



Program Outline for Coaches

A simple way for Armenians in the diaspora to help students in Armenia learn English through Skype

Level 1

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INTRODUCTION TO ANI



Principles

Based on all the prior Ani sessions and feedback from students and coaches, here are 20 principles to guide your Ani journey:

1. **Speak in English** – the students are learning English at school and we want them to practice their English. You may need to use Armenian words from time to time to help translate, but try to maximize English
2. **Video Skype** – Skype sessions should be video Skype (not just audio)
3. **Length of calls** – calls should go for ~45min
4. **You're a coach, not a teacher** – think of yourself as a coach helping the students practice their English, you won't always be teaching them new words or new sentences but you will be giving them the opportunity to practice, correcting their mistakes, and teaching them new words / grammar from time to time
5. **This coaching guide is a guide** – you don't need to follow it word for word, you can tweak, chop, change as you feel required to best help your student improve their English. Many of the students will also have their own suggestions for activities they want to play to improve their English
6. **Read the activity for the week beforehand** – make sure you read the session activity and understand it before you jump on Skype so you know exactly what you're going to do
7. **Its ok to be nervous** – you will probably be nervous for your first session, but by week 3 you will be so comfortable that you'll look back and think there was absolutely nothing to be nervous about
8. **They will be shy** – at first the students will be shy, but persevere and they will open up by the second or third session
9. **Spend time to connect on a personal level** – spending time to connect on a personal level in the first few weeks will make all the following sessions much easier and the overall experience more rewarding
10. **Discuss common interests** – try to find and discuss common interests between yourself and your student to accelerate forming the personal bond (e.g. sports, art, dancing, what they want to be when they grow up)
11. **Be overly cheery** – best way to make the students feel comfortable and less shy is to be overly cheery and excited to be talking with them

INTRODUCTION TO ANI



12. **Build routine** – we encourage you to stick to the same time and day each week for the Ani session to build routine in the student’s mind, but we understand that things come up and you may need to change the timing of a session from time to time
13. **Give them warning** – if you need to change the time / day of a session, just let your student know well beforehand (at least 4-5 days)
14. **Skype & email for correspondence** – while we in the diaspora use email for most correspondence, many of the students will use Skype message for communication as much as email so if you need to get in contact with your student during the week try email and Skype message
15. **Use all the features of Skype** – use all the features of Skype as you see fit to make your sessions more effective (you can type in the chat bar, you can share images, you can share screen, etc.)
16. **Probe & test understanding** – most of the students will say ‘yes, I understand’ when they really don’t, this is because they don’t want to admit they don’t know, so probe and test to make sure they really do understand
17. **Praise their progress** – positive reinforcement is the best encouragement, so praise them when they get something right
18. **Preview the next week** – before your sessions end each week, give the student a preview of next week’s Ani session
19. **Use Google translate** - if you cant translate a word, use Google translate “Google translate English to Armenian”
20. **Have fun!** – most of all have fun!

Reach out to Ani if you’re not sure – if there are ever any questions or concerns reach out to us, Ray (ray@myani.org)

THE FIRST SESSION



Week 1: Introductions – Getting to know your coach & student

First 5 minutes: Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce yourself and ask the student to do the same – name, age / grade at school, country from
Next 5 minutes: About the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give a brief run-down of the Ani program (meet once a week and how the sessions will be structured) and explain that you will be their coach throughout the sessions• Ask them what they want to get out of this program, and state your objective – how you will help them achieve their objective
Next 10 – 15 minutes: Getting to know one another	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find out a bit about the other person – How many people in family and their names, what you do with yourself, and what you like doing in your spare time, favourite food...• Find 5 things that you guys have in common, likes and dislikes – sport, food, music, hobbies, etc.
Next 20 minutes: The activity ¹	<p><u>Activity 1 – Desert Island</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You've been sent to a deserted island for a year. In addition to the essentials, you may take one piece of music, one book (which is not the Bible) and one luxury item. What would you take and why? <p><u>Activity 2 – the “IF” game</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?• If I gave you \$10,000, what would you spend it on?• If you could talk to anyone in the world, who would it be?• If you could wish one thing to come true this year, what would it be?• If you could change anything about yourself, what would you change?• If you could have any question answered, what would it be? (role model)• If you could have any kind of pet, what would you have?• If you could do your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?• If you were the richest person in the world, what would you be doing right now?• If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick?• If you could eat your favourite food now, what would it be?• If you could learn any skill, what would it be?• If you could buy a car right now, what would you buy?

