

# TRACKS

🇬🇧 preface & justification





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# Preface and Justification - Tracks

Tracks is a blended learning English course from Holmwoods Onderwijs. Tracks includes all levels from Beginners to B2. Students may begin the course at their own level and progress to the desired target level, whether that be A1, A2, B1, or B2.

## Features and methodology

Tracks uses the 'Flipping the Classroom' methodology. This methodology consists of two parts, namely individual computer-based learning and interactive activities during class<sup>1</sup>. Initially, the students work independently online at their own level on all skills and vocabulary. During the first part, the students receive input. The online program adapts by adding or skipping exercises, depending on the student's results, in preparation for classroom lessons. During the second part, the classroom lessons, the focus shifts to the application of the English language. The emphasis then lies on the productive skills: writing, speaking, and conversation. To provide support for classroom lessons, student's books have been developed with exercises, projects, and assignments at pre-A1, A1, A2, B1, and B2 levels. The two parts together ensure the components of the 'schijf van vijf'<sup>2</sup>.

Both the online platform and the student's books immerse students in the English language. The exercises, projects, and assignments are designed to ensure the maximum exposure to, and use of, the English language. In addition, students are introduced to English-speaking countries, providing relevance for the learning of a foreign language.

## Online learning trajectory

The entry test determines the starting level of the students. This level could be one of the pre-A1 levels, A1, A2, B1, or B2. These levels correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Modern Foreign Languages. Each level contains 12 units that the student can work through independently.

## Adaptivity

Based on the student results, exercises are added or skipped. In addition, there is a separate adaptive vocabulary system that keeps track of which words a student needs to practice more. Vocabulary is also recycled from previous units and levels to check that students still remember words learned earlier in the school year.

## Different Tracks / differentiation

Some students are faster learners than others; hence, there are multiple tracks to allow students to work at a level best suited to their ability. Set a default track for a class. If students need a challenge they can be moved to a higher track. Table 1 provides an overview of the different tracks and their characteristics.

1 Ayçiçek, B., & Yanpar Yelken, T. (2018)

2 Westhoff (2008)

Table 1: Different Tracks with characteristics

	<b>Central (vmbo)</b>	<b>Piccadilly (havo)</b>	<b>Victoria (vwo/gymnasium)</b>
<b>Vocab</b>	50 words per unit	75 words per unit	100 words per unit
<b>Reading</b>	Short texts	Extensive reading	Extensive academic reading
<b>Listening</b>	Short videos / vlogs	Short videos / vlogs	Long videos
<b>Speaking</b>	Automatic assessment	Automatic assessment	Automatic assessment
<b>Writing</b>	Automatic and teacher assessment	Automatic and teacher assessment	Automatic and teacher assessment
<b>Grammar</b>	Short and simple lessons	Comprehensive lessons	Comprehensive lessons

### Insight into results

With Flipping the Classroom, students first work online in their personal environment at their own level. Despite everyone working on different tracks and possibly different levels, it is possible to clearly see the progress of each student with the class results page. At a glance, it is possible to see where in the learning line the students are working, what progress they are making, and how they are scoring. In addition, it can be seen how many minutes the student has worked per week. It is also possible to monitor the progress of students in real time.

### Smart goals

Students can work at their own level and pace in Tracks, but teachers can maintain control by using smart goals. A smart goal can be set for each student, a group of students, or the whole class. A smart goal can be for a longer period, for example, for an entire school year. The goal calculates how much time the student must spend practicing each week to achieve the goal. The system bases the calculation on the student's performance and adapts the prognosis should any changes occur.

### Student's books

A student's book contains 12 units. At the beginning of each unit, the themes, learning objectives, grammar (except in Pre-A1)<sup>3</sup>, and a 'By the Way' page are listed. The 'By the Way' page is extra and contains interesting information about a topic from the unit. The vocabulary for each lesson or unit is in the student's book.

Exercises, assignments, and projects frequently require student collaboration, either in pairs or small groups. From B1, four projects have been replaced by four assignments. Assignments are designed to prepare the students for the final exams. See Attachment 2 for an overview of the projects and assignments.

