



Lebanon



Armenia



Brazil



Cambodia



Canada



Egypt



France



Germany



Japan



Jordan



Palestine



Russia



Syria



USA

Middle School



English as a Second Language (ESL)

Teacher: Nada Salem Abisamra

The ESL curriculum in Middle School aims to develop students' competence in English in the following areas:

- **Reading Comprehension:**
 - Understanding meaning, locating keywords, highlighting main points, rephrasing, answering questions appropriately, summarizing / synthesizing;
 - Getting used to standardized reading tests.
- **Literature & Writing:**
 - Reading novels in class, writing down expressions that can be used in own writing, then composing a paragraph/essay/short story using some of those expressions as a first step to improve writing style;
 - Identifying the narrative elements in a story (mainly theme, plot, setting, and characters).
- **Writing:**
 - Writing paragraphs/short essays: getting used to writing an outline-focusing on thesis statement/claim, topic sentences, supporting sentences, conclusion, transition words- peer and self-editing/evaluation – checking for logical progression of ideas / flow;
 - Writing short stories with the narrative elements defined (mainly the plot);
 - Improving the structures and grammatical features of English including: tenses, parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, punctuation, capitalization, and direct/indirect speech. [Error analysis exercises among others]
- **Speaking:**
 - Initiating, sustaining, and concluding conversations and discussions on a wide variety of topics of personal, social, and academic interest;
 - Making oral presentations using a variety of subject-specific words and expressions;
 - Using the elements of English grammar with increasing accuracy in speech;
 - Using appropriate language and non-verbal communication strategies (e.g., transition words and phrases for coherence; repetition for emphasis; pause, stress, and intonation for effect).
- **Listening:**
 - Listening to a variety of texts/dialogs/speeches and answering questions that follow the 6 levels of Bloom's taxonomy.

Resources:

Novels;
Specifically
Designed
Handouts;
CD-ROM:
"Focus on
Grammar";
The Internet
(various
relevant links).

**At ACS,
we try to devise
appropriate
teaching
practices for
ESL students,
according to
their individual
needs,
within the broad
objectives of
the ESL
program.**