

BSL OUTDOOR COURSES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is BSL an accredited school?

A: Yes we are accredited by the [CEA](#) and we are also a member of [IALC](#), both of which have very high-quality standards for the schools they are representing.

Q: Are all your teachers qualified, native speakers?

A: Every [BSL](#) instructor has – at a minimum – a Bachelor’s degree in [TESOL](#), linguistics, or a related field, and a TEFL/TESOL/[CELTA](#) certificate. Before being selected to work at BSL, our teachers are first interviewed face-to-face by the Academic and Programs Manager or School Director and are then required to give a teaching demonstration class, thus ensuring they possess both the necessary teaching and native-level English language skills.

Q: What is the English Outdoors concept?

A: Our new English Outdoors concept is specifically designed to immerse students in NYC life and culture, giving students the unique opportunity to practice their English in authentic NYC settings. Our morning English classes take place in indoor and outdoor locations all over the city, allowing students to learn English and make the most of New York while staying safe and socially distant, and enjoying the best views in the city.

The city becomes the classroom! Instead of being in a room with 4 walls, students will learn in places such as Bryant Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Industry City, Essex Market, Central Park and more.

Q: Where do classes take place?

A: BSL’s morning classes take place in locations (both indoor and outdoor) all over the city allowing students to learn English and make the most of NYC in a socially distant manner, all the while enjoying the best views and sights the city has to offer. There is a range of indoor locations for rainy days or when it is too hot in summer/too cold in winter, so lessons are guaranteed, every day, whatever the weather.

Some examples of outdoor locations include: Brooklyn Bridge Park, Bryant Park, Cobble Hill Park, Madison Square Park, Shakespeare Garden...

Some examples of indoor locations include: Brookfield Place, Essex Market, Industry City...

Q: Will the classes outside be comfortable for the students? Will there be toilets?

A: Yes and yes! Locations have been carefully chosen based on comfort, space, ease of access, points of interest close by, proximity of public restrooms, etc. They will take place in small classes of 8 students maximum (average 4/5). Students will seat around a table, in semi-circular seating, or in a row on park seating.

Q: How will teachers be able to teach without a traditional classroom and a blackboard?

A: Teachers will be able to continue to carry out our current BSL teaching [methodology](#) with this new outdoor concept. Teachers will utilize the coursebook, supplementary materials, and mini-whiteboards to target key grammar and vocabulary points throughout each class. They will also use technology in the form of iPads and smartphones to further engage students throughout each lesson, just like with our previous indoor classes. Students will also continue to complete homework assignments regularly and be assessed on course language objectives weekly.

Classes are rich in cultural content and conversation and will also include weekly cultural and educational field trips around the city.

Q: What happens if it rains?

A: If it rains, gets too hot or too cold, classes will switch to an indoor venue 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.

Q: What are the benefits of an outdoor class?

A: Being immersed in the life and culture of NYC adds a unique element to the classroom experience, as students will be able to truly experience NYC life and culture first-hand in authentic settings. NYC related topics and destinations will be incorporated into the class curriculum by utilizing weekly educational and cultural field trips as well as with the daily outdoor classroom destinations. Students will be in the unique position to improve their English, expand their knowledge about NYC, be able to practice their English in truly authentic NYC settings, and live like a true New Yorker!

Q: Will there be homework?

A: Yes, just like in a regular classroom setting. In addition, students will complete coursebook assignments, participate in pair work and discussion, and will get the added bonus of a hands-on approach to learning about NYC.

Q: What about the COVID sanitary measures?

A: This is one of the advantages of being outdoors: students will make the most of the space and natural airflow rather than being inside in a crowded classroom and using Air Conditioning. Students and teachers will have ample room to socially-distance. We recommend that each student brings a mask and a small bottle of hydroalcoholic gel to sanitize their hands as often as needed.

Q: How far will the accommodation be?

A: Our homestays are located in Brooklyn, 25 to 45 minutes to where the class takes place, depending on the location of the class each day. We alternate between locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan for our lessons so that you don't have to travel to Manhattan every morning.

We also offer Coliving options (shared apartments) in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Please check our [Housing](#) page for more details.

Q: What can I do after classes? Are there school activities organized?

A: There is plenty to do and see in New York so you will never get bored! We organize [social activities](#) every week (walking tours, happy hours, lunches, museums...) and we also give plenty of suggestions of things to do in your free time (famous sights, hidden gems, festivals, markets...).

Our daily [location guides](#) also include many cool ideas for things to do and places to visit in the area after class.

Q: What if I am no longer able to travel to NY due to my government's (or the USA's) COVID policies? Can I get my money back?

A: Yes. You can book with peace of mind knowing that we will refund your course in full should you be unable to travel due to COVID. We just ask that you give us enough notice when you cancel: 72 hours for a course only booking (i.e. the Friday before the course starts), 7 days if you have booked homestay, and 28 days if you have booked a Coliving apartment. You can check our full [Terms & Conditions](#) for more details.



Brooklyn Bridge Park



Washington Square Park



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