

Syllabus

English Group Classes

“Branches” (11-13 yrs.)

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Snapshot

- **Primary focus:** Primary focus: Encouraging creativity and fluency in English communication while continuing to support grammar development and school-based learning topics. Lessons focus on providing students with the freedom to express themselves while reinforcing foundational skills.
- **Target learners:** Children aged 11–13 years old who have completed the “Blooms” program or have a similar level of English proficiency.
- **Schedule:** 1 weekly 60-minute session.
- **Duration:** “Branches” 1: 38 weeks; “Branches” 2: 38 weeks.
- **Exam prep focus:** No.
- **Approximate CEFR Level:** A2 to B1.

Summary

The “Branches” program is designed to help students gain confidence and fluency in their spoken and written English while supporting the grammar and topics they are learning in school. This program provides a communicative and engaging environment where students can express themselves creatively, without the rigidity they may experience in the classroom. Grammar topics are introduced in meaningful and interactive ways while speaking and listening activities take center stage. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions, debates, and creative projects to foster independence and critical thinking.

Pre-Requisites

To enroll in the “Branches” program, children should:

- Have completed the “Blooms” program or demonstrate an equivalent level of English proficiency.
- Be able to:
 - Use complete sentences with basic grammar (e.g., present and past simple tenses) and a vocabulary of at least 200–250 words.
 - Follow and participate in discussions, short dialogues, and presentations in English.
 - Write short paragraphs independently with proper grammar and punctuation.

Goals

The “Branches” English Program is designed to:

- Build fluency in spoken English by encouraging creative and independent expression.

- Reinforce grammar topics, such as verb tenses, question formation, and comparatives, in a communicative and practical context.
- Develop listening and reading comprehension skills through more complex dialogues, articles, and stories.
- Improve writing skills, focusing on organizing ideas into cohesive paragraphs and short compositions.
- Support school-based English learning by reviewing and practicing relevant grammar and vocabulary topics.
- Foster confidence and creativity through discussions, debates, storytelling, and group projects.

Program Levels

The “Branches” program is divided into two sub-levels to accommodate the developmental and linguistic needs of children aged 9–11 years old:

“Branches” 1 (Ages 11–12)

- Focus: “Branches” 1 focuses on strengthening foundational grammar and vocabulary while encouraging students to participate in creative speaking and writing activities.
- Content: Vocabulary includes school-related topics, technology, and hobbies. Grammar topics include present perfect, comparatives and superlatives, and question forms.
- Social skills: Encourages teamwork and participation in discussions and collaborative projects.

“Branches” 2 (Ages 12–13)

- Focus: “Branches” 2 builds on the skills acquired in “Branches” 1 by introducing more complex grammar and vocabulary. Lessons focus on fluency and independent expression through debates, storytelling, and creative writing.
- Content: Vocabulary expands to include abstract topics like emotions, opinions, and global issues. Grammar topics include future forms, conditionals (zero and first), and reported speech.
- Social skills: Encourages leadership in group projects and confidence in presenting ideas to peers.

Content

The “Branches” program focuses on developing children’s listening, speaking, reading, and pre-writing skills with an approximate focus on each skill as follows:

Skill	% Focus
Speaking	40%. Engaging in discussions, debates, and role-plays to foster fluency and confidence.
Listening	20%. Comprehending dialogues, audio recordings, and instructions to build understanding skills.
Reading	20%. Developing comprehension skills through short stories, articles, and informational texts.
Writing	20%. Writing cohesive paragraphs, short essays, and creative compositions using proper grammar.

Vocabulary and Themes:

The program introduces vocabulary and themes that align with school curricula while promoting creativity and engagement through interactive learning.

Vocabulary

Themes

Grammar: present perfect, past tenses, conditionals, reported speech.

Self-Expression: Sharing opinions, likes, and dislikes.

Technology: devices, the internet, apps, and social media.

Global Issues: Environment, climate change, and cultural diversity.

