

**EnGlish**

June 2016

Dear English Student

We are delighted that you have chosen to study English Language and, in case you didn’t manage to make the ‘Going to Godalming’ taster day, I’m sending you a bit of summer preparatory work via email.

In order for you to get the most out of the course, we would like you to do some reading and research work over the summer.

1. **A personal anthology of short texts**. As part of the course, you will be looking at a wide variety of texts from all sorts of different contexts. Please collect ten different texts of your own, then cut them out and stick them onto A4 paper. Here are some types of text you could choose: news article, print advert, letter from the bank, health leaflet, the back of a cereal packet, photocopy of a first page of a children’s story, transcript of a speech from the internet, email, tweet, text message, instant message conversation, screen grab of a website – and so on! Collate all ten *in an ordinary A4 ring binder.* When you arrive in September we will use these texts in our first lesson and then set you a short piece of writing comparing two of your texts. To help prepare for this, for each text, **on a separate sheet** of paper, make notes on its genre (type of text), audience (who it is aimed at – age, gender, level of education) and purpose (inform, entertain, advise, instruct, persuade) and anything else you notice about the language used.
2. **Some preparatory reading.**  Students who read a lot tend to succeed on this course. Please read or listen to a variety of texts over the summer. Use the list on the back of this letter as a guide, choosing *one item from each column.* As a minimum, we would like all students to read *A Little Book of Language* by David Crystal. It makes an excellent introduction to language study, from the acquisition of language through to debates about the strange way in which we text each other. Make a page or two of notes on this text.

Bring the personal anthology and the notes on your wider reading to the first lesson for a discussion about language in our society.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

Best wishes

David Kinder and the English Language team: Diane Crimp, Adam Duce, Jenny Hunter-Phillips, David Deeming and Jennie Baldwin

AS English Language – Preparatory Reading/Listening

Reading List for Task 1. Please choose one from each column as a minimum. Don’t stop there if you want to go on reading!

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| News | Fiction | Non-fiction | Books about Language |
| * Read a broadsheet newspaper three times a week (Guardian, Independent, Times, Telegraph)
* Listen to Radio 4 three times a week, particularly current affairs programmes (*The Today Programme, PM, The Moral Maze, Word of Mouth*)
 | * horror
* historical
* romance
* science fiction
* fantasy
* literary
 | * Travel books (eg ‘*Notes from a Small Island’ –*Bill Bryson
* Biographies of footballers, politicians, actors etc
* Popular history books
* Popular science books
 | * *Txting, The Gr8 Db8 –* David Crystal
* ***A Little Book of Language –* David Crystal**
* *The Mother Tongue –* Bill Bryson
* *You Just Don’t Understand: Women and Men in Conversation –* Deborah Tannen
* *Eats Shoots and Leaves –* Lynne Truss
* *The Language Instinct -* Steven Pinker
* *Stories of English –* David Crystal
* *How Language Works –* David Crystal
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