



ENGLISH FOR LIVING LESSON 9: WORKSHEETS

Getting to know the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

[The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown is now the Blanchardstown Campus
of TU Dublin]

*This project was funded by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
under the Sound and Vision scheme*

Table of Contents

Lesson 9: Getting to know the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown	2
Part A: Introduction to ITB and its courses	2
A.1 Language focus:.....	3
A.2 Comprehension	3
A.3 Language Development	4
Part B: Becoming a student at ITB	5
B.1 Language focus:.....	6
B.2 Comprehension	6
B.3 Language development.....	7
Part C: Applying to ITB	8
C.1 Language focus:.....	9
C.2 Comprehension	10
C.3 Language development.....	11
Part D: Registration and the student body at ITB	12
D.1 Language focus:	13
D.2 Comprehension.....	14
D.3 Language Development	14
Part E: International Students	15
E.1 Language focus:	16
E.2 Comprehension	17
E.3 Language Development.....	17

Lesson 9: Getting to know the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown

In this lesson you will hear an interview which has been divided into 5 parts. Each part is followed by explanations of vocabulary and exercises. You may wish to take notes while you are listening. If you are using the podcast you can listen to each part more than once or you can pause the recording as you answer the questions.

Part A: Introduction to ITB and its courses

In this part Iain from Phoenix FM is interviewing Mairead Murphy about ITB and gives some details about the two schools and the courses that are available to students.

Iain	Now we are joined by Mairead Murphy who is the Marketing and Development Manager for the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown. Mairead, can you tell us a little bit about ITB?
Mairead	<p>I'd be delighted to; the Institute was founded in 1999 and currently has over 3 thousand full-time students. The school offers a variety of courses. We have two schools, the School of Informatics and Engineering, and it offers programmes in Computer Engineering, Mechatronic Engineering and Creative Digital Media, Computing and Information Security and Forensics. It also offers programmes in Horticulture.</p> <p>The other school in the Institute is Business and Humanities, which offers programmes in Applied Social Studies, Social and Community Development, Early Childhood Care and Education and a variety of business courses including, International Business, Business & IT and Accounting and Finance. We also offer a programme in Sports Management and Coaching, and all of those programmes are run up to degree level.</p>
Iain	OK, and what's the main difference between the two schools?
Mairead	I suppose one school is focusing much more on technology programmes, programmes in the area of computing and engineering. Also, the unlikely one of horticulture, which is also located in that school. And the other like I said is focused on business and humanities. But really that is where the difference ends because the students all have access to the facilities on campus. However the School of Informatics and Engineering does have access to specific labs and facilities that are specific to those programmes. Likewise the Business and Humanities we have a humanities suite where people can do problem solving and real practise based learning. We also have language labs for the language classes

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

	which form a part of our business courses. So the students all operate on the same time table. Usually lecturers work with one school but there is transfer across schools. Students do their exams at the same time and they are all located on the same campus in Blanchardstown.
--	---

A.1 Language focus:

Did you understand these words and expressions?

An Institute of Technology: a third level college like a university but where courses are more applied to the working world.

A school: a section of the institute, the Institute is divided into two schools

A programme: this is another word for a course – a programme in engineering or a course in engineering

A degree: you can get a degree after studying for 3 or 4 years

Labs: the full form of the word is laboratories; this is where students have practical classes using computers or other specialized equipment

Campus: this includes all the buildings and facilities for the students

Facilities: this means rooms and equipment available to students for example sports facilities, laboratory facilities, and library facilities

Informatics: this is the study of areas of technology and computing

Humanities: this is the study of areas of human interest such as social studies

A.2 Comprehension

Did you understand the information in the interview? Answer true or false to these questions

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Mairead is the President of ITB | True | False |
| 2. The Institute was founded in 1929 | True | False |
| 3. ITB has over 3,000 full-time students | True | False |
| 4. ITB has two schools: Informatics and Engineering | True | False |
| 5. The Business and Humanities students are on a different campus | True | False |
| 6. Informatics and Engineering students have specific labs | True | False |
| 7. Business studies students can study languages | True | False |