1. There won't be enough time for all activities, so pick and choose accordingly

THE FIRST SESSION



Week 1: (cont'd)

Cont'd	<u>Activity 3-“would you rather...”</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit the doctor or the dentist?• Eat broccoli or carrots?• Watch TV or listen to music?• Own a lizard or a snake?• Have a beach holiday or a mountain holiday?• Be an apple or a banana?• Be invisible or be able to read minds?• Be the most popular or the smartest person you know?• Go without television or fast food for the rest of your life?• Be handsome / beautiful and dumb or be ugly and really smart?• Always be cold or always be hot?• Not hear or not see?• Be stranded on a deserted island alone or with someone you don't like?• See the future or change the past?• Wrestle a lion or fight a shark?
Last 5 minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preview of next session: The next session will be about the alphabet and verbs• End of session – say goodbye

THE REMAINING SESSIONS



Weeks 2 – 12

Each session, other than the first, should be structured as follows:

First 5 minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General conversation – see “What do you do at the start of the call?” section below
Second 10 minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell me what you have learnt in English class this week?• What did you have to do for homework?• Is there anything you are struggling with / need help with?• What would you like to do during this session?
Next 25 minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the student needs help with a particular topic or would like to do something in particular during the session, you can choose to go through it during this time instead of the activity• English Activity. In the following pages session activities for each week are outlined – see “SESSION ACTIVITIES” (see next pages)
Last 5 minutes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment on some of the things they said incorrectly during the session, and correct them accordingly. Suggest things they can focus / work on until the next session• Provide a preview of the activity in the next session• Goodbye

What do you do at the start of the call?

The first few minutes of the call are critical in establishing rapport with your student. You might start your sessions in some of the following ways:

- Ask him or her how they are feeling
- Ask if the student can remember a specific teaching point from the previous session
- Tell some good news from your life and ask the student to do the same
- What did you do today / yesterday?
- When did you last use your English?
- What did you have for breakfast / lunch / dinner?
- Last week we each guessed the score of the [Liverpool / Manchester United] match. Who was right?
- I heard / saw / yesterday that.... What do you think?

SESSION ACTIVITIES



Week 2: Verbs

- Ask the student to recite the alphabet from A to Z
- Take turns naming verbs starting with each letter of the alphabet, ask the student to name a verb starting with a letter then you name a verb starting with the same letter (e.g. A, student says “arrive”, coach says “attack”)
- TIP: you can type the words in the Skype chat bar. You can also use this activity to teach them new words if they are finding it easy
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: past, present, future tense verbs

Week 3: Past, present, future tense

- Ask the student to use past tense to say 10 things they did earlier today / yesterday / last week / last month (e.g. “yesterday I went to school”)
- Ask the student to use present tense to say 10 things they are currently doing (e.g. “I am using my computer”)
- Ask the student to use future tense to say 10 things they look to do later on today / tomorrow / next week / next month / this year (e.g. “I hope I get 90% in my English exam next month”)
- TIP: if the student is finding the activity really easy, challenge them to come up with more complicated sentences
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: adjectives

Week 4: Adjectives

- Ask the student to recite the alphabet from A to Z
- Take turns naming adjectives starting with each letter of the alphabet, ask the student to name a adjective starting with a letter then you name a adjective starting with the same letter (e.g. A, student says “aggressive”, coach says “active”)
- TIP: you can type the words in the Skype chat bar. You can also use this activity to teach them new words if they are finding it easy
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: describing yourself, family and friends