For each level, teachers are provided with a physical teacher's book with an explanation of the activities, answers, and references to the smartboard or the Extra Materials. The Extra Materials can be found in the student's students' learning area.

3 Download '[Overview of Unit Information](#)' for the levels A1, A2, B1 and B2

## Structure per week (flexible)

Table 2 shows a possible structure and distribution of online and classroom lessons per week. This example is based on three lesson hours per week and one unit per three weeks. Of course, this can vary with more or fewer lessons per week, homework or not, the number of units per academic year, and partial or no own content of the classroom lessons.

Table 2. Distribution of online lessons and classroom lessons

<b>Pre-A1</b>			
	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lesson 3</b>
<b>Week 1, 2 and 3</b>	Online lesson	Student's book: practical lesson	Student's book: practical lesson
<b>A1+A2</b>			
	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lesson 3</b>
<b>Week 1, 2 and 3</b>	Online lesson	Student's book: practical lesson	Student's book: project lesson
<b>B1+B2</b>			
	<b>Lesson 1</b>	<b>Lesson 2</b>	<b>Lesson 3</b>
<b>Week 1 and 2</b>	Online lesson	Student's book: practical lesson	Student's book: practical lesson
<b>Week 3</b>	Project/assignment	Project/assignment	Project/assignment

## Tests

All the exercises that the students complete online provide formative feedback. In addition, the students take a short test at the end of each unit. All skills are covered during this test except for speaking and conversation skills.

From level A1, each unit also contains a PDF test that can be taken during the lesson. The test, the correction model, and the listening part can be downloaded. If necessary, multiple unit tests can form one test for, for example, a test week.

## More info

If you have a question or need advice, feel free to email or call us.

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## Sources

Ayçiçek, B., & Yanpar Yelken, T. (2018). The Effect of Flipped Classroom Model on Students' Classroom Engagement in Teaching English. *International Journal of Instruction*, 11(2), 385–398. <https://doi.org/10.12973/iji.2018.11226a>

Westhoff, G. (2008). Bijlage 2: Een schijf van vijf voor het vreemdetalenonderwijs, prof. dr. G.J. Westhoff, (2008). *wERKwijzer*, 46–52.

## Attachment 1: Overview of unit information

Pre-A1	Themes	Learning goals - book
<b>Unit 1</b>	Foreign languages Making friends Weather	Describe a place Describe a journey Name the pros and cons of different types of weather Describe your favorite type of weather Make questions Ask each other questions
<b>Unit 2</b>	Culture Friends Languages Meeting people	Write about and draw activities Have a conversation about what you do after school Write down the languages you speak Discover other foreign languages Give a presentation on how you need help and how you can help others Describe how you would help someone
<b>Unit 3</b>	Health Hospital	Make and check a health report Ask questions about health Write about what wakes you up in the night Make a drawing from a description Write a role-play about something in a hospital Do a role-play about health
<b>Unit 4</b>	Hurricanes Weather	Write an emergency supply list Make an advertisement about emergency supplies Write ideas in a word or sentence web Write a diary of someone who must stay indoors all day Describe the damage done by a storm Think about how you can repair damage from a storm
<b>Unit 5</b>	Electricity Hurricanes	Describe something electrical Describe a new electrical machine Write about hurricanes in your own words Give a presentation about how hurricanes are made Write a news report about a hurricane Present a news report or make a vlog about a hurricane
<b>Unit 6</b>	American history Languages School	Describe the beginning of a school day using chosen words Write a poem about school Talk about a self-invented emoji Write a story using emojis Write in a few sentences about someone day Spell words using the game Lingo
<b>Unit 7</b>	Dates History Holidays	Write a diary in the past tense Describe events and place them on a timeline Find and organize information about a holiday Give a presentation about a holiday Describe a holiday that you make yourself Find out what people's favorite holidays are