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

A.3 Language Development

Listen to the following courses and decide if they are Informatics and Engineering, Business or

Course	Informatics and Engineering	Business	Humanities
<i>Computer engineering</i>			
<i>Business & IT</i>			
<i>Applied social studies</i>			
<i>Creative digital media</i>			
<i>Social and community development</i>			
<i>Mechatronic Engineering</i>			
<i>Accounting and Finance</i>			
<i>Early Childhood Care and Education</i>			
<i>International Business</i>			
<i>Sports Management</i>			
<i>Computing and Information security and forensics</i>			
<i>Horticulture</i>			

Now fill in the blanks in this piece. The list of missing words is in the workbook but you can also guess the words. Repeat each sentence when the correction is given.

The Institute was _____ in 1999. The Institute offers a _____ of courses. We have two _____, the School of Informatics and _____ and the school of Business and _____. All of the programmes run to _____ level. The students all have access to the same _____ on campus. Students do their _____ at the same time and they are all located on the same _____ in Blanchardstown.

campus – degree - engineering - exams - facilities - founded - Humanities - school -variety

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

Part B: Becoming a student at ITB

Iain	OK and where is the campus in Blanchardstown?
Mairead	The campus is located about a kilometre and a half from the Blanchardstown shopping centre on Blanchardstown Road North.
Iain	OK so it's a little bit away.
Mairead	It is. It's a little bit away from, I suppose, the main transport hub in Blanchardstown which would be the shopping centre. But the college does run a shuttle bus service which runs all day from and including stops at the Blanchardstown shopping centre, Coolmine train station, the National Aquatic Centre and then direct to ITB, so it's a circular route that runs throughout the day for students.
Iain	And who can apply to be a student in ITB?
Mairead	Well anybody can apply to be a student in ITB, and I suppose what a candidate or potential student needs to think about is, do they want to study on a full-time or part-time basis. And the rules and the method of how to apply varies on whether or not it's a full-time or part-time course of study. A student will usually take into account their family and working situations when making that choice.
Iain	And is there any difference in the length of the courses, the full and the part-time courses?
Mairead	What ITB has tried to do is put on as many flexible courses as possible on a part-time basis. For example a person who is currently working on a full-time basis and who wants to get a degree in Business Studies can actually achieve that degree in 4 years on a part time basis which is the same length of time that it takes to do the full-time programme. Obviously we are taking into account the person's prior learning and the work and the projects that they do throughout their course reflect their work and their work environment. I would say it is a big challenge. It's tough for people to study and to try and get their degree on a part-time basis but we have had lots of success and many students have taken this route
Iain	Can you explain what 'prior learning' means?
Mairead	'Prior learning' really means, to acknowledge and to reward somebody for the previous experience they have gained as a member of the work force typically. Often it does mean that a person has to make an application to the Institute indicating exactly what they have done in their previous roles. They would have to

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

	showcase the type of experience that they have had maybe on the job training and describe in detail what their experience has been to date. This submission from the student is assessed by people at ITB and then they are able to say if it is equivalent to, say, academic credits.
Iain	So it would need to be something that relates to the course you are going to do in the future?
Mairead	It would have to relate to the course that you are hoping to do, yes.

B.1 Language focus:

Did you understand these words and expressions?

Located: This means where the campus is situated, where you can find it.

Transport Hub: the point where all the bus routes meet. In Blanchardstown, it's at the Blanchardstown centre.

A shuttle bus: a bus which travels a small distance over and over again.

A candidate: someone applying for a college course or a job.

Full-time course: the student normally studies by day.

Part-time course: the student may work or take care of family by day and take a course in the evening.

Prior learning: if a person has already studied, he or she can get credit for this and if a person has been working in the work force, this experience can also count as prior learning.

