



Beyond the Classroom:

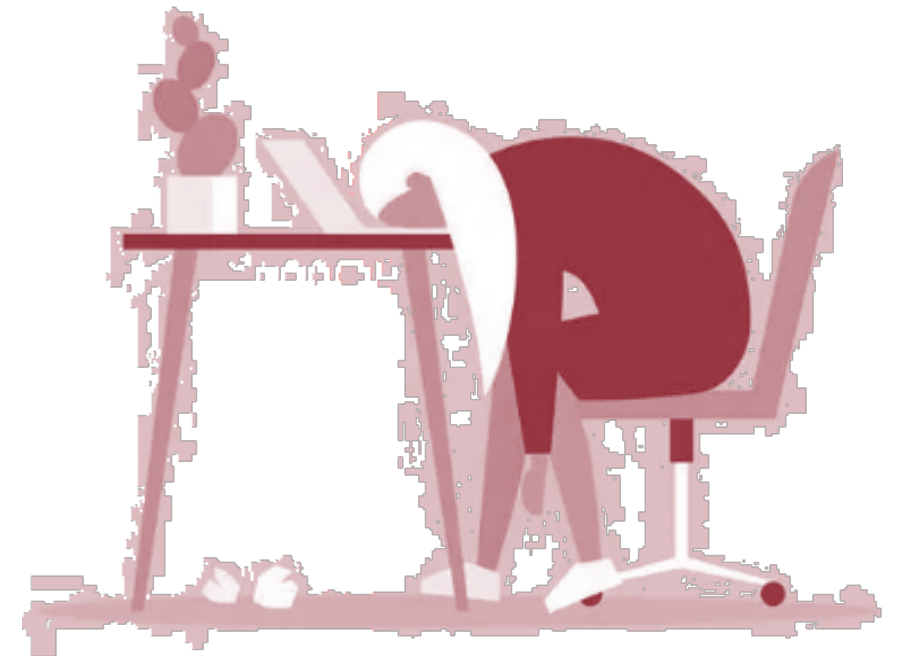
**Motivating Students to Engage with Academic Texts and Language
through a Gamified Web Application**

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Situation

- subject instruction usually not in English
- EAP not immediately relevant
- student motivation low



Gamification as Response

- Gamification as an "eventual translation" of "diverse psychological outcomes into desirable behaviors" (Marc Riar)
- focus on game features such as rewards, progress, flow
- extrinsic motivational elements as a vehicle
- individual usability

Outline

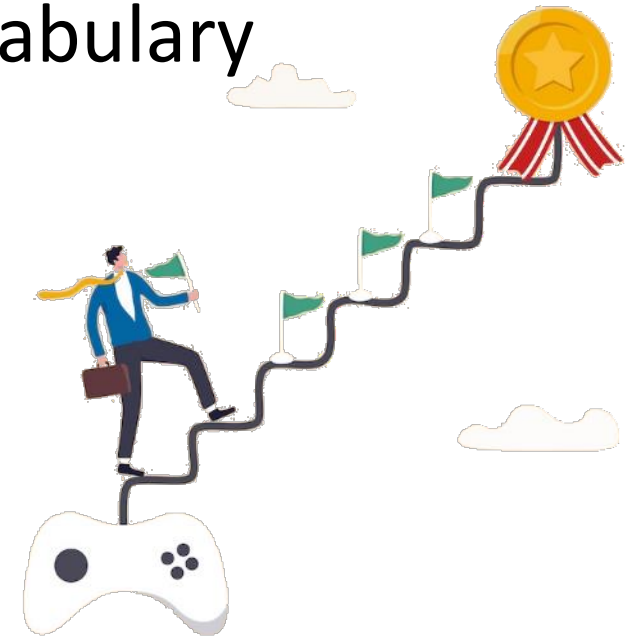
1. general premises of our iPaca app
(*Intelligent Personal ACADEMIC Assistant*)
2. basic features of the app
3. future solutions

Focus of Our Gamified App

- reading as a starting point (as most relevant skill)
 - language structures, (mostly) based on reading
 - general academic vocabulary as added feature
- based on an analysis of student needs

Progressions within the Gamified App

- increasing complexity of reading genres
- gradual addition of academically relevant language structures
- step-by-step incorporation of pertinent vocabulary



Text Analyzer



Free software utility which allows you to find the most frequent phrases and frequencies of words. Non-English language texts are supported. It also counts number of words, characters, sentences and syllables. Also calculates lexical density.