SESSION ACTIVITIES



Week 5: Describing yourself, family & friends

- Take turns describing yourselves in whole sentences using some of the adjectives you know
- Take turns telling each other about your family members in whole sentences using some of the adjectives you know
- Take turn telling each other about your best friend in whole sentences using some of the adjectives you know
- Highlight any similarities and contrasts in your descriptions of each other and your families (e.g. “both of us have sisters”, “Neither of my parents like traveling”)
- TIP: ask the student if they understand all the words you are using in your descriptions, explain any of the words they don’t understand)
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: 80 questions to better get to know each other

Week 6: 80 questions (part 1)

- This week and next we have a whole bunch of questions for you and your student to ask and discuss to better get to know each other. Ask the student each of the questions, and both you and the student answer
 1. What was the last picture you took with your phone?
 2. Do you know any big gossips?
 3. Have you been pulled over by a cop?
 4. What have you always wanted? Did you ever get it?
 5. What kind of sickness have you lied about so you wouldn’t go to work?
 6. What was the last lie you told?
 7. Have you ever danced in the rain?
 8. Have you ever been in a car accident?
 9. What was the weirdest prank call that you have made?
 10. Best compliment you have received?
 11. Do you trust anyone with your life?
 12. What is your greatest strength or weakness?
 13. What is your perfect pizza?
 14. What was your first thought when you woke up this morning
 15. Do you get along with your family? Why or why not?
 16. Ugly and live forever, or attractive and die in a year?
 17. If you join the circus, what would you perform?
 18. Can you see anything colored purple from where you are right now? What is it?

SESSION ACTIVITIES



19. Would you be willing to eat a bowl of crickets for \$40,000?
 20. If you could have personally witnessed anything, what would you want to have seen?
 21. If you could wake up tomorrow in the body of someone else, who would you pick and what would you do?
 22. If you could be any age for a week, what age would that be?
 23. What question do you hate to answer?
 24. If you could only have one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?
 25. Where do you go to get on a computer?
 26. How do you start a conversation?
 27. What keys on a keyboard do you not use?
 28. If you had a brainwashing machine, who would you use it on?
 29. You are walking home in the dark, you see something move. What/Who is it(guess)? What do you do?
 30. What is the strangest name someone has introduced themselves as to you? What is their real name?
 31. Have you ever eating a crayon, or glue? Or what strange thing have you eaten?
 32. What type of music do you listen to? (Genre, artists, songs?)
 33. What cheers you up?
 34. Do you have a favorite book or read much? Why or why not?
 35. What is the longest you have gone without sleep?
 36. Are you wearing socks right now?
 37. Have you been to the movies in the last 5 days?
 38. When was the last time you ran/went for a jog?
 39. Your dream vacation? Worst vacation? Best vacation?
 40. Worst injury you have had?
- TIP: it's ok if you don't get through all of them or skip some
 - PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: the remaining 50 questions

SESSION ACTIVITIES



Week 7: 80 questions (part 2)

- Continuing on from last week's questions, here are the remaining 40 questions to ask each other and discuss
 1. What holidays do you celebrate? Are you a religious person or not?
 2. If you had to be named after a city, state, or country (etc.), which would you want it to be?
 3. Who is your hero?
 4. Which do you use more often, the dictionary or the thesaurus?
 5. Have you ever been stung by a bee?
 6. Have you ever tipped a cow?
 7. What's the sickest you have ever been?
 8. Are you afraid of heights? Or what are you afraid of?
 9. Have you ever taken dance lessons? Who would you want to dance with?
 10. What is the most memorable class you have ever taken?
 11. What's your favorite knock-knock joke?
 12. What is your favorite commercial?
 13. If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?
 14. What is your favorite breakfast food?
 15. Do you like guacamole? Have you ever been in a food fight?
 16. What is your favorite thing to spend money on?
 17. What is the weirdest thing about you? Are you proud of it?
 18. Glass half full or half empty? Or is the glass just malformed?
 19. Mountains or the beach?
 20. Plain, train, or car? Boat, subway, or teleportation device?
 21. If you could do anything in the world tomorrow, what would you do?
 22. Name the most terrifying moment of your life so far. Have you recovered from it?
 23. What famous person do people tell you that you most resemble?
 24. What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?
 25. If you could bring any person back to life, who would it be?
 26. When was the last time you bought something? What was it?
 27. What is your favorite TV show?
 28. Who is your favorite teacher?
 29. What is your favorite place in Yerevan?

