

B2 Syllabus

Use this syllabus to prepare for your B2 TAL exam. This is aligned with B2 e-learning course on Moodle.

Grammar

Tense Control & Habits

- Present & Past Tense Review: Refine the use of present forms to express habits, temporary situations, unfinished time periods and connections between past and present using: Present Simple, Present Continuous, Present Perfect Simple, and Present Perfect Continuous.
- Storytelling (Narrative Tenses): Combine the Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect Simple, and Past Perfect Continuous using time linkers (e.g., *before, after, until, while, once, meanwhile, by the time, as soon as*).
- Describing Habits:
 - *Present*: Go beyond the present simple by using *will + infinitive* for characteristic behaviour, or *always + present continuous* for annoying habits (e.g., "*He's always losing his keys!*").
 - *Past*: Contrast "used to" (past states and actions) with "would" (repeated past actions/routines only).
- Changing Habits: "be used to" + *-ing* (being accustomed to a situation) and "get used to" + *-ing* (the process of adapting to something new).
- The Future & Time Linkers: Know how to use *will, be going to*, and the present continuous for future plans and predictions. Know how to use the Future Continuous ("*This time tomorrow, I'll be flying*") and the expression "be about to" for immediate events. Use time linkers for the future: *before; as soon as; until; when; and by*.

2. Complex Sentence Building

- Advanced Verb Patterns: Know which verbs take a gerund (-ing) or an infinitive (to + verb), paying close attention to verbs that change meaning depending on the pattern (e.g., *stop, remember, try, regret, go on, mean*).
- Relative Clauses (Defining & Non-Defining): Use commas correctly to add extra, non-essential information using *who, whom, which, that, whose, where, when, why*. Know when the relative pronoun can be omitted.

3. Precision, Quantity, & Comparisons

- Articles & Quantifiers: Perfect your use of definite, indefinite, and zero articles, including the use of *one*. Use precise determiners like *(a) few, (a) little, plenty of, lots of, a lot of, several, hardly any, each, every, no, none, both, either, neither*.
- Intensifiers: Correctly use *so, such, too, and enough* to add emphasis.
- Advanced Comparisons: Move beyond basic rules into complex structures:
 - *As + adjective + as* structures.
 - Double comparatives ("*The more you practice, the easier it gets*").
 - Modifying your comparisons for precision using *by far, not nearly, slightly, and much*.

4. Speculation, Hypotheses, & Reporting

- Modals of Obligation, Necessity & Permission: Express past and present rules, advice, or lack of necessity using *must, mustn't, have to, need to, needn't, don't have to, ought to, should, be supposed to, had better, make, let and allow*.
- Speculation & Deduction (Present & Past): Make logical guesses about the present and the past using *must, might, can't, may, and couldn't* (e.g., "*She must have missed the bus*").
- Conditionals & Hypotheses: Review 0, 1st, and 2nd conditionals. Use the Third Conditional for past regrets. Use alternative words for "if" (e.g., *unless, provided that, as long as*). Use *wish* and *if only* for hypothetical desires.
- Passives: Use passive structures in the Present/Past Simple and Continuous, Future Passive, and with modal verbs.
- Reported Speech: Be able to perform basic backshifts. Use specific reporting verbs structured with prepositions, infinitives, or gerunds (e.g., *accuse someone of doing, promise to do, suggest doing*).

Lexis

1. People, Work, & Leisure

- People & Clothes: Detailed adjectives for relationships and personality. Vocabulary to describe clothing styles, patterns, and materials.
- The World of Work: Common business and employment collocations, plus knowing the differences between Make and Do expressions.
- Entertainment & Hobbies: Film genres, descriptive film vocabulary, and musical instruments.
- The Human Body & Health: the body, illnesses, medical treatment, food, and drink.
- Crime: words to describe crimes, criminals and punishments

2. Places, Travel, & the Planet

- Towns & Cities: Descriptive words for urban environments and city life.
- Travel & Shopping: Detailed vocabulary for journeys, transport, retail, and consumer experiences.
- The Environment & Weather: Talking about nature, ecological issues, weather patterns, and extreme weather expressions.
- Science & Technology: Modern technology, digital vocabulary, and scientific concepts.

3. How the Language Fits Together

- Word Building (Suffixes & Prefixes): Form adjectives from nouns/verbs using suffixes (-ous, -ful, -al, -y, -ant, -ent, -ive). Form nouns from adjectives/verbs (-ment, -ion, -ation, -ity, -ance, -ence, -ness). Master the prefix/suffix "en-" (e.g., *encourage*, *widen*).
- Adjectives & Prepositions: Differentiating between -ed and -ing adjectives and using correct dependent prepositions. Mastering gradable vs. non-gradable (extreme) adjectives.
- The Multi-use Verb "GET": Understand the various meanings of "get" (obtain, become, arrive, receive, catch).
- Contrast Linkers: Transition smoothly between opposing ideas in text or speech using *although*, *despite*, *however*, *in spite of*, *though*, *whereas*, *while*, and *nevertheless*.



