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Learning anytime, anyplace, any pace



English For All Episode Guide

A General Description of EFA and
A Guide to the Content and Learning
Elements of Each Episode

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ENGLISH FOR ALL

English for All consists of five real-life stories that feature a multi-ethnic cast introduced by a friendly wizard who guides you through the 20 episodes and provides simple explanations of the basic points of grammar that are presented.

Components: *5 VHS tapes, each with 4 video episodes of 15 minutes each; 20 episodes; 5 hours

*5 CD-ROMs, each with 4 video episodes (one story) and accompanying support exercises and activities; has print materials with the stories' full transcripts and exercises that are available in PDF and RTF (format which allows for editing);

* <http://www.myefa.org>, an interactive web site that integrates the support exercises and activities with the video series; the print materials are, also, available on-line.

Requirements for CD-ROMs and web-based program:

200 MHZ or faster computer

64 MB of RAM memory

56.6 or faster access to the Internet

Plug-ins: (downloadable for free at their home sites)

Internet Explorer 5.5 or Netscape 6.0 or higher

Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com>

Quicktime Movie Player <http://www.apple.com/quicktime>

Flash Movie Player <http://www.macromedia.com>

Applications

This course can be used as supplemental instructional material for classes with English language learners at these levels:

Based on NRS Descriptors

low intermediate to

low advanced

Based on SPL's

Oral Communication 4

Oral Communication 6

The grammatical structures presented are for beginners (NRS); however, the real language spoken is too sophisticated and complex for that level.

Features of EFA video stories:

- Excellent supplementary material, especially for a civics-oriented curriculum.
- Springboards for discussion to enhance learners' abilities to deal with life in the United States.
- Recommendations and guidance are given in managing common situations encountered by new arrivals and/or limited English proficient citizens.
- Vivid illustrations of how to actively participate in American life, be an advocate for civil rights, and be a responsible citizen and worker.

- Real life conflicts leading the main characters to decide between two opposing courses of action. Designed as a dynamic means to involve the students, the web-based and CR-ROM versions allow the learners to interactively choose between these options, and view the consequences of each decision.
- Intriguing plots with comical scoundrels.
- Situations that will allow learners to identify with the protagonists and their dilemmas.

Guide To The Content And Learning Elements In Each Episode

Summary

Story	Episode	Title and Main Focus	Grammar
1	1	Job and Career Advancement	Want, need, like, hate + inf. Verb form
	2	Job Health and Safety	Going to/will, to express future
	3	Support Systems for Injured Workers	Simple past tense of regular and irregular verbs
	4	Supervisors and Teamwork	Imperatives; let's
2	5	Managing Family Life	Verbs of Necessity: have to, must
	6	Using Information Services	Can, could, to express ability in the present and past
	7	Accessing Services (Telephone, electricity, etc.)	Modal auxiliaries; formal and informal requests
3	8	Men's Changing Roles	Make vs. Do
	9	Dealing with Taxes	Count and non/count nouns; plurals
	10	Dealing with the Law	Quantifiers: much, many, some, a few, any, a lot of, a little
	11	Analyzing and Debating Community Issues	Singular expressions of quantity: each one, another, others, other
	12	Civic Participation	Object pronouns; indefinite pronouns
4	13	Parenting in the U.S.	Adjectives
	14	Women's Changing Roles	Adverbs of Frequency
	15	Women's Work Issues	Adverbs of Manner
	16	Women in Non-traditional Roles	Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives
5	17	Accessing Learning Opportunities	Asking questions with "wh" words
	18	Investing in your Children's Education	Prepositions of time, place and direction
	19	Transferring Professional Degrees and Licenses	Use of "did" in simple past questions
	20	Learning to Learn	Past tense forms of verbs

Description and Learning Elements

STORY # 1

Episode 1 – Job and Career Advancement

Synopsis: Alejandro Cordero is an unhappy bus boy who works for a difficult and unfair restaurant owner. After experiencing the disappointment of a promotion, he must decide whether he should apply for the position of assistant manager in another restaurant or not and risk the possibility of another disappointment.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Use of simple present verb forms: want, need, like, hate + infinitive verb form	*Expressing personal tastes and desires *Expressing agreement *Introducing yourself *Asking yes/no questions	*Job skills *Looking for employment *Reading and understanding want ads *Applying for a job