Hobbies: playing sports, painting, reading, writing.

Technology and Innovation: Gadgets, AI, and the future.

Descriptive Words: emotions (excited, nervous), physical traits.

Friendship and Community: Building relationships and teamwork.

Time Phrases: for, since, just, already.

Storytelling and Imagination: Creating characters and adventures.

Question Words: how, why, who, when, where, what.

Dreams and Goals: Planning for the future.

Grammar: present perfect, past tenses, conditionals, reported speech.

Self-Expression: Sharing opinions, likes, and dislikes.

Technology: devices, the internet, apps, and social media.

Hobbies: playing sports, painting, reading, writing.

Global Issues: Environment, climate change, and cultural diversity.

Technology and Innovation: Gadgets, AI, and the future.

Methodology and Activities

The “Branches” program prioritizes speaking and creativity, integrating grammar and vocabulary into interactive and engaging activities:

- Debates and Discussions: Students practice expressing opinions and responding to peers.
- Role-Play: Real-life scenarios like interviews, group problem-solving, and making plans.
- Creative Projects: Group storytelling, creating posters, and short video projects.
- Grammar Games: Fun activities to reinforce grammar rules (e.g., verb tense races, sentence building).
- Reading and Writing Tasks: Reading short stories or articles and responding with written summaries or creative responses.
- Speaking Practice: Group presentations, dialogues, and storytelling.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, children will have:

1. Listening: Understood and followed detailed conversations, stories, and instructions.
2. Speaking: Used a range of vocabulary and grammar confidently to express opinions, ideas, and arguments.
3. Reading: Read and understood longer stories, articles, and informational texts with comprehension.
4. Writing: Written cohesive paragraphs, short essays, and creative pieces using proper grammar and punctuation.

Assessment Criteria

Teachers will evaluate:

- Listening and Speaking: Fluency, accuracy, and creativity in interactive activities.
- Reading: Comprehension of longer texts and vocabulary usage.
- Writing: Grammar, sentence structure, and organization in written work.
- Engagement: Participation, creativity, and enthusiasm during lessons.

Progression Criteria

To progress to the next program / level, children should:

- Use a variety of sentence structures with correct grammar (e.g., present perfect and conditionals).
- Demonstrate a vocabulary of at least 300–400 words.
- Read and comprehend longer passages or stories with accuracy.
- Write independently, producing short essays or stories with proper punctuation and grammar.

Materials

The program uses a variety of materials to ensure interactive and engaging lessons, including:

- Grammar-based activity sheets and games.
- Age-appropriate articles, short stories, and readers.
- Props and role-play materials.
- Technology-based resources (e.g., online quizzes, videos).
- Writing prompts and creative project materials.
- An appropriate coursebook (to be determined)

About the Instructors

Our “Branches” program is taught by experienced instructors who specialize in teaching pre-teens and fostering their creative and communicative abilities. Lessons are dynamic and engaging, ensuring students develop confidence while mastering essential language skills.

IH CLIENT PROMISE

Realise your aspirations and open new horizons by learning with International House in a positive and enjoyable environment.

- ✦ We will help you learn and progress by designing well-structured courses and educational support services.
- ✦ Before enrolling we will listen to your needs and give you guidance on choosing the right course. This may involve a language level test and an interview.
- ✦ You will be given clear and accurate information about all aspects of your course, examination or other service.
- ✦ You will be taught by qualified teachers or trainers, who regularly receive up to date professional development. Younger learners will be taught by teachers trained to meet their specific needs.
- ✦ Your course will be supervised by skilled educational managers who will make sure the content is up to date, the school has the right resources, and whose goal is to help you have a positive experience.
- ✦ Your learning will be regularly assessed during your course to help you progress. You will have opportunities to discuss how to improve.
- ✦ You will be encouraged to give us feedback so we can continue to improve while you are still studying with us.
- ✦ Diversity is celebrated at International House and we are committed to treating everybody fairly and equally.



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