Phrasal Verbs

Relationships & Social Interaction

- *bring (someone) up*: to care for and raise a child
- *cheer (someone) up*: to make someone feel happier
- *fall out (with someone)*: to have an argument and stop being friendly
- *get on (well) with*: to have a good relationship with someone
- *hang out*: to spend time relaxing with friends
- *let (someone) down*: to disappoint someone
- *look up to*: to admire and respect someone
- *own up to*: to admit that you have done something wrong
- *split up (with)*: to end a romantic relationship
- *Tell (someone) off*: to speak angrily to someone because they have done something wrong

Daily Life, Organisation & Problem Solving

- *break down*: to stop working (machines or vehicles)
- *carry on*: to continue doing something
- *carry out*: to perform or complete a task, plan, or experiment
- *deal with*: to manage or handle a situation or problem
- *figure out*: to understand or solve something
- *find out*: to discover information
- *point out*: to draw someone's attention to something
- *set up*: to establish, organise, or prepare something
- *sort out*: to organise or solve a problem
- *work out*: to solve a problem, calculate something, or exercise

Learning, Communication & Ideas

- *catch on*: to understand or become popular
- *come across*: to find something by chance or give a particular impression
- *come up with*: to think of an idea or solution
- *make (something) up*: to invent a story or excuse
- *turn out*: to happen or develop in a particular way
- *turn out to be*: to prove to be something after the facts are known



Movement, Travel & Direction

- *come over*: to visit someone's home
- *get about*: to travel from place to place
- *head for*: to go towards a place
- *knock down*: to hit someone or something so that it falls down
- *set off*: to begin a journey
- *turn up*: to arrive, especially unexpectedly

Habits, Change & Personal Development

- *catch up on*: to do something that you did not have time to do earlier
- *chill out*: to relax
- *cut down on*: to reduce the amount of something
- *get out of*: to avoid doing something you should do
- *give (something) up*: to stop doing a habit or activity
- *go on*: to happen or continue
- *grow out of (something)*: to become too old or big for something
- *grow up*: to become an adult
- *make up my mind*: to make a decision
- *move on*: to progress to something new or leave the past behind
- *settle down*: to begin living a quieter or more stable life
- *show off*: to behave in a way that attracts attention to your abilities or possessions
- *stand out*: to be easily noticed because you are different or better
- *take (something) up*: to start a new hobby or activity
- *take over*: to take control of something or begin doing someone else's job

Obligation, Resources & Dependence

- *depend on*: to rely on someone or something
- *get away with*: to avoid punishment after doing something wrong
- *look forward to*: to feel excited about a future event
- *put (someone) off*: to discourage someone or make them lose interest
- *put up with*: to tolerate something unpleasant
- *run out of*: to have no more of something
- *turn to (someone)*: to ask someone for help or support

B2 Accertamento

If you are required to take the B2 Accertamento TAL exam, then you are expected know the following in addition to all of the B2 syllabus.

Grammar

High B2 Level Grammar Structures

- Passive voice: Causative passives to explain services or actions done for you by someone else using the have/get something done structure (e.g., *"I need to have my car repaired"*). Impersonal passive forms (*"It is believed..."*, *"He is said to..."*, *"She is expected to..."*).
- Inversion for Emphasis in formal and expressive language: Use inversion after negative or restrictive expressions to add emphasis or create a more formal style (e.g., *"Never have I seen such a beautiful view," "Rarely had I felt so excited..."*).
- Cleft Sentences: Using "It" or "What" in subject position for emphasis (e.g., *"What I really need is..."*, *"It was John who..."*).
- Participle Clauses: Use present and past participle clauses to be more concise by linking ideas and adding extra information (e.g., *"Having finished his lunch, he went back to work"* or *"Built in 1890, the castle is now a museum"*).
- Mixed Conditionals: Combine different time frames to talk about how a past action changes a present reality, or vice-versa (e.g., *"If I had studied medicine, I would be a doctor now"*).
- Future Perspectives: Look back from a point in the future using the Future Perfect (*"By next year, I will have finished my degree"*) and the Future Perfect Continuous (*"By 5 PM, I will have been working for eight hours"*).
- Reduced Relative Clauses: *"The man standing over there..."*