

Foreword

Everyday Interactive Tasks is a product of more than 25 years of teaching and teacher training in TESOL. What inspired the creation of this resource were the *immediate* needs of elementary English language learners, including the substantial number of non-literate and semi-literate learners settling in Australia.

The underlying principle that informs the design of this book is:

*'...getting the fundamental elements right from the very beginning in the **target language** to enhance acquisition and use at higher levels of proficiency, facilitating smoother settlement for newly arrived people.'*

The focus in the book is on the productive skills of **speaking** and **writing**, at an approximate ratio of 70:30. The premise for this ratio is that most of the interaction we engage in on a day-to-day basis is 'oral'.

The tasks reflect language use in everyday survival contexts: providing personal information in formal and informal contexts, socialising, getting around, medical needs and so on. The writing tasks complement the preceding speaking tasks, providing an opportunity for learners to compare the language shifts from the spoken to the written mode within familiar contexts. This approach also serves for teachers as a model for how a speaking task can lead in to a writing task, linking spoken outcomes to written outcomes.

Finally I would like to add that all the tasks in this resource have proven successful in my classrooms, honed over many years of refinement and extensive practical use.

I hope you find the tasks in this resource as helpful and as rewarding as I have. The best of luck and if you would like any further assistance or suggestions please do not hesitate to ask via our website www.apels.net.au.

Thank you,

Theodora Lafkas

Section 1—Survey tasks

Task	Description & language elements included	Page(s)	Related to task(s)
S1	Where do you come from? <i>Country of birth</i>	16	W2
S2	What's your phone number? <i>Phone numbers</i>	17	W1, W2, I2 C1
S3	What's your student number? <i>Numerals 1-10</i>	18	W1, C1
S4	Where do you come from? (3 classmates) <i>Full name, Country of birth</i>	20	W2
S5	Where do you live? Suburbs	22	W3
S6	Personal details: 'then and now' <i>Name, country of birth, suburb of residence</i>	24	S4, S5, W4, W5
S7	What's your nationality? <i>Name, country of birth, nationality</i>	27	S1, S4, W6
S8	Giving 5 pieces of personal information: <i>Name, country of birth, nationality, suburb of residence, phone number</i>	29	S1, S2, S5, S7, W7, C4, C5
S9	What's your address? <i>Full name and address</i>	31	W8
S10	What's your email? <i>Name, email address</i>	33	W9
S11	When's your birthday? <i>Name, day & month of birthday (casual conversation) - ordinals</i>	35	S12, C3
S12	What's your date of birth? <i>Full name, date of birth (formal, bureaucratic)</i>	36	S11, S15, W10, C3
S13	Year of arrival : Years (casual conversation)	37	S14
S14	When did you come to Australia? <i>Date of arrival (formal, bureaucratic)</i>	38	S13, S15, W10, C3
S15	Asking for and giving personal informal <i>Pair interviewing using 1st, 2nd & 3rd person</i>	39-41	W7, W8, W9, W10, C4, C5
S16	How many siblings do you have? <i>Family terms</i>	42	S17
S17	Talking about children: Family terms, age	43	S16, C5
S18	Occupations: What do you do?	44	W11, C4
S19	What time do you...? <i>Daily routine</i>	46	W12
S20	How do you get to class? Transport	47	W12
S21	What drinks do you like?	48	
S22	What fruit do you like?	49	
S23	What vegetables do you like?	50	
S24	What food do you like?	51	I12, I13, I14
S25	What kind of weather do you like?	52	I12
S26	Talking about pastimes	53	W12, I12
S27	Talking about preferences	54	S21, S24-26, I12
S28	What did you do at the weekend? <i>Activities (Past tense)</i>	55	S18, S19, S20, S26

Where do you come from?

Complete for you and then **interview** 3 classmates:

	You	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3
First Name				
Surname				
Country of birth				

Ask:
What's your surname?
Where do you come from?

Remember for names:
Can you spell that, please?



When did you come to Australia?

Interview your classmates:

First Name	Date of arrival
Trinh	26 / 10 / 2009

Example

When did you come to Australia?

Remember for names:
Can you spell that, please?

Complete this form with your details:

Surname:

First name:

Address:

 Postcode: Date of birth:

/

/

d d m m y y y y

Date of arrival:

/

/

d d m m y y y y

Signature: Date:

/

/

d d m m y y y y

Writing a short biography

W11

Example

I am Angela Rodrigues. I come from Columbia and now live in Sydney, Australia. I have been in Australia for two years. I first came as a student to learn English and I stayed. At the moment I am studying more English at TAFE and hope to get a certificate in business administration. In Columbia, I was an administrative assistant in a small company and I hope to do similar work here in Australia.

Now **write** about yourself:

Find the missing dates

Ask Student B for the missing dates:

Example:

What's the date in A1?

- It's the 26th.

	1	2	3	4	5
A	26 th		13 th		21 st
B		17 th		8 th	
C	11 th		1 st		31 st
D		30 th		28 th	
E	6 th		14 th		23 rd



Sound

/θ/

Number

fourth
ninth
tenth

Health appointments

Ask Student B for the missing information:

	Rebecca	Minh	Mayu	Thomas
What?		Optometrist		Physio- therapist
Where?		Croydon Eye Care		Liverpool Hospital
Time?		9.45am		3.00pm
Problem?		annual check- up		knee injury

Example

What is Rebecca’s appointment?

Where is the appointment?

What time is the appointment?

What’s her problem?

Remember:

‘His’ for man’s problem.

‘Her’ for woman’s problem.