

Frequently Asked Questions

RAMINEM Teacher

**www.Teacher.az
www.Raminem.az
www.Wordika.az**

1. Where are you from?

I was born in Urmia, West Azerbaijan Prefecture, Iran in August 1968. I grew up both in Urmia and Salt Lake City USA. I am Azerbaijani in blood and origin and my younger sister and mother were both born in the USA.

Let me add that I immersed English Language since my very childhood and the first academic language I learned and immersed at my primary school was English. Frankly speaking, this makes me a native speaker of English Language.

2. Why did you come to Azerbaijan?

Since, we do not have access to learn Azerbaijani language at Iranian universities/schools I visited Azerbaijan to learn the culture and study Azerbaijani language. Unfortunately, inside Iran, every student is forced to learn the official language - Farsi. I am married to an Azerbaijani now and I hold my work permit and National ID card. (şəxsiyyət vəsiqəsi)

3. Do you work at any language courses/language institutes?

I only provide lessons at my personal language center called Teacher.az or WORDIKA Education & Services. Every now and then I receive job offers from different language courses/institutes located in Baku. I would like to work with all of them but as a matter of fact I prefer working as a freelancer. I have big respects to all the language courses which know and respect me. (salamlar)

4. Why did you choose teaching as your profession?

Teaching is in my blood and I enjoy it very much. My parents are university lecturers/professors and most of my relatives are academics too.

5. Which one is better, British English or American English?

Come on. Both of them are cool. I personally use American English. American English is used as a foreign or second language in various worldwide countries more than British English is. The American English verses British English worldwide usage is a ratio of 9 to 1.

6. Will I learn English if I participate in your courses?

Of course you will. I use a variety of teaching methods in my lessons and I am sure that I will use some great methods and plans to facilitate your learning.

7. Which one should I choose, TOEFL or IELTS?

It definitely depends on your needs. Some of my students learn both of them so that they can have a wider choice in the university enrollment process.

8. I want to make foreign friends and improve my English. Where can I practice my English?

Well finding and making friends is your problem. But, in Baku, you can make some friends at KFC, McDonald's, Park Bulvar, Maiden Tower, Inner Town etc. You can also visit www.speaking24.com and register via your SKYPE ID. You have access to live video chat at this web site and can practice your English with people from different countries who also like to practice.

You can also participate in conversation clubs in Baku. Please make sure the conversation teacher is a Native speaker of English Language; say Canadian, British or North American.

9. Which one is more difficult, TOEFL or IELTS?

Students have different opinions answering this question. I'd say nothing is difficult because you will have RAMINEM Teacher by your side. But frankly speaking, IELTS is a little bit more challenging than TOEFL.

Positive things about TOEFL :

- Most questions in the Reading and Listening sections are multiple choice questions (Choose A,B,C or D). If a student cannot find the correct answer to a question he/she can easily eliminate some choices and guess the correct answer.
- Reading Comprehension passages are normal in TOEFL. Let's say they are easier than IELTS passages.
- Each reading passage has 13 questions and each question will direct you to a paragraph. This is cool because you won't panic and waste your time scanning and skimming.
- The Speaking section is not face-to-face in which you answer all the 6 questions via your headset. All your answers will be recorded online for further evaluation. For shy students, this is a nice feature.
- At the writing section, you have to type both Independent and Integrated tasks. This is good for students who have terrible hand writing.
- The topic at the independent task (essay writing) is usually easy to crack.
- At the listening section, you can take notes and you can view your notes while answering the questions. This is a good feature.

Positive things about IELTS :

- You only have to take the listening, writing and reading sections on the main test day. The speaking section will be held on some other day. Depending on the alphabetical order, you go in for the interview a few days before or after the main test day.
- You are given 40 minutes which seems enough time for the essay writing section and you just have to write more than 250 words. Every thing you write is counted as a word. For example, a, an, the, it, is, are, do, when etc are all counted.
- At the listening section, you are given time to scan the questions and answers before you listen to them. This is a great help.
- IELTS is a paper based test in which you never use a Desktop Computer or laptop. This is good for students who are not good at computer skills.

Negative things about IELTS :

- To be honest most IELTS interviewers are strict and have to follow strict evaluating procedures. The grading system in TOEFL is easier than IELTS.
- The reading passages are longer and more challenging than TOEFL passages. Unlike TOEFL, you are not guided to any paragraph to find the answer to the question(s). You must do lots of scanning and skimming. Most students complain and say that they couldn't answer all the reading questions in time.
- The essay writing's topic is challenging at times.
- Most students complain about the Graph writing section.