B.2 Comprehension

Did you understand the information in the interview? Choose the correct answer

1. How far is ITB from the Blanchardstown Centre? _____]
2. As well as public transport to the shopping centre, the college runs a _____
3. The shuttle bus stops at three important places in Blanchardstown:
 - a. The first is commercial: _____
 - b. The second is a railway station: _____
 - c. The third is a sports centre: _____

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

4. Can I study part time? At ITB a person can study _____ time or _____ time
5. Are the part-time courses longer than the full-time courses? _____
6. ITB takes into account a person's 'prior learning'. This is to do with experience in the _____ that relates to the course you are going to study.

B.3 Language development

Imagine you were going to study at ITB, answer the following questions. Then listen to the sample answer and repeat it.

1. How would you travel to ITB?
2. Would you study full-time or part-time?
3. What programme would you choose?
4. Would you do a programme to degree level?
5. Would you apply for recognition of prior learning?

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

Part C: Applying to ITB

Iain	Ok, and how do people go about applying to ITB?
Mairead	Ok well there are 2 ways of applying to ITB. For full-time courses, which usually are undergraduate courses, and I will start with those. They are, all applications for those programmes are made through the CAO system, now that is the Central Applications Office. Most third level institutes in Ireland take their applications through this office. So people are advised to make their application usually through the website, I think 95% of applicants make an online application now and they do that at www.cao.ie . The most important thing to note about making that application are the deadlines, typically someone has to make an application before the 1 st of February, or for most courses and all courses for ITB they can make their application up until the 1 st of May. After the 1 st of May it's not possible to make an application unless later in the year in August, if any spaces have become free. So typically a student is making their application between February and May and their course will then begin in September. September is the only time we have an intake on our fulltime undergraduate programmes. It's a little bit easier on a part-time programme because this isn't done through a centralised system. This is where an applicant makes an application directly through our website which is www.itb.ie .
Iain	Ok, now CAO, is that an organisation?
Mairead	It is an organisation, they're based in Galway and as I said all third level institutes in Ireland use it for applications and basically the system works on supply and demand. The more popular the course the higher the points. Based on a student's Leaving Cert results students are offered points or scores and depending on how popular a course is and how many places are available the points for a course may be higher or lower. Also it's important to note that undergraduate programmes are available to everyone in Blanchardstown or anyone in the country that wishes to study at ITB and applications can be made by people that don't necessarily fall in the school leaver category. They could be mature applicants which are applicants that are over the age of 23, they could be people many presenting with a disability, or with second level qualifications from another country, they can all be assessed and put on degree courses.
Iain	What would an applicant do if they have a second level diploma from another country?
Mairead	Well, what they would need to do is indicate in their application that their qualifications are from another country; they need to list that qualification and

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

	they need to have the transcripts of that qualification available. It is very important that they have proof that they have completed those examinations. When all the places are being allocated the colleges get together they work out the points that each course is going to be and then they make their offers and students that are applying with qualifications from outside of the country can be assessed independently.
Iain	And how are the offers to go on to a course made?
Mairead	The offers are usually made through the post or they can be made online. The students have a unique number, a CAO number, they can log onto the system on a specified date and see what offers they have been made. Its then up to the student to accept the offer and then the information is sent to ITB. Then the normal procedures take place and the student is sent an information pack and invited to come and register.

C.1 Language focus:

Did you understand these words and expressions?

To apply or to make an application: this means that you fill in a form with your details asking for a place in a college. A person who makes an application is an applicant.

Deadline: this means the date by which you have to apply.

An undergraduate programme: this a course you take after completing second level studies, it could be a certificate a diploma or a degree

A postgraduate programme: this is a course you take after completing a degree, it could be a certificate a Higher Diploma a Masters or a Doctorate

The CAO: this is the Centralised Application Office

A qualification: if you have studied before at second or third level you will have a qualification and you should have a document that can prove this

A transcript: this is a document that lists the subjects you studied for and the marks or grade you got in each subject

Allocated: the CAO allocates or gives places to applicants who have the required points

Assess: This means to make a decision on whether a person should or should not get a place

C.2 Comprehension

Did you understand the information in the interview? Answer true or false to these questions

1. If you want to apply for a full-time course, you have to go through the CAO **True False**
2. 50% of people make their application through the CAO website **True False**
3. The first deadline for CAO applicants is the 1st of February **True False**
4. You can apply through the CAO for a course in ITB up until the 1st of June **True False**
5. Courses begin in ITB once a year, that is at the beginning of September **True False**
6. To apply for a part-time course, you have to go through the CAO **True False**
7. The CAO system is based on supply and demand **True False**

8. Who can study at ITB? Mairead mentions a number of different types of people who can become students at ITB. From what she says do you think the following people could become applicants?

