



# Virtual Homestay ENGLISH

## A guide to using Virtual Homestay ENGLISH host resources

AHN provides our hosts with access to a library of resources to help frame your conversational English sessions with participants.

The resources are designed to cover key English-language topics, as well as activities and ideas of how to incorporate a cultural element into the experience.

### Prior to your first session

Hosts are encouraged to develop an understanding of each participant's current English level, their needs, and interests so you can customise the delivery of the program. Prior to your first session, the participant should have completed their online *Reallyenglish* Level Check and you should have agreed on a schedule (refer to the *Host Introduction Email Template*).

Have a good look at the resources available, which are labelled into categories (GENERAL and PROGRAM DELIVERY).

The PowerPoint files in the PROGRAM DELIVERY category have been created by *Reallyenglish* to help improve participants' English skills. We have modified the first file – *Virtual Homestay ENGLISH - Reallyenglish - Level 1 - A1 Units* – to include some cultural activities at the end of the first 14 units. We recommend you go through the presentation so you are familiar with how it flows. There are also Host Notes in the library to accompany each PowerPoint file (Level 1 to Level 5), which you should review and use as a guide to deliver the PowerPoint content.

### Delivering the program

Our aim is for hosts to keep things focused and simple.

- You are required to deliver a minimum of 28 hours over the 4-week period (approximately 1 hour per day).
- Using the PowerPoint files.
  - There are five files from Level 1 (A1) to Level 5 (C1).
  - Each unit is designed to take around 1 hour to complete. Ideally, you will be able to complete 28 units over the course of the program but this may vary depending on the participant's English proficiency.
  - You will see there are more than 28 units in each PowerPoint so there is some freedom to choose which units to focus on based on the participant's needs.
  - Remember to refer to the first (Level 1 – A1) file to see how you can incorporate a cultural element into each session.

Each host and participant relationship will be different and naturally evolve as the sessions progress. Participants may want to repeat units or hosts may observe that participants enjoy discussing certain topics.

Remember – you are not expected to be an English teacher. You are a mentor providing “real” English immersion and an introduction to Australian culture. Many of our participants are doing this program to prepare themselves for study travel one day, ideally, an eventual visit to your city / Australia.

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## Key points to remember

- Hosts are to provide an appropriate and supportive environment for the participant to build their confidence and increase their English proficiency by:
  - delivering loosely structured content (“lesson plans”);
  - encouraging direct conversation; and
  - presenting opportunities for participants to enhance their communication skills.
- As an experienced AHN homestay host, you are encouraged to promote conversation and support participants as they work to improve their English, just as you would when hosting a student in your own home.
- Each participant will have access to the *Reallyenglish* online platform which they may want to use as part of the learning experience (lessons are tailored each person’s individually assessed English level).
- When conducting each session, use language that is appropriate to the English level of the participant you are speaking with. One of the aims is to help participants improve their English through the conversations they have with you.
- Hosts should use the PowerPoint files in the resources library to ensure core information is provided to the participant. Personalised activities can be added to support this information and offer additional opportunities for the participant to practise their English.