Episode 2 – Job Health and Safety

Synopsis: Before leaving his old job, Alejandro warns his boss of some potentially hazardous conditions at work. His boss, nevertheless, ignores and tries to intimidate Alejandro which may lead to difficulties for everyone.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
*Going to/will to express future *Let's *There are/there is	*Expressing future plans *Making promises/predictions *Giving/responding to commands *Disagreeing *Scanning documents such as manuals and signs for specific information	*Being aware of safety precautions and taking responsibility to maintain safe conditions *Reporting unsafe conditions in the workplace

Episode 3 – Support Systems for Injured Workers

Synopsis: Alejandro suffers an accident at work and learns about Worker's Compensation. Since his boss refuses to pay, he must appear before a judge who will decide his case. Alejandro must tell the *whole* truth before the judge can award him his compensation.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Simple past tense of regular and irregular verbs	*Describing past events *Responding to a request *Answering questions	*Workers' Rights *Workers' Compensation *Insurance

	*Convincing others	*Seeking legal/ professional assistance *Appearing in court *Effects of perjury
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Episode 4 – Supervisors and Teamwork

Synopsis: As the new assistant manager, Alejandro must be able to effectively supervise other employees which is not always easy. He must, also, learn to ask for advice and recognize the benefits of everyone working as a team.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Imperatives; let's	*Making suggestions *Asking for and giving advice *Giving commands *Giving and accepting thanks	*Supervising the work of others *Working as a team *Learning to ask for help *Recognizing a problem and devising and implementing a plan of action

STORY # 2

Episode 5 – Managing Family Life

Synopsis: A young couple from Russia looks for an affordable apartment in the same neighborhood where they work. The apartment needs to fulfill certain requirements and standards. One landlord tries to intimidate them into signing a lease before they have had time to completely read through it. Then, they find an apartment that they do like, but the manager refuses to rent to them on the grounds that they have a child.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Verbs of Necessity: have to, must	*Interpreting rental ads *Refusing *Negotiating *Persuading	*House hunting *Renting *Signing a lease *Tenant's responsibilities *Civil rights

Episode 6 – Using Information Services

Synopsis: After the Pushkins find the ideal apartment, they must take legal action to force the manager to rent it to them. First, however, they must access resources in the local library, contact government agencies, and meet with helpful officials.

Grammatical Structure	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Can, could to express ability in the present and past	Expressing ability to do something	*Identifying procedures the consumer can follow if merchandise or service is unsatisfactory *Accessing resources at the local library *Contacting and having confidence in government agencies

Episode 7 – Accessing Services (Telephone, electricity, etc.)

Synopsis: Now that the Pushkins are renting the new apartment, they must have all the services installed including the telephone. They set up an appointment time for the service man to install the phone, but are unable or prevented from keeping the appointment. Karina must attempt to make a new appointment which proves to be extremely frustrating and time-consuming.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Modal auxiliaries (may, would, can, could) used to make formal and informal requests and offers. “Would you like...?” “May I help you?”	*Requesting/offering services *Making phone calls *Listening and responding to telephone menus *Asking for clarification	*Requesting services for utilities *Dealing with automated voice systems *Lodging a complaint *Deciding on a course of action and persevering

Episode 8 – Men’s Changing Roles*

Synopsis: Karina is unhappy that she must do all of the housework, since she works outside of the home as well. Victor, her husband, learns to share the responsibilities around the home.
*(This story is excellent for demonstrating the uses of “make” versus “do” in context.)

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Make versus Do	*Complaining orally and in	*Sharing house chores

	writing *Describing daily activities *Writing memos	*Overcoming gender stereotypes * Communicating housing problems to landlord
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STORY # 3

Episode 9 – Dealing with Taxes

Synopsis: Tshombe operates a sidewalk lemonade stand on a busy street. He seeks advice from a tax consultant after he receives notification from the IRS about the tax form he had filed. He must make a choice between declaring his correct income or lying about it to avoid paying extra taxes.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Count and non/count nouns Formation of plurals	*Specifying quantities *Interpreting public signs and written announcements	*Paying taxes *Seeking tax advice *Filling out IRS forms

Episode 10 – Dealing with the Law

Synopsis: Tshombe needs to have his lemonade stand open longer than his municipal permit allows in order to make more money for the extra taxes that he owes. When he refuses to close down at 5:00 p.m., he gets into a serious argument with a police officer.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Quantifiers: much, many, some, a few, any, a lot of, a little	*Expressing quantities *Understanding items and quantities on a shopping list	*Cooperating with representatives of the law/ police officers *Lesson provides guidelines to follow when dealing with police officers.