	<i>Yes / no</i>		<i>Yes / no</i>
School-leavers in Ireland		people with a disability	
children		people who can't read or write	
mature applicants over 23		people with second level diplomas from another country	

9. If you are coming from another country you just have to write down the name of the qualification on the application form **True False**
10. The CAO will call you to tell you if you have a place **True False**

C.3 Language development

What are the stages of applying for a place in ITB? Make full sentences with the following notes using must then repeat the correct answer.

Apply - CAO – 1 st Feb	
List –qualifications – have transcripts	
decide – course – 1 st May	
CAO – work out points - courses	
CAO – offer – place – required points	
accept - offer	
ITB – send – information pack	
go – ITB – register	

Part D: Registration and the student body at ITB

In this part Mairead Murphy talks about registration and the types of students who go to ITB.

Iain	Ok and how does the registration work?
Mairead	Registration usually takes place on a specific day in September and then runs over three days. So for example this year ITB had over a thousand acceptances to come into our first year so that was the highest number of acceptances that we have ever had. Typically those students are invited in on a day to see the campus, they get to meet their lecturers, they get to meet the students that they're going to share a class with and they get to register. Then at the registration they are given a student card and are officially members of the institute.
Iain	A thousand sounds like a lot, how big is ITB itself?
Mairead	Well at the moment we have over three and a half thousand students so a thousand first year students is quite significant and as I said it is the largest amount of first years we've had. I think it certainly adds to life on campus, it makes it very busy, very vibrant and I definitely think it's a very welcoming place. I think even though someone might be starting with a thousand other people who have never seen the campus before a big effort is made by staff to ensure that students get to know each other and that they make new friends and join new clubs and societies on campus so they start integrating from day one.
Iain	Is the open day the same for people who are doing part-time courses or that are returning to studies after a period of away from studies?
Mairead	If you're coming in for a full-time course everyone starts at the same time. However part-time students usually start a week later and a lot of their programmes run in the evening. So we would organise their induction and registration to take place in the evening.
Iain	And other than that they're all the same?
Mairead	They have access to the same facilities, their subjects are the same, exam procedures and exam regulations, and they graduate with the full-time students as well.
Iain	Mairead, can you tell me about the students that go to ITB; where do they come from?
Mairead	I'd be delighted to. Well first of all I'd like to point out that ITB has quite a unique student profile. For example, 25% of students that come into first year are mature

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

	<p>students, so they're over 23, and that would be one of the highest levels of mature students in any third level institution in Ireland. We also have a lot of students that come in and present what are called post-leaving cert or FETAC so these are people that may be mature students or may have taken a year out to discover what they really want to do or what subjects they are interested in.</p> <p>In the main the students that come to ITB are from north Dublin. We have a high percent of students that come from Dublin 15. Typically the figures of our intake would be 25-30% of students coming from Dublin 15. Many of those students indicate that their reason for coming to ITB is because of its location and that it has a course that they want to do.</p> <p>We've seen increasing students travel from different locations across the country to participate in some of our more popular courses like Early Childhood Care and Education, Sports Management and Coaching and also Horticulture, because there are very few colleges offering horticulture at the moment. Typically every year we would have students from most counties in Ireland but predominantly our students come from Dublin, Meath and Kildare.</p>
Iain	So the counties closest to Blanchardstown?
Mairead	Exactly they are the counties closest to Blanchardstown.

D.1 Language focus:

Did you understand these words and expressions?