**Pre-A1 Themes**

**Learning goals - book**

<b>Unit 8</b>	Friends Money Shopping Weather	Write a voice-over for a video about ice skating Explain an activity on ice Describe the first thing you bought Make a wish list and find out how much it costs Write a role-play about shopping Give each other tips about body language
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<b>Unit 9</b>	Time Travel Vacations	Design a booking website Talk about your website in class Write a reservation email Answer an email Make a sales pitch Give each other feedback and make the changes
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<b>Unit 10</b>	Chores Houses and homes	Talk about chores and fill in a chores timetable Tell which chores you like and which you don't like Guess chores and write them down Decide if paying for chores is a good idea Create a word web with chores Make an advertisement offering to help with chores
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<b>Unit 11</b>	Birthday parties Shopping Sport	Describe a gift Write a story based on answers Describe the differences between an American and local birthday party Describe a game Have a conversation about a birthday party Finish writing a story about a birthday
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<b>Unit 12</b>	Cooking Food Health	Make a shopping list Write a recipe Make a comic strip Play Who am I? Think of the pros and cons of fast food Think about the past year with a quiz
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<b>A1</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Leaving friends and traveling Moving house	Present simple Using don't and doesn't Using have and has	Give information about yourself Ask your friend simple questions Talk about favorite clothes Write a simple travel blog Design a memory game
<b>Unit 2</b>	Clothes Houses and homes Meeting people	Comparatives and superlatives Past simple Present simple Yes/No questions	Introduce yourself Interview your classmates Fill in personal details Write a short letter about yourself Describe a route on a map
<b>Unit 3</b>	Clothes Jobs Moods and feelings Sport	Present continuous	Use the present continuous correctly Talk about moods and feelings Talk about different sports Talk about child entrepreneurs Describe your favorite sport
<b>Unit 4</b>	Emergencies Hobbies and free time	Past simple The verb to be Using can	Ask questions using 'can' Use the past simple correctly Talk about hobbies Write a short story Talk about favorite movies
<b>Unit 5</b>	Health Moods and feelings	Adjectives Articles Past simple Present continuous	Use the past simple correctly Tell a story Use adjectives correctly Use the present continuous correctly Write a short poem
<b>Unit 6</b>	Making friends Meeting people	Possessive 's Pronouns	Write a message to a friend Introduce yourself and others Talk about things you like / dislike Ask and answer questions about yourself and others Answer questions about your health
<b>Unit 7</b>	Computer games Living and studying abroad	Past simple Wh-questions	Use the past simple correctly Write a simple letter to a friend Write a simple response to a forum post Ask and answer questions about your hometown Ask and answer questions about what you do in your free time
<b>Unit 8</b>	Daily life Food UK history	Prepositions of place	Use prepositions of place correctly Compare timetables Talk about your favorite food Give someone advice Make a dinner reservation

<b>A1</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 9</b>	Daily life Sport Transport and travel	Present continuous	Use the present continuous correctly Talk and write about sports Talk and write about family Give directions on the airport Make an online party invitation
<b>Unit 10</b>	Friends School and studying Shopping	Prepositions of time	Use prepositions of time correctly Talk about favorite stores Write about qualities Talk about your experiences Give someone a makeover
<b>Unit 11</b>	Cities Friends Music	Adjectives Present simple	Describe your favorite emoticon Write a simple story Talk about the weather Talk about your favorite music Write your own rap
<b>Unit 12</b>	Birthdays Crime Friendships Music	Past simple Some and any	Create your own comic strip Talk about musical instruments Describe heroes and criminals Write a party invitation Report a crime