Enter text (copy and paste is fine) here:

When applying for a PhD position or a research grant in Germany you will usually be asked to submit a research proposal, at least in part, since individually led research is still the norm in most subject areas. Even if you are applying to an established research project, you will probably be expected, as a part of the university application procedure, to explain how your particular research would develop the basic aims of the overall project.
The purpose of the proposal is to ensure that the candidates have done sufficient preliminary research in their area of interest, that they have thought about the issues involved and are able to provide more than a broad description of the topic which they are planning to research. Findings cannot be predicted beforehand and often the research may need to be modified as you go along. There is also no fixed formula for writing a proposal. However, your proposal will have to convince members of the academic community that you have identified a scientific problem and a methodical approach to solve the problem within a realistic time frame and at a reasonable cost

Unfiltered word count:

Order	Unfiltered word count	Occurrences	Percentage
1.	the	12	6.3492
2.	a	10	5.2910
3.	to	9	4.7619
4.	research	8	4.2328
5.	of	6	3.1746
6.	you	5	2.6455
7.	be	4	2.1164
8.	in	4	2.1164
9.	have	4	2.1164
10.	and	4	2.1164
11.	proposal	4	2.1164
12.	is	3	1.5873
	at	3	1.5873
	to	3	1.5873
	the	3	1.5873
	community	2	1.0582
	resident	2	1.0582

List A

077

methodical
realistic
thought
broad
formula
convince
community
sufficient
frame
solve

A → B



List B

0567

community
resident
rang
cons
strat
elem
prev
conc
sec
aspe

A

A Only

62

members
which
be
along
than
realistic
also
are
to
convince



A ∩ B

15

modified
involved
identified
preliminary
academic
topic
area
sufficient
community
predicted



B Only

552

generated
maximum
emerged
deduction
preceding
text
facilitate
implementation
adults
factors



Compare Lists

WHAT WE HAVE NOW:

- 30 language topics
- Text types (3 levels)
- Academic and general English
- 4 interaction modes
- Reading, Vocabulary and Grammar&Style tasks
- Feedback + links
- ‘Good to read’ section
- Review mistakes
- Learner Dashboard
- Global Dashboard

“We are our choices.”
— Jean-Paul Sartre

What we are planning to add soon:

- Adaptive pre-test
- Timing for reading
- More writing practice
- Extension section (pool)
- Badges, bonus tasks
- Personalisation
- Visual aids (flashcards)

What motivates us or why feedback is important

- Unity in diversity: collaboration
- Students' involvement
- Ideas are being turned into practice
- Ongoing feedback from all the participants
- Openness



Thank you for your attention!

<https://kommatraining.uni-osnabrueck.de/ipaca/myhome/>



iPaca Language Topics

main tenses	adverbial clauses	transitivity	gradability	collocations	link verbs	adverbs in sentences	passive	cohesive devices	parallel structures
articles etc.	conditionals	modal verbs	countability	phrasal verbs	phase verbs	hedging	nominalization	connectors	dangling modifiers
use of adverbs	participial phrases	delexical verbs	pronoun usage	position of participles	to-infinitives	reporting	noun clauses	referencing	clefts and pseudo-clefts

Meet iPaca!

iPACA

LEARN ENGLISH


Are you struggling to improve your academic English skills?
iPaca is here to help! With our carefully selected little tasks,
you will be able to hone your skills and build confidence in
your reading.

START

CONTINUE



Meet iPaca!



Already a user? [Log in here](#)

Sign up to IPACA


Glad to meet you!

[Sign Up](#)

Start page

IPACA

 My Home

 Lessons

Academic
General

 Results

Hello, ellie! 

Hours spent

0
Tasks completed

0.0 %
Correct Responses

New Lessons

2 - lesson-welcome1

We come!

Start

4 - lesson-arg-001

Reasoning

Start

7 - lesson-xx-042

Is this a lesson?