Registration: this is when a student becomes an official member of the Institute and gets a student card

Induction: this is when students get to meet lecturers and the other new students and find out about their course

Facilities: these include teaching facilities (lecture theatres, classrooms, labs) sports facilities, (sports hall, sports fields) canteen facilities and the library

FETAC: this stands for the Further Education and Training Awards Council which is a body that certifies 1 or 2 year courses that are post-leaving certificate level. Students with FETAC qualifications often continue on to study at Institutes of Technology.

D.2 Comprehension

Listen to the following questions and pick the correct answer

1. Does registration take place in September or October?	
2. Were there one hundred or one thousand new students this year?	
3. Does having a lot of students make the college a cold or a welcoming place?	
4. Do part-time students start before or after full-time students?	
5. Do part-time students have a different or the same programme as full-time students?	
6. Is the proportion of mature students a third or a quarter?	
7. Does ITB have more or fewer mature students than other ITs?	
8. Are most of ITB's students from north Dublin or Dublin city?	
9. Is horticulture offered in many colleges or very few colleges?	
10. Which of these counties also provide a lot of students – Wicklow – Kildare – Meath - Louth	

D.3 Language Development

What happens on registration day? Mairead uses the expression 'get to' to express the idea of 'are able to' or 'have the opportunity to', 'the students get to register at the beginning of September'. Make sentences with the following words:

1. Meet / lecturers: The students get to ...
2. Meet / students: The students get to ...
3. Visit / facilities: The students get to ...
4. Join / clubs and societies: The students get to ...
5. Make / friends: The students get to ...

Listen and repeat these expressions of quantity

1. We have over three and a half thousand students
2. A thousand first year students is quite significant
3. It is the largest amount of first years we've had
4. That was the highest number of acceptances that we have ever had
5. 25% of students that come into first year are mature students
6. That would be one of the highest levels of mature students in any third level institution in Ireland
7. We have a high percentage of students that come from Dublin 15.
8. Typically the figures of our intake would be 25-30% of students coming from Dublin 15.

Part E: International Students

In this part Mairead talks about international students at ITB

Iain	Now, is there a special area dealing with international students?
Mairead	Yes, well the office I work in which is the Marketing and Development unit, we look after the applications from international students. So they are students with current residence outside of Ireland in a non-EU country who wish to travel to Ireland to study and usually they are applying to come to Ireland on a study visa. And that visa is usually granted by the Irish embassy or the Irish consulate in their country. So ITB over the last few years has been working in many countries in Asia trying to get students to come to Ireland and currently we have students from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Zambia, El Salvador, Brazil and China. So it's quite a mix of international Students, it makes up a fairly low percentage of our overall student numbers, currently we have about sixty or seventy international students on campus. But we also have another fifty students that come from Europe so they're called the Erasmus students. They typically come from France, Germany, Spain, Austria and Switzerland and they are the most enthusiastic to come to Ireland and learn English. They participate in ITB for a period of a semester or for a full academic year.
Iain	How many semesters are there in an academic year?
Mairead	In an academic year there are two semesters. The first semester runs from September to Christmas with exams in January. Then there's a short break and courses commence in again in February and run onto May and their exams run onto the end of May.
Iain	And just tell me a little bit more of Erasmus, I've heard that mentioned before?
Mairead	Erasmus is a scheme carried out throughout Europe and there's talk at the minute that it may expand beyond European countries and basically it's to encourage student mobility. So it is to make sure students from all over Europe spend time abroad and spend time studying in Ireland. And what we also like to offer to students in ITB is that they too also get the opportunity to study abroad. Although what we find is that Irish students don't tend to have the same interest in language study and studying abroad as our European counterparts and it's something we would really like to see which is Irish students studying and travelling abroad.

