

A Sample of Country Data on EFL Teaching for Young Learners

Each row presents details about that country's general instructional program and the English program for young learners. Columns include information about the age of enrollment in and completion of public school, the instructional by age, divisions within the school system, the age of initiation of English instruction, the amount of time each week focused on English instruction, the name of the curriculum source and any special notes about the program. The source for data from those countries is based on personal communication through an EFL list-serve managed by Janet Orr, please report any additions or inaccuracies to her at jkorr@erols.com.

Country	Compulsory Public Education		Organization of Education followed by age of attendance	Age of Starting English	English Instructional Time	Curriculum or Standards	Source of Curriculum/ Standards	Comments
	Age of enrollment	Age of completion						
					<i>Per Week</i>			
Austria			Grammar school	age: 7	120 minutes			No standard curriculum for Grammar School, each Bundesland (state) sets the curriculum or has none. Oral activities are the focus in early grades.
			High School					English specialists teach high school courses. Homeroom teachers teach earlier English courses.
Brazil	7	14	Primary: 7-14	age: 7		Parametros Curriculares Nacionais - Terceiro e Quarto Ciclos do Ensino Fundamental	Brasil. Secretaria de Educacao Fundamental	
			Secondary: 15-17					
			Technical: 15-18					
China	7	15	Primary: 7-12	age: 9	300 minutes (60 minutes per day)	Levels 1, 2, 3	New English Curriculum Standards for Middle Schools , (NECSM), October 2001. Beijing Normal University Press.	In big cities: may start English as early as the age of 4 to 5 from kindergarten or at 7 in children start primary school.
			Middle School: 13-15			Levels 4,5,6		
			Upper Secondary: 15-18		Levels 7, 8			Foreign Language Specialty Schools have Level 9
			Vocational Secondary: 15-18					*Experimental version, to be revised and implemented 2003.
Egypt	6	16	Primary: 6-10	age: 9	135 minutes			
			Preparatory:11-13		225 minutes			
			Secondary: 14-16		270 minutes			
France	6	16	Primary: 6-11	ages: 10-11	90 minutes	Primaria	BO 27, Oct 1998	
			Lower Secondary: 11-15		180-240 minutes	Grade 3	Anglais LV1, Hors-Serie 15 Oct. 1998	
			Upper Secondary: 15-18					
			Vocational Secondary: 15-18					
		Professional: 17-19						

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Germany	6	15			<i>Per Week</i>					
Germany										
Baden Wurttemberg (example Lander)			Primary: 6-12 or 10	ages: 6-10		Erganzung zum Bildungsplan fur dies Grundschule Fremdsprachen Englisch/Franzosisch in Baden Wurttemberg	Ministerium fur Kultus, Jugend und Sport	Foreign language instruction in grades 3 and 4 in the Grundschule is understood as a distinct non-compulsory offer with its own specific didactic methods. It is characterised by play-based learning methods which permit each individual child to go at his or her own pace. Additional features include a close link between foreign language courses, the subject matter and methods of other lessons taught at primary school, an emphasis on spoken language, participation of all pupils and the absence of formal assessment.		
Hessen (example Lander)			Secondary: 10-19			Lehrplan Englisch – Gymnasialer Bildungsgang – Jahrgangsstufen 5 bis 10	Hessisches Kultusministerium	As well as the concept of encounter with language, whereby foreign languages are dealt with on a situational basis and several languages may be involved, some Länder are carrying out projects of fixed curricula which provide for a more systematic consideration of a foreign language from grade 3 onwards, to allow the pupil to take the first steps towards learning a foreign language. Individual Länder are also planning to introduce a foreign language as early as from the first year of school, partly in the form of projects (EURYDICE, 2001)		
			Lower secondary: 10-16 or 12-16							
			Middle secondary: 16-19							
			General secondary: 10-15/16							
			Integrated secondary: 16-17							
			Higher secondary: 16-19							
			Technical: 16-18							
Hungary	6	16	Primary: 6-14 Secondary: 14-18	age: 9	111 minutes	Framework Curricula for Primary Education	Ministry of Education, Budapest, 2000	Teaching a foreign language at a young age, starting at year 4, serves psychological and language-related purposes: on one hand, it is aimed at creating an interest in language learning and providing experiences of success, and on the other, they serve as foundation for further language learning, especially through the development of receptive skills. This is accompanied by laying the groundwork of language learning strategies. (see more in the Framework Curricula) The definition of proficiency levels are based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe regarding foreign language teaching.		
Israel	5	18	Elementary: 5-12	age: 9*	180-200 minutes per week	Principles and standards for learning English as a foreign language in Israeli schools.	State of Israel, Ministry of Education, English Inspectorate and Israel Curriculum Center, 2001.	*English is compulsory from age 10/grade 5.		
			Junior High: 13-15							Standards writing committee chaired by Prof. Bernard Spolsky, Bar Ilan University, Israel.
			High School: 16-18							