Episode 11 – Analyzing and Debating Community Issues

Synopsis: After Tshombe and Jose meet with the police and a city official, they try to organize their fellow street vendors to defend their rights as street vendors. A shop owner wants them to leave *her* street and has arranged for a public hearing to be held.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Singular expressions of quantity: each one, another, others, other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Persuading others *Expressing an opinion *Agreeing and disagreeing *Participating in a group discussion, meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Being part of a team *Collaborating with neighbors to solve community issues *Being informed *Challenging existing procedures and policies

Episode 12 – Civic Participation

Synopsis: Tshombe appears at a court hearing to defend the street vendors’ rights to sell their merchandise. He must produce documented evidence to support his case.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Object pronouns Indefinite pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Expressing an opinion *Interpreting written public documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Dealing with court proceedings *Defending your case before a judge *Creating strategies to solve community problems *Providing evidence for an argument

STORY # 4

Episode 13 – Parenting in the U.S

Synopsis: Marta, a single working mother, feels that her teenage daughter, Viviana, is becoming disrespectful and wants to send her to live with relatives in Mexico. Viviana, on the other hand, feels that her mother does not understand her and will not listen to her problems.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Asking for/ giving permission *Arguing *Convincing others *Complementing *Hesitation strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Dealing with sexual harassment *Understanding teenagers *Showing respect for parents *Parenting

Episode 14 – Women’s Changing Roles

Synopsis: Benjamin, Marta’s ex-husband, loses his job and faces an eviction from his apartment. He wants to move in with Marta and Viviana and promises to do the cleaning, cooking, shopping, etc., while Marta is at work.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Adverbs of frequency	*Expressing frequency of actions/activities *Describing usual and unusual activities *Refusing to accept an offer	*Ignoring gender roles *Obeying rules and regulations in the workplace *Being a responsible worker

Episode 15 – Women’s Work Issues

Synopsis: Marta struggles with sexual harassment from her supervisor who will drop charges which he has falsely placed against her if she consents to go out on a date with him.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Adverbs of Manner	*Qualifying actions	*Recognizing sexual harassment and misconceptions of women’s behavior and preferences *Dealing with sexual harassment

Episode 16 – Women in Non-traditional Roles

Synopsis: After accepting a position at work as the new manager, Marta must face the possibility of firing, Dora, her best friend. Dora has not been able to keep up production ever since the new written instructions have been circulated, but refuses to admit that she is illiterate.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives	*Comparing abilities	*Women becoming leaders *Defining the qualities of good leaders *Overcoming illiteracy *Supporting friends/teamwork

STORY # 5

Episode 17 – Accessing Learning Opportunities

Synopsis: Tony Park, recently arrived from Korea, has inherited his father’s sandwich shop in California. Even though he has an advanced degree from a university in his home country, he has limited skills in English. This inability to communicate with customers begins to hurt his business. Complicating the situation, a gangster wants to buy the sandwich shop property for real estate investing purposes and begins creating problems for him.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Asking questions with “wh” words.	*Asking for information *Describing future plans and	*Recognizing the need to learn English

	intentions *Giving excuses	*Participating in life-long learning *Learning on your own *Adjusting to a new role in an unfamiliar culture
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Episode 18 – Investing in your Children’s Education

Synopsis: Tony becomes interested in a young woman and must decide if it is more important to keep a date with her or talk to his son’s teacher about his son’s problems.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Prepositions of time, place and direction	Scheduling appointments Interpreting maps	Getting involved in your children’s education

Episode 19 – Transferring Professional Degrees and Licenses

Synopsis: The sandwich shop is robbed which obligates Tony to reevaluate what he wants to do in life. In order to be certified as a pharmacist in the U.S., he must take the TOEFL exam which becomes a difficult challenge for him that he can either accept or turn away from.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Use of simple past tense with common regular and irregular verbs to ask questions (use of <i>did</i>)	Asking questions about the past Giving encouragement	Obtaining professional credentials in U.S. Confronting a difficult challenge

Episode 20 – Learning to Learn

Synopsis: Tony must decide whether he should sell the sandwich shop or not. He and his uncle have been intimidated by the gangster who tries to force them out of business. In cooperation with the police, they plan to catch the people who are robbing the shop. Tony, however, must first learn about cameras and technology in order to set up a surveillance system.

Grammatical Structure(s)	Linguistic Functions	Workplace/Life Skills
Past tense forms of verbs	Talking about events completed in the past Scanning a restaurant menu for specific information (prices)	Knowing where/how to access information that you need Overcoming pride