So I think acing a high score in TOEFL is easier than IELTS.

10. Can you come to my office/house and teach me English?

Yes. But you'll have to pay me 2 times more (the monthly fee will be multiplied by 3) and provide me with a driver.

11. Do you really guarantee my learning?

Yes. I'll give you full guarantee in teaching you General English, Business English, Grammar and Vocabulary ... I'll also give you a 100% guarantee for your IELTS and TOEFL course. I'll teach all the necessary materials and stuff that you need in order to get a very high score.

12. Will you lower the enrollment fee if I bring a friend?

Yes.

13. Where can I take the IELTS Test in Baku?

Ask RAMINEM.

14. Where can I take the TOEFL Test in Baku?

Ask RAMINEM.

15. Where can I take the SAT Test in Baku?

Ask RAMINEM.

16. Do you have any criminal records?

Not at all. No where in this small world called Earth.

17. From which age shall I enroll my kid at your courses? From which age can my kid start learning English?

Well this is a double side question. Although it is believed that it is best to learn a foreign language from earlier ages, I think that the best age is when your kid ends his/her third grade of primary school. At first, let your kid learn the English alphabet and some words in English at his/her state primary school and afterwards I can help him/her out improve his/her language skills etc.

18. Why do you like Baku, Azerbaijan Republic?

I love Azerbaijan. I do. Baku is making big progress day by day. I prefer Azerbaijan to even the USA, Japan or S. Korea. The English Language Learning market is also rapidly growing. My wife is from Azerbaijan and I do love to help my fellow Azerbaijani citizens with their English.

19. What do you think about the English Language market in Baku?

Well, it is growing fast. I searched the internet in 2007 – 2008 and to tell you the truth there were only few English Language institutes/schools which had an official web site. But within 10 years the market has grown so fast and we can encounter new language institute openings here and there almost every month. Some get bankrupt because of lack of correct management and advertisement and some of them increase their popularity.

20. Do you have any rivals or rival language institutes?

No. Why would I have one?! I am just a humble English Teacher trying to do my job and bring home bread and butter.

21. In Baku, who is a good English teacher?

Well, generally speaking, if you have the budget, your first choice should be a foreign teacher (native speaker of English). But if you are looking for an economy class, choose an Azerbaijani English teacher who at least has lived in England, Canada or the USA for more than 3 years. You must also ask for the teacher's qualifications and certificates. Check the teacher's CV and ask for his reputation and popularity among students. See if the teacher's Bachelor or Master or PhD degree is in Teaching English or not. If not, the teacher at least must have participated in some TTC (Teacher training courses) such as TEFL, CELTA, TESOL, DELTA etc ... If not, you should definitely avoid the teacher.

22. The number of English Language institutes is increasing everyday in Baku. Is it good?

Well, most people think it is a bad idea. But I welcome it. Why not? I think that within 10 years, English Language can become a second language here in Azerbaijan. It depends on the demand. The popularity of English Language Learning is increasing day by day. You get what you pay for! If you want to learn real English, you should choose a reputable course. I'm sure you do not want to waste your time and energy and learn nothing at the end by attending cheap language courses. I think that investing money and energy in a popular course is much more helpful for you.

23. Can you name a few good English language primary schools?

Yes. Go for BSB (British School Baku) or International School in Baku. These two are fine.

24. Can you name a few good English language institutes?

Well I'd love to. There are some nice language institutes in Baku. But I think you must give this question to students who are learning English. I like Mr. Javanshir, director of He is a pure human being and has a big heart.

25. Do you provide intensive courses? I have little time left, can you teach me?

Yes. Check out my courses (kurslar)

26. Do you participate in any political activities?

Never. I am an English teacher. I am not a politician.

27. It's my birthday party. Will you come?

No. But you can invite me to your wedding ceremony.

28. I can't learn English. What's going on?

Well, either you are not trying hard enough or the method your teacher is using is not the correct one.

29. How can I know my teacher is talented and is the right person?

Teachers must know the correct spelling to most words in English. They should also be able to handle almost 99% of the given questions and there are dozens of other characteristics that an English Language teacher must have.