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Italy	6	15	Primary: 6-11	age: 8				Legislative provisions require the teaching of a foreign language to start in the third year (age 8). 75 percent of the schools select English.
			Lower secondary: 11-14					Special emphasis is now (secondary level) put on the teaching of foreign languages in all curricula to favour cultural exchange with other Countries.
			Upper secondary: 14-19					
			Technical Secondary: 14-19					
			Professional: 14 or 17-19					
Japan			Upper Secondary: 15-18 or 19		240-360 min.	Practical Handbook for Elementary School English Activities	Ministry of Education	*A Period of Integrated Study is included in the primary school day. Some schools have selected English. Assistant Language Teachers (often native speakers but not necessarily teachers) may help homeroom teachers provide instruction. A foreign language is a required subject at
Korea	6	15	Primary: 6-12	age: 8	60 min. for Grade 3-4 and 120 min. for grades 5-6	The National Common Basic Curriculum (for grades 1-10)	Ministry of Education	The following subject matters in the national common basic curriculum shall be organized and implemented as differentiated curriculum. (A) Level differentiation shall be used for Mathematics and English. (...) 4 levels of English courses are offered from grades 7 through 10. Each level is divided into two sub-levels which are respectively operated on a semester basis. (B) In-depth and supplementary differentiated curriculum shall be offered (...) from grades 3 through 6 for English.
			Middle Secondary: 12-15		102-136 hours (per annum)			
			Upper secondary: 15-18		136 hours (per annum)			
Lithuania	10	16	Primary: 6-10	age: 6-7*	Two 45 min. lessons per week	Early teaching Curriculum; General Programmes and Educational Standards	Ministry of Education	*Compulsory English at age 8-9 (4th year).
			Basic/Lower Secondary: 11-16		Three - five 45 min. lessons per			Increased demand for foreign languages since regaining independence. Most popular foreign languages are English and Russian, followed by German and French.
			Upper Intermediate: 17-18					
Mexico	6	16	Primary: 6-12	age: 6				
			Lower secondary: 12-16					
			Upper secondary: 16-19					

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Saudi Arabia	6	18	Primary: 6-12 Intermediate: 12-15 Secondary: 15-18	age: 12		The Secondary Stage Curriculum for Boys, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Saad A. A. (2001). <i>Teaching and Learning English vocabulary in Saudi Arabian Public Schools: An Exploratory Study of Some Possible reasons Behind Students' Failure to Learn English Vocabulary</i> . Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation. University of Essex, UK	Education in Saudi Arabia is segregated by gender and divided into three separately administered systems: general education for boys, education for girls and traditional Islamic education (for boys). The Ministry of Education, established in 1952, presides over general education for boys and education for girls comes under the jurisdiction of the General Presidency for Girls' Education. Both genders follow the same curriculum and take the same annual examinations.
Spain	6	16	Primary: 6-16 Secondary: 12-16 Higher secondary: 12-16 Pre-university: 17-18	age: 6				
Taiwan	6	16	Primary: 6-12 Junior high school: 13-15 Senior high school: 16-19	age: 6*	180-360 min		Nine year joint curricula plan for elementary and junior high school, 9/01.	Language comprises 20 to 30 percent of the total curriculum. In order to better prepare students for the world, English became compulsory from the fifth grade on in 2001. *Many cities will start English in Grade 1-3 beginning September 2002.
Tanzania	7	13	Pre-School: 5-6 Primary: 7-14 Ordinary Secondary: 15-19 Advanced Secondary: 20-21	age: 7*	240 min 200 min	English for Tanzanian (national) Schools	Ministry of Education and Culture (centralized)	*English is taught as a subject in Standards 1-7, it becomes the medium of instruction in Standard 7 (age 14). English is the medium of instruction for all secondary classes. English is also taught as a subject.
Turkey			Grades 4-5 Grades 6-8		120 minutes 240 minutes		National Board of Education	
Assessment								
Cambridge Young Learners English			Starters: 7-8 Movers: 8-10 Flyers: 10-12			Cambridge Young Learners - Handbook		