Start

10 - lesson-so-001

Vocabulary: Describing worldly objects

Start

11 - lesson-xyz-001

Important cell organelles

Start

13 - lesson-elle-002

Ethics in Law Enforcement: Ethics of Care

Start

17 - lesson-xx-0010

Animal Lesson

Start

18 - lesson-yy-011

What is a bilingual

Start

Lesson start

IPACA

Hello, ella! 

Lesson 2

[⌂ Back to homepage](#)

Focus of the lesson

In this lesson you will:

Extend your background knowledge of probability and statistics

Revisit your understanding of Conditionals

Work on the vocabulary items widely used in academic discourse

Are you ready? Let's get started!

Start lesson

Reading tasks

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Lesson 1: Reading Task

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Software systems are part of a world-wide economic system that has been rapidly evolving for several hundred years; the factors driving economic growth are slowly starting to be understood. Analysis of changes in World GDP have found cycles, or waves, of economic activity; Kondratieff waves are the longest, with a period of around 50 years (data from more centuries may uncover a longer cycle), a variety of shorter cycles are also seen, such as the Kuznets swing of around 20 years. Five Kondratieff waves have been identified with major world economic cycles, e.g., from the industrial revolution to information technology.

Until the early 1980s most software systems were developed for large organizations, with over 50% of US government research funding for mathematics and computer science coming from the Department of Defense, an organization that built large systems, with time-frames of many years. As customers of software systems, these organizations promoted a customer orientated research agenda, e.g., focusing on minimizing customer costs and risks, with no interest in vendor profitability and risk factors. Also, the customer was implicitly assumed to be a large organization.

Evidence-based Software Engineering by Derek M. Jones

Tick the correct sentences

- ☐ People have been aware of cycles for centuries.
- ☒ Economic activity cycle analysis of fluctuations
- ☐ The Department of Defense
- ☒ It was tacitly respected

Check!

Hello, elia!

Oh no, that's not correct.

Arrange the text boxes in the right order to form a well-built text:

For philosophers, arguments are just attempts to provide support for whatever it is that we might claim is true.

For example, maybe we think the death penalty is wrong, or the opposite, so we come up with an argument to show this. Or maybe we think that morality is a sham, nothing but a cover story for basically selfish motives. Once again, we can come up with an argument in support of this idea.

Conversely, on an even more abstract level we might think that moral judgments are just matters of opinion and that it is therefore a waste of time to even argue about what is right and what is wrong. Since none of these claims are self-evidently true (even though some people may think some of these are obvious) we'll need an argument to back them up, or at least to make explicit our reasons for making these claims.

That will, however, only get us so far – either others will agree with us or not, and either our thoughts will be true or not. But we can also offer reasons in support of our claims in the form of arguments. As we will be seeing, not all arguments are equally persuasive. There are, however, clear-cut and reliable ways of evaluating them to see which really provide the support we are after and which do not.

In the end, we can think whatever we want.

Try again

Arrange the text boxes in the right order to form a well-built text:

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For philosophers, arguments are just attempts to provide support for whatever it is that we might claim is true.

Check!

Critical Thinking Questions

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Hello, ella!



Lesson 5: Reading Task

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Economics, and its offspring, Finance, are abstract (social) sciences. In order to study economics, it is essential that one understands what an abstraction is. An abstraction is an idea, intended to mirror reality in its simplest form. The world is a very complicated place; there are many variables or inputs, some identifiable, others not, that affect an outcome, and which we endeavor to identify. In order to understand the outcome which is generally true, but not necessarily absolutely or always so, one must engage in a process of simplification that requires removing minor variables from a general idea in order to reduce the notion to its essential characteristics. Indeed, the Latin word, "abstract," comes from "drawing" or "taking away from."

In this process, one is able to derive a broad, general conclusion, based on first principles from which is derived a general idea or rule. In economics, this requires a ceteris paribus assumption, that is to say, holding "all else equal." Initially, it is assumed that no other variables matter and are thus ignored away. It

What information does the author assume is true? Tick the correct option.

- ☐ An abstraction refers to a concept that is designed to represent reality in a simplified manner.
- ☐ One needs to simplify and distill the idea by eliminating fundamental features and focusing on its minor variables.

Check!

