REEP ESL Curriculum for Adults

COURSE PLANNING
Initial Needs Assessment Activities

The purpose of course planning/initial needs assessment is to:
- assess learners' language learning goals, interests, and needs and
- select the units to cover based on learners' language learning goals, interests, and needs.

Does "course" mean the same thing as "level"?
Not necessarily. At REEP, courses run 11-12 weeks and vary in intensity from 4-15 hours per week (or 44-180 hours of instruction per course). Each REEP level is designed for between 120-180 hours of instruction. Depending on the intensity of the course, it will take learners more than one course of study to advance to the next level.

How many instructional units are there per level?
Each level contains up to 10 units. See *unit index in Curriculum Content.*

How long does each unit take?
This depends on learner needs, but typically you can plan between 20-30 hours of instruction per unit.

Are any of the units required?
Only the "Getting Started" and "Final Reflections" Units are required.

Is it necessary to cover all of the units for each level in one course?
No! The curriculum is not designed so that all units are covered in one course. In courses of 180 hours, for example, it is reasonable to have learners select 3-4 lifeskills units in addition to the "Getting Started" and "Final Reflections" Units. Less intensive courses will not be able to cover as many units in one course.

How are the units selected?
The learners select 3-4 priority units based on their language learning goals, interests, and needs. In this way, learners decide the contexts through which they wish to learn the language skills for a particular level.

How do I meaningfully involve my learners in selecting which units to cover?
Needs assessment is an objective in the "Getting Started" unit at each level. Resources, ideas, and activities are suggested in the Getting Started Unit. Also, see *Needs Assessment* in this section for background information and needs assessment activities.