SESSION ACTIVITIES



30. Do you believe honesty is the best policy?
 31. Who would you most like to be stuck in an elevator with?
 32. Who would you least like to be...?
 33. Which cartoon character do you resemble the most?
 34. Would you rather go a week without bathing, but be able to change your clothes? Or a week without changing your clothes but be able to bathe.
 35. Which of the four seasons do you most love? Or Hate?
 36. If you could choose your method of dying or where, what would they be?
 37. If you had to be trapped in a TV show for a month, which would you choose?
 38. List someone you know, and describe them in 5 words.
 39. You can select one person from history and have them truthfully answer one question, who would you select and what is the question?
 40. Summer or winter?
- TIP: it's ok if you don't get through all of them or skip some
 - PREVIEW NEXT WEEEEK: animals and conditional sentences

Week 8: Animals

- Ask the student to name an animal. Next, make a conditional sentence about the student and the animal
- Take turns in naming the animal and creating the conditional sentence – see what interesting sentences you come up with. The more the creative, the better – try and incorporate as many descriptive words (e.g. “Elephant – If you had a pet elephant, I'd squirt people with water”, “Dog – If you had a dog, I'd give it a bone and take it for a walk”)
- TIP: copy, paste images of the animal in the Skype chat. Use this as an opportunity to teach the new animals they may not know
- PREVIEWNEXTWEEK: ten things in each category

SESSION ACTIVITIES



Week 9: Take ten

- Go through each of the topics and write down about ten examples of it.
- Discuss each example, and use it as a conversation starter (e.g. find out if they like it or not etc.)

Things you can put on a pizza	Musical instruments
Fruits	Drinks
Colors	Languages
Things you find at school	Cities / Countries
Things you can see right now	Sports
Opposites	Things you can do on the weekend

- TIP: make sure they type it out on the Skye chat bar so you can correct any spelling mistakes
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: games and sports guessing game

Week 10: Games & sports

- The aim of the activity is to guess the game correctly by narrowing it down through a series of closed questions (yes / no answers)
- You think of a game / sport (e.g. chess, basketball, soccer, tennis, badminton) then ask the student to ask questions to help them guess the game / sport you're thinking of
- Example questions they could ask are:
 - Is it a board game?
 - Is it a ball game?
 - Is it a team game?
 - Do you play it indoors?
 - Do you need any equipment?
 - Is it an Olympic sport?
- Take turns playing the game
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: frequency of occurrences

SESSION ACTIVITIES



Week 11: Frequency of things

- Write out the following words on the Skype chat bar and ask the student to order them in order of frequency from least frequent to most frequent occurrence
 - Always
 - Never
 - Two or three times a week
 - Two or three times a month
 - Sometimes
 - Everyday
 - Once or twice a week
 - A few times a year
- Ask them the following questions, encouraging them to respond in full sentences using the words above
 - How often do you see your parents?
 - How often do you talk to your parents about your problems?
 - How often do you see your aunts and uncles and cousins?
 - How often do you visit your grandparents?
 - How often do you have dinner with your family?
 - How often do you eat fish?
 - How often do you eat fruits and vegetables?
 - How often do you go swimming?
 - How often do you ride a bike?
 - How often do you travel outside of Armenia?
- TIP: you can also follow up by sharing how often you do these as well
- PREVIEW NEXT WEEK: writing a story together

Week 12: Write a story

- Pick a topic to write a story together about (e.g. dream holiday / vacation, superheroes, a day at school, Christmas morning, ghost stories, fairytales)
- Go back and forth writing this story together one sentence at a time. Ask the student to start off with the first sentence, you follow with the second sentence, then back to the student for the third sentence, and so on
- TIP: you can make the story as complicated as you need to challenge the student. Best if you type out the sentences in the chat bar so you both don't lose track of the story