

Practical exercises with generative AI: Washington, D.C.



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How to use this worksheet

This worksheet comprises 3 exercises and 1 reflection task.
Every exercise consists of 4 parts:

- Task description.
- Ready-made prompts to copy and paste into an AI chatbot of your choice (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini). These prompts include [placeholders], i.e., text in square brackets that you have to fill in yourself based on your needs and context before submitting the prompt to the chatbot.
- Interaction with the AI chatbot (using the prompt).
- Reflection questions for you to work on (without AI help).

Disclaimer

The following exercises are designed for informal English practice. The accuracy and quality of AI-generated output cannot be guaranteed.

Caution: Generative AI chatbots can make mistakes about facts and other information. Be sure to check any important information against reliable resources and do not rely on AI chatbots for medical, legal, or mental health advice.

1 Planning a trip & comparing transport options

1 Task

In this exercise, you will practice explaining your choices and giving reasons and arguments for them. The AI tool will take on the role of a travel adviser and ask you questions. You will answer in English and explain your choice of transport.

🕒 Time: about 10 minutes

2 Prompt

Role: You are a friendly travel adviser for class trips in the USA. I am a [X]-year-old student with [X]-level English and am planning a trip with my class from Boston to Washington, D.C.



Task: Please speak to me in English about different modes of transportation (bus, train, plane). Ask me 4-5 questions, one at a time, and help me make a decision. Ask me about my priorities, such as price, time, comfort, and environmental impact.

Instructions: After each of my answers, give me brief feedback on my English (with no more than 1 or 2 small suggestions for improvement per answer). Then ask me the next question. Use language that is appropriate for a learner at [X]-level English.

3 Interaction with the AI tool

4 Reflection

(Write in your notebook)



1. What arguments did you use for your chosen mode of transportation?
Write down at least three.
2. Did the AI tool give you helpful vocabulary? Which words or phrases were new to you?
3. How did the AI tool help you to improve your English? Was the feedback helpful?

🕒 Time: about 15 minutes

② Talking about landmarks in Washington, D.C.

1 Task

In this exercise, you will practice talking about famous historical landmarks in Washington, D.C. The AI chatbot will play the role of a tourist and ask you questions about famous Washington, D.C. landmarks. Use your knowledge of Washington, D.C. to answer the questions.

🕒 Time: About 15 minutes

2 Prompt

Role: You are a curious tourist from Europe who has never been to Washington, D.C. and is planning a city trip. 

Context: I am a student with [X]-level English who has just learned about various sights in Washington, D.C. in a language class and I want to practice my language skills.

Task: Please have a conversation with me in English in which you ask me about the most important sights in Washington, D.C. Ask me questions such as:

- What does the building/monument look like?
- Where exactly is it located in the city?
- What can visitors see there?
- Why is it important/famous?

Instructions:

- Start by asking me about the Capitol. After I have described the Capitol, ask me about other sights (e.g., the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, National Mall, Smithsonian Museums).
- Ask 2-3 questions about each landmark.
- Ask one question at a time.
- After each landmark, write a short summary of what you have learned from me.
- Then move on to the next sight.
- Continue the conversation for at least four different sights.

3 Interaction with the AI tool

4 Reflection

(Write in your notebook)

1. What adjectives (descriptive words) did you use? Make a list.
2. Did the AI tool help you improve your descriptions? How exactly?
3. What would you describe differently next time?



③ Telling a travel story

1 Task

Imagine you have just come back from a study trip to Washington, D.C. The chatbot will play the role of an interested listener. Tell a story about your trip in as much detail as possible to practice your English.

🕒 Time: About 15 minutes

2 Prompt

Role: You are an interested friend who likes to hear travel stories. I am a student with [X]-level English and would like to tell you about my (fictional) study trip to Washington, D.C.



Task: Please have a casual conversation with me in English. Ask me questions such as:

- What was your favorite experience?
- What did you do on the first day?
- Did you have any funny or surprising experiences?
- How was the weather?
- What did you like best?

Instructions: Respond naturally to my stories (e.g., "That sounds amazing!" or "Oh no, what happened then?"). If I mix up tenses, gently point it out to me. Use language appropriate for my level of English.

3 Interaction with the AI tool

4 Reflection

(Write in your notebook)



1. What feelings and impressions did you describe in your story (e.g., "I was excited," "It was impressive")?
2. How natural did the conversation with the AI tool feel?
Were there moments when it didn't feel like a real conversation?
3. What is the difference between practicing with an AI tool and practicing with a real conversation partner?

Final reflection: AI as a learning tool

After completing the three exercises, answer the following questions in your notebook.

Overall reflection

1. **Advantages:** What are the biggest advantages of practicing with AI compared to traditional workbook exercises?
2. **Disadvantages:** What did you miss when practicing with AI?
What can't AI tools do as well as a real teacher or conversation partner?
3. **Learning progress:** Which exercise do you feel you learned the most from? Why?
4. **Critical thinking:**
 - a. Were there moments when you were unsure whether the information provided by AI was correct?
 - b. How could you verify AI-generated information?
 - c. When should you trust AI and when should you not?
5. **Future use:** How could you use AI effectively to learn English in the future?
Name three specific ideas.

Tips for effective English practice with generative AI

DON'T:

- Don't just let AI write texts for you.
- Don't blindly trust all information provided by AI.
- Don't forget that conversations with real people are different.
- Don't use AI as a substitute for learning vocabulary and grammar.

DO:

- Be honest about your language level—the AI tool will adapt accordingly.
- Try out different ways of phrasing things.
- Ask the AI for explanations if you don't understand something.
- Use the AI to practice conversations, not to do your homework for you.
- Check important information, especially historical facts, against reliable resources.

Good luck with your learning!