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

Iain	So these students come to ITB and learn English while they are studying their other subjects?
Mairead	Yes they are required to have a certain level of English when they come to ITB because all courses in ITB are taught in English for the exception of language courses such as French, German and Spanish. So those students are expected to cope with life in an English speaking college and in an English speaking environment and on the most part their colleges at home are expecting them to come home with credits. I suppose that's one of the things the model of ITB works to, that all of our modules and courses are internationally recognised.
Iain	And where would all of the people on the Erasmus courses stay?
Mairead	They have several choices we provide them with a help and accommodation service when they arrive. So usually they book into temporary accommodation that we help them find when they arrive, and then they make the decision whether they want to live in Dublin 15 or if they wish to commute from the city centre. Many of them because they are coming away for a semester make a choice to live in the city centre but others feel that they would like to be close to the campus and everything going on there and they live in Dublin 15.
Iain	Ok Mairead, thank you very much for joining us.
Mairead	Thank you, Iain.

E.1 Language focus:

Did you understand these words and expressions?

Current residence outside of Ireland: at the moment if a person is living in a country outside of Ireland, the person is coming to Ireland from abroad.

A non-EU country: this means a country which is not in the European Union.

A semester: This means half an academic year. An academic year in ITB is made up of two semesters, one from September to January and the other from February to May.

Erasmus: this is a project funded by the EU which encourages exchange of students between countries.

Accommodation service: this is an office in ITB which helps students find somewhere to live.

E.2 Comprehension

Answer these questions

1. What term is used for students coming from outside the EU?
2. What term is used for student coming from within the EU
3. Decide if students coming from the following countries would be international (non-EU) or Erasmus from the EU

India		Germany	
France		Brazil	
Nepal		China	
Pakistan		Spain	
Austria		Zambia	

4. An academic year at ITB is made up of two _____
5. Semester 1 starts in _____ with exams in _____
6. Semester 2 starts in _____ with exams in _____
7. Who are more interested in studying abroad – Irish students or other European students?
8. Can students come to ITB with no English?
9. How do students from abroad find accommodation?
10. Where do students from abroad prefer to live?

E.3 Language Development

Sanjiv is a student from India. Listen to his story about going to ITB and then fill in the blanks.

Sanjiv wanted to be an International student at ITB so he applied to the college to study for a computing degree. He had to apply for a student visa, he got this through the Irish embassy in his home country. He had to provide transcripts of his qualifications from India. When he arrived the accommodation service helped him to find accommodation in Blanchardstown, but after a few weeks he decided he would prefer to live in the city centre. He found the people in ITB welcoming and the campus a very busy, vibrant, welcoming place. He joined some clubs and societies and met a lot of other students. He found a part-time job but also worked hard at ITB and passed all his exams at the end of the year.

English for Living Lesson 9: Worksheets

Sanjiv wanted to be an International _____ at ITB so he applied to the college to study for a computing _____. He had to apply for a student _____, he got this through the Irish _____ in his home country. He had to provide _____ of his qualifications from India. When he arrived the accommodation _____ helped him to find _____ in Blanchardstown, but after a few weeks he decided he would prefer to live in the _____ _____. He found the people in ITB very _____ and the campus a very _____, vibrant, welcoming place. He joined some clubs and _____ and met a lot of other students. He found a part-time _____ but also worked hard at ITB and passed all his _____ at the end of the year.

Now listen to Sylvie's story

Sylvie is from France and came to ITB as an Erasmus student. She was studying business in France and decided to come and study in Ireland for her third year, so she stayed for two semesters. Some of the students from other countries only stay for one semester. Sylvie was delighted to get the opportunity to study abroad and to improve her English and she met some Irish students who would be going to her college in France the following year. She had a good level of English before she came to ITB which was important as all the courses were taught through English. All the modules and courses at ITB are internationally recognized and Sylvie was able to bring back credits to her home country and continue her studies there.

Sylvie is from France and came to ITB as an _____ student. She was studying business in France and decided to come and study in Ireland for her third _____, so she stayed for two _____. Some of the students from other countries only stay for _____ semester. Sylvie was delighted to get the opportunity to _____ abroad and to _____ her English and she met some Irish _____ who would be going to her college in _____ the following year. She had a good _____ of English before she came to ITB which was important as all the courses were _____ through English. All the _____ and courses at ITB are internationally recognized and Sylvie was able to bring back _____ to her home country and continue her studies there.