

**INTENSIVE LANGUAGE CURRICULUM: MODERN APPROACHES AND
PROGRAM DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

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Principles*

Introduction

In recent years, the demand for learning foreign languages has significantly increased, leading to a rise in the popularity of intensive courses. An intensive language program is designed to significantly boost language competence in a short time frame through a well-structured plan, systematic materials, and methodical approaches. This article explores the core principles of intensive language programs, their structure, teaching methodology, and assessment strategies.

Key Features of Intensive Courses

Intensive courses differ from traditional language programs in their high frequency of sessions, short-term objectives, and emphasis on real-life communication. Typically, these programs involve 15–25 hours of instruction per week and run for 4 to 12 weeks. They aim not only at language acquisition but also at using the language as a tool for communication in authentic contexts (Richards, 2017).

Curriculum Structure and Content**1. Needs Analysis**



Who are the learners? What are their goals, current proficiency levels, and motivations? Answering these questions ensures the selection of suitable materials and methodologies (Brown, 2001).

2. Setting Learning Objectives

Clear, measurable competencies are defined based on CEFR standards: speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary enhancement.

3. Designing Course Content

Each week or module should focus on a theme (e.g., travel, work, daily life), grammar points (e.g., past tenses, modals), and communicative functions (e.g., making suggestions, giving opinions).

4. Materials Selection

Authentic materials (news articles, videos, podcasts)

Coursebooks (e.g., English File, Speakout)

Digital tools: Quizlet, Kahoot, Duolingo

5. Teaching Methodology

Communicative Approach

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

Project-Based Learning

Pair and group work

These methods foster interaction, independent thinking, and real-life language use.

Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment plays a crucial role in intensive courses by ensuring quality control and tracking progress.

Formative Assessment: Weekly quizzes, oral responses, writing tasks.

Summative Assessment: Final exam (oral and written), portfolios.

Self-Assessment: Learners evaluate their achievement of set goals.

Conclusion

Intensive language courses provide a powerful platform for rapid language development. Effective implementation requires a clear plan, thorough needs



analysis, appropriate methodology, and high-quality materials. With the right approach, these programs can be both effective and motivational for learners and teachers alike.

Reference

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