

FREE GUIDE FROM DOORWAY

# Choose-a-School Checklist

Every question to ask and document to check before you enroll in a language school.



Find an English or language class with open eyes - then get matched, free, with welcoming, accredited schools near you. You compare programs and choose where to enroll.

## Before you enroll anywhere

A good school is welcoming, honest about cost, and clear about what you will learn. Use this checklist to compare schools with open eyes. Doorway is a free matching service, not a school.

## Confirm the basics

- Is the school accredited or licensed for the program you want?
- What levels do they teach, and how do they place you?
- Is there a free placement test and a trial class?
- What is the class size, and who is the teacher?



## Ask about cost and schedule

Type of class	Typical cost	How it's scheduled
Community / nonprofit ESL	\$0-\$200	Often free, evenings & weekends
Private language school	\$200-\$1,500	Per course or level
Online classes & tutoring	\$15-\$60 / hr	Flexible hours
Citizenship / TOEFL / IELTS prep	\$100-\$800	Tied to a test date

## Protect yourself before you pay

- 1 Get the full price, the schedule, and what is included in writing.
- 2 Ask for the refund and cancellation policy in writing.
- 3 Confirm the start date and how many weeks the program runs.
- 4 Never pay a large amount in cash before you have it in writing.
- 5 Take a trial class first if one is offered.



### Red flags - slow down

- Promises of guaranteed fluency, a test score, citizenship, or a visa.
- Pressure to pay today for a 'special' discount.
- No clear refund policy, or a refusal to put things in writing.
- No accreditation or licensing, and no clear teacher information.





## Important

Doorway is a free matching service, not a school, ESL center, or accredited education provider, and does not teach classes, certify English levels, or give immigration, visa, or legal advice. We cannot promise fluency, a test score, citizenship, or any immigration outcome. Cost and schedule figures are typical examples, not quotes or guarantees, and vary by school, city, program length, and format. Always confirm a school's accreditation, prices, and refund policy directly with the school before you enroll or pay. For visa or immigration questions, consult a licensed immigration attorney or an accredited representative.