<b>A2</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Family Routines	Going to and will Modal verbs Much and many	Talk about daily routines Talk about other routines Give advice Write about job qualifications
<b>Unit 2</b>	British and American English Making new friends	Wh-questions Prepositions of movement	Interview someone Tell the differences between British and American English Describe and guess places Write a postcard to a friend Invent your own country
<b>Unit 3</b>	Clothes Socializing	Comparatives and superlatives Order of adjectives	Make comparisons correctly Have a conversation in a clothes store Talk and write about different festivals Write about means of transport Make a PowerPoint presentation
<b>Unit 4</b>	Hobbies (BMX bikes) Relationships (family)	Questions about the past	Make questions in the past Write an answer Talk about unusual sports Interview a criminal Talk about your favorite park
<b>Unit 5</b>	Art Describing people Education Meeting people	Past continuous	Come up with excuses Describe a person Write about meeting a friend Talk about art Design your own school
<b>Unit 6</b>	Directions Music	Present simple Wh-questions	Talk about different musical styles Write a story Write better English sentences Talk about playing a musical instrument
<b>Unit 7</b>	Emergencies First responders Science	Articles Demonstrative pronouns	Ask questions to find out 'Whodunit?' Write a story on emergencies Make an emergency phone call Give a simple First Aid training
<b>Unit 8</b>	Eating and drinking Family Jobs Transport and travel	Demonstrative pronouns Modal verbs	Use demonstrative pronouns correctly Make a phone call Write a reply Continue a story Design a menu

<b>A2</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 9</b>	Special occasions	Questions about the past	Ask questions in the past simple Discuss differences in a text or picture Explain why you did something Write a speech Give a speech
<b>Unit 10</b>	Daily life Family Houses and homes	Irregular verbs	Talk about bad habits Use the past simple correctly Answer a letter Write a poem Write an advertisement
<b>Unit 11</b>	Crime History Houses and homes Money Transport and travel	Irregular verbs Past simple	Create a story Design a perfect house Talk about jobs Write an application letter Make your own CV
<b>Unit 12</b>	Emergencies Moving home Transport and travel	Adverbs Possessive pronouns	Talk about your dream job Interview your classmate Write a letter about moving Write about a surprise party Write and talk about your future

<b>B1</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Asking directions Houses and homes Meeting people	Adverbs of time, place, and frequency Much and many Present continuous	Give directions Write a personal text Talk about your new home Do an interview about a haunted house Present your own haunted house
<b>Unit 2</b>	Daily life Eating and drinking Jobs	Adverbs of time, place, and frequency Modal verbs Present perfect	Devise word definitions Write a creative story Describe your neighborhood Create a background story of a crime Make a promotional leaflet about a job
<b>Unit 3</b>	Family Special occasions Sport	Past perfect Past simple Prepositions of time	Write a text for the school newspaper Write a sports commentary Talk about a favorite movie Perform a role-play of a surprise visit Practice your reading skills
<b>Unit 4</b>	Crime Family Transport and travel	Affixation: prefixes and suffixes Irregular verbs	Summarize a crime report Fill in a police report Learn about road safety Write a proposal on improving public transport Learn about Shakespeare
<b>Unit 5</b>	Crime Family Relationships	Past continuous Zero and first condi- tionals	Report an emergency situation Describe a news item Summarize a video Write a personal email
<b>Unit 6</b>	Cooking Relationships	Present perfect: for and since Present perfect: past events The future tenses	Talk and write about favorite recipes Discuss a poem about family Write a synopsis of a book Write an informal letter Give feedback on your classmate's work
<b>Unit 7</b>	Emergencies Jobs Music Relationships	Present perfect: past events	Talk about music Understand different songs Record a voicemail message Give advice on mending a broken heart Pitch your idea for a music club
<b>Unit 8</b>	Emergencies Geography Weather	Must, should, and have to	Understand a video on North America Write about your vacation Discuss the work of a meteorologist Discuss climate change Conduct a research

<b>B1</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 9</b>	Eating and drinking Emergencies Geography Hobbies and free time The natural world Transport and travel	Past perfect Present perfect: for and since	Write about a hiking trail Discuss a rescue plan Write about a bear encounter Talk about favorite foods Improve your listening skills
<b>Unit 10</b>	Emergencies Family Health Moods and feelings	Passive	Write an article about an imaginative encounter Perform a role-play Use the passive correctly Write an emoji story Design your own board game
<b>Unit 11</b>	Health care Hobbies and free time School and studying Special occasions	Past perfect	Promote an online sports game Write a letter of complaint Decline a birthday present Complete a birthday story
<b>Unit 12</b>	Friends Hobbies and free time Special occasions Sport Transport and travel	Affixation: prefixes and suffixes	Take part in a discussion Write about traveling the world Talk about unusual plans Write an acrostic Have an argumentative discussion

