writing more, and we will be introducing two improvements to the assessment system: one for Speaking, where a change will ensure that more students get extended assessments; and the other for Writing, where students can submit written homework and receive feedback from a teacher. You can find the details below.

I hope you enjoy these new improvements to the myClass programme. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to remind you that we are always open to your feedback. Please do let us know what you think about the changes because your feedback really helps us to improve our service.

See you soon.

Andy Milner
Head of Adult Courses
British Council in Vietnam



Your new British Council teaching centre

We're extremely excited to welcome you to our brand new teaching centre. Our new centre at 285 Cach Mang Thang Tam provides a modern learning environment to best support your studies, has a wide range of facilities such as coffee shops and restaurants, and brings together our teaching and exams to make your experience of British Council as convenient and enjoyable as possible.

As we move in to our new premises please look out for extra activities, competitions and events to celebrate the move. Our new premises will also mean we can offer a greater range of lessons and start times to best suit your learning goals and needs.

We look forward to seeing you in the new centre soon.



New to myClass in Vietnam

We know how important it is for you to have clear information about your progress in English. That's why we are making some changes to how you will be assessed in myClass from September.

New Writing Assessments

Writing is a key part of communication in English, for work, for study, and for life in general. To help you better improve in this area we are launching a new system to provide you with more information about your progress in writing skills.

After attending a myClass writing lesson you will be able to submit a final draft of your writing to a team of British Council teachers who will give you specific feedback, correction and grades for your writing. For more information on how to submit writing work please see the 'Writing Submission Guide' which is available in centre or through the newsfeed on your myClass profile.

Changes to Speaking Assessments

Understanding your progress, strengths and areas to improve is a key part of your English journey. To ensure that you have the information you need to help you improve early in your myClass experience we are making some changes to our speaking assessment patterns. In September we'll be giving you extended assessments with grades and comments in or around your 10th/30th/50th lessons, and simple assessments with grades in or around your 20th/40th/60th lessons.

If you have any questions or comments about these changes please contact our student advisor team at myclass.advisor@britishcouncil.org.vn



New Adult Courses Coordinator

Please welcome our new Adult Courses Coordinator, Preston Dukes. Preston has been teaching English in Vietnam since January 2011 and has worked for British Council Vietnam since 2014. After joining British Council, Preston focussed on his education for developing as an English language teacher. In 2017, Preston completed the Trinity Diploma, which is a master's level English language teaching certification for adult learners.

In May 2018, Preston moved from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City to begin work as Adults and Corporates Coordinator for British Council. It has been an interesting experience for him to adjust to differences in language and culture in the South. He particularly enjoys the weather and food, as well as the friendliness of the people in Ho Chi Minh City.

Preston is particularly interested in training his colleagues and students on how the differences in the Vietnamese and English languages affect language learning. His interest in Vietnamese language and culture provides an understanding of common problems Vietnamese learners have in learning English. Along with his independent study on Vietnamese language and culture, Preston's work as an IELTS expert offers an authentic insight into strategies for students to do the best they can on the IELTS exam.

In his free time, Preston enjoys a variety of activities. He loves travelling on his motorbike through the provinces of Vietnam, especially through the Northern provinces such as Son La, Ha Giang and Hoa Binh. He's also an avid racquet sports player, with a particular fondness for tennis, badminton and squash.



IELTS preparation courses at the British Council

Do you need IELTS for the future? In IELTS, you are tested in four skills – Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

The British Council knows IELTS. Our IELTS preparation courses:

- prepare you to write about statistical information with a strict time-limit
- help you to express, justify and elaborate on your opinions as part of extended speaking and writing tasks
- allow you to work more confidently with listening texts in a range of topics and spoken accents
- build your range of text-attack skills to understand reading material quickly and accurately
- familiarise you with IELTS tasks in all skills.

Our teachers are the most experienced and highly qualified—they have the knowledge to help you boost your band score in all four skills. As part of our courses, you're welcome to attend free myClub sessions every weekday, to extend your engagement with English.

Contact our English Services Consultants by calling **1800 1299** to discuss your Pathway to IELTS success.

Free courses at British Council

British Council offers a wide range of free online courses to help our students develop their understanding, knowledge and skills. Whether you want to learn more about communication at work, develop your understanding of the IELTS test, or just learn more about British culture, we have courses that are suitable for you.

To find out more or sign up for a course please visit

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/moocs>



What's going on at the British Council?

As well as our focus on language teaching British Council is also involved in a wide range of activities through our Arts, Education and Society.



Arts: Cultural and Creative Hubs Vietnam 2018–21

The British Council, in partnership with the Vietnam National Institute of Arts and Culture Studies, is pleased to announce **Cultural and Creative Hubs Vietnam**. To be implemented over three years from 2018 to 2021, the project receives financial support from the European Union.

A cultural and creative hub (CCH) is a place, physical or virtual, which brings people together to express artistic ideas and creativity in a free and open environment, and allows them to share a variety of artistic outputs with their communities. In Vietnam, most CCHs are independent arts and creative spaces, often led and managed by artists and creative practitioners. These organisations are important players in the culture sector, and have great potential for engaging in and supporting artistic expression and the access to cultural life.

Education: Skills for employability

In a competitive emerging economy, young people need to prove they have the professional skills to succeed. Skills for employability is British Council's flagship programme for skills development and vocational education.

Our projects and partnerships are designed to improve young Vietnamese people's skills in gaining and maintaining employment, and developing entrepreneurial talent.

Learn more about our projects by visiting our global **Skills for Employability** website: www.britishcouncil.org/education/skills-employability



Society: Climate change education

The British Council is committed to playing an active role in raising awareness of climate change. In Vietnam we run climate change educational activities and work with secondary school teachers and students. This programme is aligned with Vietnam's national target programme to respond to climate change and Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training's climate change objectives.

In 2012, this project was implemented in 25 secondary schools in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City as part of the Connecting Classrooms network. By the end of 2012 the project was implemented in 300 primary schools in Hoa Binh province in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training.

Meet your myClass team

Neil Mann, Senior Teacher for Adult Courses

Neil has been teaching for around ten years and has worked for the British Council for seven years in a variety of countries. In his free time he enjoys cooking and playing basketball. Neil is here to make sure your experience of myClass is a great one.



Preston Dukes, Adult Courses Coordinator

Preston has worked for British Council in Hanoi for four years and has recently moved down to Ho Chi Minh city. Preston has lots of knowledge and experience of helping Vietnamese learners achieve their English goals and is always happy to meet with students who need some extra support and advice.

Phuong Tran and Tung Phung, myClass Student Advisors

Phuong and Tung are your points of contact for any questions you have about your studies with myClass. They are ready to help with questions about our Online Booking System, lessons and teachers, and to support you with your learning journey to achieve your goals. Contact Phuong and Tung by emailing: myclass.advisor@britishcouncil.org.vn

