



## SINGLE EMPHASIS CLUBS

# ESL (English as a second language) clubs

### Background

*English is the language of business globally. Fluency in English is a valuable career asset. (Forbes, 10-26-2012) 55% of Internet content is in English. (goFluent, 2017).* According to the British Council, in 2019, there were 375 million English-as-second-language learners. The British Council notes enormous demand for qualified English-language instructors across the globe, particularly for native speakers. In 2012, 100,000 native English speakers were teaching English in China. (*Forbes, 10-26-12*).

Young adults wishing to advance in careers, service, and life can benefit greatly from English proficiency. Many students learn the basics of Classroom English, but never become proficient.

Covid-19 forced the entire world to rethink the process of travel, communication, education, and club membership. People have become accustomed to social distancing and virtual communication.

Communication and working together globally builds community, caring, and connectivity. Working with an instructor with strong English skills in a relaxed enjoyable environment builds students' skills and confidence rapidly.

### Description of an ESL Club

An ESL club is a Kiwanis club that focuses on learning English as a second language as well as service. The goals of the ESL clubs will be to develop English listening and speaking skills in a relaxed friendly environment and to provide opportunities for friendship, leadership development, and service in Kiwanis. Most members will be English language learners; in addition, two of the members will be experienced Kiwanians who serve as coaches. The ESL instructors may or may not choose to become members.

### How to Begin

The first step is to identify potential members who have an interest in learning and becoming more proficient in English as a second language, in addition to a desire to serve others with a focus on children. For tips and instructions on how to create a Kiwanis club generally, visit [www.kiwanis.org/clubopener](http://www.kiwanis.org/clubopener).

An ESL club can be a traditional club that meets face-to-face, an internet club, or a hybrid club. In hybrid clubs, the ESL members and instructors can attend in person or online.

For either hybrid or internet ESL clubs, solid internet connection and devices will be required.

There must be at least 15 new members to start the ESL club. Members must be at least 18 years old (or older based on the country of club formation) and have some understanding of English. There is no upper age limit on age for the members. Kiwanis members of existing clubs can join the ESL club and pay dues to each club. ESL club members will pay Kiwanis dues, and will typically find that the ESL, service, and leadership skills gained will be valuable and less costly than other ESL



education, service, and leadership opportunities. Each ESL club will have two Club Coaches who will advise and mentor the ESL club. The Club Coaches will be members of the ESL club and may benefit from participating in ESL lessons.

Classes will generally meet twice a month for one hour on a secure, reliable video platform such as Zoom. The classes and any other club meetings may be in the evening to accommodate work schedules of ESL members, coaches, and instructors. For any ESL club, having some instructors from the same region may help to minimize time zone differences. However, with the internet, instructors and ESL members can be located anywhere.

Instructors must be skilled in English, if not native English speakers. Instructors will be volunteers, with many also being Kiwanians. Instructors need not be certified ESL Instructors, but will be guided by those who are. The goal is to have at least one instructor for every 8 members. Additional instructors will be “on call” to allow for vacations, schedule conflicts, flexibility, etc. For an ESL club with 25 members there should be 3 or more instructors.

The ESL instruction will begin with conversational English; then members will self assign themselves into groups for easy, medium, or advanced ESL Instruction. All members will interact together at times, but then break out into their subgroup ESL lessons. The members will likely participate in an ESL clubs for several years while making progress toward their goals. When ESL members “graduate” from the ESL club, they will be encouraged to join other Kiwanis clubs or be the nucleus to start new Kiwanis clubs. New members should be recruited every year.

The ESL Club will have its own officers, fundraising, budgets, etc. Leadership development training can be provided in both the ESL classes and through Club Leadership Education locally. The ESL club will have service projects of its own or with nearby Kiwanis clubs. These ESL clubs can have Interclubs in person or virtually with other Kiwanis and ESL Kiwanis clubs.

The guidelines outlined above will be used in several “pilot” ESL Clubs currently being established. All Kiwanis ESL clubs will have ESL as a part of the club name. Having ESL in the name will help in arranging Interclubs among ESL clubs, exchanging ideas on curricula & processes, and assisting in the club’s development and evolution.

## **Getting started**

Contact other people who are interested in joining, teaching, coaching, or starting a new ESL club! They can be located anywhere and will help Kiwanis grow everywhere!

Get more information at this link: <https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/division-leader/club-opening>.

Email [membership@kiwanis.org](mailto:membership@kiwanis.org) to obtain more help in identifying options for your new club.