<b>B2</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Geography Moods and feelings Sustainability Transport and travel	Prepositional adverbs The future tenses	Read a text in detail Practice note-taking Write about sustainability Give advice on sustainability Design a brochure to promote tourism
<b>Unit 2</b>	Australian wildlife Geography Meeting people Money	The future tenses	Write a story Talk about your future Predict the topic of a text Talk about Australian wildlife Design a new section of a zoo
<b>Unit 3</b>	Hobbies and free time Hydroponics Relationships Transport and travel	Adjectives Comparatives and superlatives Countable and uncountable nouns	Talk about your perfect date Discuss options in a travel agency Write a letter of complaint Learn about linking words Practice reading skills
<b>Unit 4</b>	Geography History Relationships Transport and travel	Affixation: prefixes and suffixes Modal verbs Passive	Understand an article in detail Write and respond to a forum post Discuss a problem at border security Write about personal experiences in an email Use prefixes and suffixes
<b>Unit 5</b>	Foreign languages Sustainability Technology Transport	Relative clauses Word formation	Create compound and blend words Understand a text in detail Write an advisory email Write a creative story Express your opinion in a discussion
<b>Unit 6</b>	Eating and drinking Meeting people Working abroad	Prepositions	Explain and stick to your point of view in an informal discussion Use prepositions in a proper way Ask for and give advice Retell a story of the Aboriginal Dreamtime Write a formal letter
<b>Unit 7</b>	Culture Health Homelessness Jobs	Phrasal verbs Phrasal verbs: separable and inseparable	Make a leaflet on A Christmas Carol Understand a documentary on Charles Dickens Make and respond to a voicemail Write a short story Write an essay



<b>B2</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Learning goals - book</b>
<b>Unit 8</b>	Culture Sports injuries Weather	Narrative tenses	Write an article Talk about sports injuries Write a summary Discuss cultural differences Talk about your own cultural heritage
<b>Unit 9</b>	Daily life Relationships	Reported speech	Write an opinion piece on inequality Understand different texts Talk about miscommunication Write a postcard from Paris Improve your listening skills
<b>Unit 10</b>	Crime Hobbies and free time Transport and travel	Confusing verbs	Pitch a recreational activity Read and understand longer texts Write an informal email Take notes while listening Make a video on weird hobbies
<b>Unit 11</b>	Health Shopping Translation	Second and third conditionals Zero and first conditionals	Understand a video in detail Simplify a difficult process Write a poem about friendship Perform a role-play Create a WebQuest
<b>Unit 12</b>	Moods and feelings Reunions Sustainability	Modal verbs Negative modals of can and need	Retell an interesting anecdote Summarize a text Design your own tiny house Respond to a forum Improve your listening skills

## Attachment 2: Overview of projects/assignments

	<b>A1</b>	<b>A2</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>B2</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	Memory Game	Video Diary	Haunted House	Design a Brochure
<b>Unit 2</b>	City Tour	A New Country	Job Promotion	Aussie at the Zoo
<b>Unit 3</b>	Movie Stars	British Festivals	Assignment Reading	Assignment Reading
<b>Unit 4</b>	A New Sport	Theme Park	You are a Poet	Rock in the USA
<b>Unit 5</b>	Healthy Living	Design Your Own School	Design a Bond Gadget	Sustainability
<b>Unit 6</b>	School Website	My Web Page	Assignment Writing	Assignment Writing
<b>Unit 7</b>	Quiz Time	First Aid	Shark Tank	Homelessness
<b>Unit 8</b>	My Food Truck	A Dinner Party	Climatology	Celebrate Your Background
<b>Unit 9</b>	Party Planning	My Speech	Assignment Listening	Assignment Listening
<b>Unit 10</b>	The Makeover	House Hunting	Survival Game	Strange Hobbies
<b>Unit 11</b>	Write a Rap	My Video CV	Museum Exhibition	Design a Webquest
<b>Unit 12</b>	Crime Scene	My Future Self	Assignment Speaking	Assignment Speaking

Pre-A1 does not contain projects and assignments.