

BSL'S OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

In 2021 all our morning classes will take place all over the city in well-researched venues and locations showcasing the best of New York, allowing students to learn English while making the most of New York and staying safe and socially distant. Instead of being in a room with 4 walls, the city will become their classroom!

The advantages of outdoor learning

Being immersed in the life and culture of NYC adds a unique element to the classroom experience. Instead of simply discussing NYC related topics in a classroom, students will be able to experience NYC life and culture first-hand. Classes will be rich in cultural content and conversation and include regular cultural and educational field trips around the city.

By choosing our Live Outside English course, students can also make a positive impact on the environment, taking advantage of natural sunlight and airflow rather than being inside and using artificial light and AC! This makes our English language program the most sustainable, eco-wise choice for students.

What will outdoors teaching be like?

In addition to completing course book assignments, participating in pair work and discussion, and being assigned homework regularly, just like in a regular classroom setting, students will get the added bonus of a hands-on approach to learning about NYC. Our teachers will have iPads to assist them, and a portable Wi-Fi router, allowing easy Wi-Fi access for everyone.

Students will gather around a table, in semi-circular seating or in a row, on park seating - no seating in the grass! Locations have been carefully chosen based on comfort, space, ease of access, proximity of public toilets, etc.

Field trips include visits to museums, cultural centers, historic neighborhoods, historical landmarks, and more! This interactive classroom experience gives students the opportunity to practice their language skills in authentic NYC settings.

What if it rains?

On the rare days when it rains in the morning in New York, or on the few days when it is too hot during July and August, classes will switch to one our carefully selected indoor venues or be taken on one of our many cultural or educational field trips located in indoor locations. New York City is full of great museums and semi-secret indoor public spaces.



Bryant Park, Midtown Manhattan



Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn Heights

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Our top 10 Outdoor Classrooms

Abingdon Square, West village

One of New York's oldest and smallest parks, Abingdon Square, is situated in the West Village, which is ideal for an afternoon walk, after classes. Dating from 1831 (so almost 200 years old!), it was named after the 4th Earl of Abingdon, an English Earl, and was designed by Calvert Vaux, who also designed Central Park. www.abingdonsquare.com

Setting: class seated in a row.

Bosque Gardens, Battery Park

This is a 4-acre garden, which was designed by the Dutch landscape architect Piet Oudolf and was originally centered around a grove of 140 plane trees. These gardens have great views of the New York harbor and the Statue of Liberty. Great activities to do after class include visiting the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, or taking the famous Staten Island ferry, which is FREE and gives great views of the city and the Statue of Liberty. www.thebattery.org

Setting: class seated in a semi-circle.

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn Bridge

Opened in 2010, Brooklyn Bridge Park has fast become one of the most popular parks in the city, and it's no surprise why. The views of downtown Manhattan and the 2 bridges - Brooklyn Bridge and Manhattan Bridge - are breathtaking. The park itself has lots of interesting spaces and secluded areas. It is also ideally positioned to explore the popular neighborhoods of Dumbo and nearby Brooklyn Heights. www.brooklynbridgepark.org

Setting: class seated in a row.

Bryant Park, Midtown

Known as Manhattan's town square, there is so much going on in Bryant Park that you could spend the whole afternoon there after classes. Located around the central grassy area are also all sorts of daily activities including a reading room, yoga, chess, a games room, tai chi, and juggling! There are also lots of places to eat and drink, and it is located next to the world-famous New York Public library, which is a must-see of New York. Also located close by are 2 other famous sights: the Grand Central train terminal and Times Square! www.bryantpark.org

Setting: class seated around tables.

Conservatory Garden, Central Park

Located in the North-eastern part of Central Park, the Conservatory Garden has 3 distinct parts, all dating from the 1880s. The English Garden, French Garden and Italian Garden. It's a quiet and reflective location, and includes the wonderful Untermyer fountain, featuring 3 dancing maidens. It's ideal for exploring some of New York's most famous museums, including the Met, the Guggenheim, and the Museum of the City of New York, and of course Central Park itself.

www.centralpark.com/things-to-do/attractions/conservatory-garden/

Setting: class seated in a row.



Conservatory Garden, Central Park



Domino Park, Williamsburg

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Domino Park, Williamsburg

Opened in 2018, Domino Park, occupies the original site of the Domino sugar refinery, and many of the original features of that iconic site have been retained. It was one of eight spaces nominated for the 2018 Urban Space Award, and rightly so. It's a fantastic location with great views of Midtown Manhattan. It's the perfect location to explore the hip neighborhood of Williamsburg after class. www.dominopark.com

Setting: class seated around tables.

Green Acre Park, Midtown East

Definitely off the beaten track, this very special park located in Midtown East features a 25-foot tall waterfall, a trellis with heat lamp for chilly days, chairs and tables, honey locust trees, azaleas, pansies and an on-site cafe. Great for exploring the MOMA or the United Nations HQ, both of which are just a 10-minute walk away. www.greenacrepark.org

Setting: class seated around tables.

Madison Square Park, Flat-Iron district

With a great location right in the heart of Manhattan, Madison Square Park (named after the world-famous Madison Square Garden sports arena), is the perfect location for exploring a wide range of famous sights, notably: the Empire State Building and the Flat-Iron building. The park is full of trees providing lots of shade, often has musicians playing and has a Shake Shack burger restaurant on-site. www.madisonsquarepark.org

Setting: class seated around tables.

Stuyvesant Square Park, East village

One of our personal favorites, Stuyvesant Square Park, named after the 1st Governor of the city, has a magnificent 2,800 ft long cast iron fence around it (the oldest in the city). Unusual in that there are 2 parts to it separated by 2nd avenue, it was originally one of the most fashionable addresses in the city, and is still very popular to this day. It's the ideal location to explore the East Village in the afternoon after class. www.nycgovparks.org/parks/stuyvesant-square

Setting: class seated in a row.

Washington Square Park, Greenwich Village

Surely one of New York's most famous locations, WSH, as it is known, is located in the heart of Greenwich Village, and is a real hive of activity morning, noon, and night. But it also has some great quieter areas (which is where we will be!). WSH is great for exploring the West Village, doing some shopping in Soho, or just people-watching!

www.nycgovparks.org/parks/washington-square-park

Setting: class seated in a semi-circle.



Madison Square Park, Flat-Iron district



Washington Square Park, Greenwich Village