Grammar&Style

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Lesson 1: Grammar/Style Task

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Choose ALL the options that apply (there can be more than ONE correct answer)

- ☒ Database management systems must provide the ability to define and enforce certain constraints to ensure that users enter valid information and maintain data integrity.
Yes! The correct answers are 'must' and 'should'. Both modals are used to indicate obligation or advice
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Yes! The correct answers are 'must' and 'should'. Both modals are used to indicate obligation or advice.
- ☐ Database management systems has to provide the ability to define and enforce certain constraints to ensure that users enter valid information and maintain data integrity.

Go on

Choose the option that applies:

Software systems are part of a world-wide economic system that --- for several hundred

Check!

Write the noun form of the adjective 'reliable'

Check!

Vocabulary Tasks

Lesson 4: Vocabulary Task

[⬅ Back to homepage](#)

Choose the best option to complete the text from the following list: **achievement, approaches, additional, estimation, terms, to provide, observed, periods, exposed, claimed**. There are two extra words you don't need to use:

Difference-in-difference (DiD) are applied in situations when certain groups are to a treatment and others are not. The logic of DiD is best explained with an example based on two groups and two . In the first period, none of the groups is exposed to treatment. In the second period, only one of the groups gets exposed to treatment, but not the other. an illustration, suppose there are two classes in a given school at the beginning and the end of a school year. During this school year, only students of these two classes have afternoon lessons. DiD can then be used to estimate the effect of additional lessons in the afternoon on student .

Check!

In the text, find the synonyms for the following words. First, click the definition, then click the word from the text:

- mention
- guess
- cut down
- reach

“ Finally, when exercise intensity is near maximal, most exercisers report feeling worse. As it turns out, one of the most common maxims of exercise science, that 'exercise makes people feel better', may be partly attributable to suboptimal measurement timing and frequency. Importantly, practitioners who assume, that affective responses to exercise are universal may create situations where their clients experience increasing displeasure during exercise but report feeling better afterwards simply because the unpleasant exercise experience has finished. If these and similar instances of displeasure during exercise are experienced repeatedly, it may reduce the probability that the exerciser continues to adhere. Therefore, to achieve a clearer understanding of the affective responses to exercise of a client, we recommend that measurement of affective responses occurs frequently before, during, and after exercise.

Review mistakes

231 - lesson-slot-019upd

Lesson 19

Start

232 - lesson-slot-007upd

Lesson 7

Start

233 - lesson-slot-015upd

Lesson 15

Start

Review Mistakes




1332

Reading 6.1

Retry

Dashboards




GLOBAL

Hello, elial 


Users have worked on 336 tasks so far.
Correctness: 38.98809623809624 %

Timestamp	User	Task Name	Correct?
23 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	tobias	What kind of content can be found in ipaca right now?	✓
23 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	tobias	What kind of content can be found in ipaca right now?	✗
23 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	tobias	What is a conclusion?	✗
23 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	tobias	What is a conclusion?	✓
23 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	hyuen	What is a conclusion?	✗
24 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	minenok_l	What is a conclusion?	✓
24 ⁹ ₂₀₂₂	minenok_l	What is a conclusion?	✗

IPACA

-  My Home
-  Lessons
-  Results
 - Personal
 - Global

PERSONAL

Hello, elial 



You have worked on 7 tasks so far.
Correctness: 100.0 %

Timestamp	Task Name	Correct?
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Reading 1.1	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Reading 1.1	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Main Tenses	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Find the words	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	CG 2	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Conditionals	✓
16 ⁴ ₂₀₂₃	Vocabulary	✓

Feedback

That's correct!

sentence:

responsibilities go beyond thinking and acting   .

Go on

Yes, that's correct because this sentence is another example of such literary style as parallelism, in which coordinate ideas are arranged in phrases, sentences, and paragraphs that balance one element with another of equal importance and similar wording. <https://www.britannica.com/art/parallelism/literature-and-rhetoric>.

What is the primary purpose of the text?

- ☒ To inform the reader
Yes, this is the correct answer. The text does not provide any instructions and does not contain any amusing content.
- ☐ To instruct the reader
- ☐ To entertain the reader

Go on

Thank you for your attention!

<https://kommatraining.uni-osnabrueck.de/ipaca/myhome/>

