

Activities to help you prepare for *Applied linguistics and English language* (EE817)

Activity 1

If you're brand new to postgraduate study, then the free Badged Open Course [Succeeding in Postgraduate Study](#) will get you started on study skills, time management and more.

Activity 2

Have a look at the free OpenLearn course [Language in the Real World](#). This course explains and illustrates why knowledge about how language works (i.e. 'linguistics') is helpful – some might say essential – for different aspects of our everyday lives. It introduces ideas around what language is; and the field of applied linguistics, which explores and addresses situations where language plays a crucial role.

Activity 3

The free OpenLearn course [Understanding Language and Learning](#) considers the relationship between language and learning. Learning is any kind of activity, whether in a formal or informal context, that enhances an individual's knowledge or skills. The relationship with language is approached in three ways: learning a language, learning about language and learning through language. This course explains and illustrates the different relationships between language and learning, using videos and activities with real world examples of language in use.

Activity 4

Here are some useful introductory readings – and one video – from the first few weeks of EE817. Don't feel you have to read all of these ahead of module start – we recommend a range of articles and books in the hope that you have access to one or more of them in your local college or library. Once you begin EE817, the books will be available through the OU Library as ebooks or as PDF extracts on the module site.

- North, S. English (2015) *A Linguistic Toolkit*, Milton Keynes, The Open University. (If you've studied our undergraduate module U214, you'll already have this book)
- Burns, A., Davies, W., Dörnyei, Z., Durrant, P., House, J., Hudson, R., Hunston, S., Kirkpatrick, A., Knight, D., and Richards, J.C. (2009) *What is Applied Linguistics?* Cambridge University Press Reading Room. Available at www.cambridge.org/elt/resources/appliedlinguistics/reading/Applied_ART_WhatIsAL.pdf
- Introduction section of: Simpson, J. (2011) *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics*, Abingdon, Routledge.
- Cook, G. (2009) 'The "Design Features" of Language', Milton Keynes, The Open University. pp. 276–284, 287–288 from: Pinker, S. (1994) *The Language Instinct: The new science of language and mind*, London, Penguin Books.
- Steven Pinker on Language Pragmatics (2016) Floating University video, added by Big Think [Online]. Available at <http://bigthink.com/floating-university/language-pragmatics-why-we-cant-talk-to-computers> (Accessed 8 June 2016).
- Hymes, D. (1971 [1972]) 'On communicative Competence', in Pride, J.B. and J. Holmes (eds.) *Sociolinguistics: Selected Readings*, Harmondsworth, Penguin, pp. 269–93.