30. Is a score higher than 110 in TOEFL iBT or 8.0 in IELTS possible?

Yes, it is. Practice makes perfect. Four of my IELTS students have scored 8.0 and one of my TOEFL students scored 108.

31. For some reasons, I take lessons at some other language institutes. Can you help me?

Of course. I know that Baku is a big city and maybe most people choose the nearest language institute to their home. Do not hesitate to visit me for any kind of English Language related help. Keep in touch.

32. Are you also a rapper?

I used to be. Not now.

33. What's your favorite country?

Among the 27 countries I have visited, Azerbaijan Republic, the USA and S. Korea are my three favorites.

34. Are you racist?

No.

35. Are you happy with your life?

Yes. To some extent.

36. Barcelona or Real Madrid or ... ?

The soccer team which represents new talent and has good team work has always been my favorite. I love to watch great soccer matches.

37. What makes you a unique teacher?

My knowledge of the thing I'm doing, patience, being up-to-date, creative, problem solver, facilitator and following my own strict rules and guidelines.

38. I scored 93 at TOEFL iBT. Can you help me improve my score?

Yes. I have done it many many times.

39. I scored 7.0 at the IELTS test. Can you help me improve my score?

Yes. I have done it many many times.

40. Why is your nick name RAMINEM?

I like it. My real name is Ramin.

41. Can you give me a list of useful books in English? I want to study on my own, will you help me and give the references of useful books?

Yes. I will definitely help you.

42. I want to establish my personal language institute. How can you help me?

I can be a great help. I can help you with TTC (Teacher Training Course), syllabus design, HR (Human Resources), curriculum design, testing system, recruiting, observing classes online etc ... Contact RAMINEM Teacher in late July or early August of each year.

43. There are 6, 7 or 8 students in the class that I'm attending to learn English? Is it good?

Depending on the teacher, maybe yes and maybe no. But, no, it is not good. The maximum number should not exceed 4.

44. How many students do you place in your groups?

2 or 3 students. Not more.

45. Private tutoring or group learning?

It depends on your needs and budget. Both of them will be helpful for you. The aim is to learn English as much as possible within the limited time you have.

46. I am a lower intermediate/intermediate English language learner/user. How long will it take to become an advanced speaker?

3 – 5 months. Depending on your learning skills and hard work.

47. I am a beginner/elementary English language learner/user. How long will it take to become an intermediate speaker?

4 – 5 months. Depending on your learning skills and hard work.

48. Can I pay you after I fully learn or finish the course?

No. The enrollment process is in cash in advance.

49. What are the enrollment process procedures?

1. You can email or give me a call so that I can help you by answering your questions. Just be real and have a look at the various courses at the (kurslar) link at my web site.

2. I usually ask for your name, age, job and on phone.

3. If we come to an agreement and if you are a true client I will give you the hour and the date so that you can visit my office to take the placement test which is free of charge.

4. After that, I will register your name in my weekly Time-table.

5. Before your first lesson starts, you must pay me the monthly enrollment fee in cash in advance. No credits are acceptable.

50. My teacher speaks too fast in class. I cannot recognize his/her speech. What shall I do?

He/she is a show off. A good teacher must use fluent and easily recognizable speech in class. Report it to the manager or director.

51. My teacher does not provide a good answer to my question. He cannot solve my language problems. What shall I do?

Report it to the manager or director.

52. How can we categorize English Language teachers?

Criteria to Evaluate English Language Teachers

İngilis Dil Müəllimlərini qiymətləndirmək üçün meyar

FIVE Star - VIP / BEŞ Ulduz - VIP

Is a native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin daşıyıcısıdır

has a university degree in Teaching or related subjects / Dərs deməkdə və ya əlaqələndirilən fənnlərdə (mövzularda) universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching certificates such as TEFL, CELTA etc / İNGİLİS DİLİNİN XARİCİ DİL KİMİ TƏDRİSİ, CELTA və TEFL kimi təlim şəhadətnamələrinə malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 20 years / 20-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has taught English in some other foreign countries / bir qədər başqa xarici ölkələrdə İngilis dilini öyrətmişdir

has gained wide respect from students and parents in the city he/she teaches / onun dərs dediyi şəhərdə tələbələrdən və valideynlərdən geniş hörməti (münasibəti) əldə etmişdir

is able to teach a variety of Courses, not simply just Grammar, Vocabulary and General English / o çoxlu müxtəlif kursları öyrədə bilər

FIVE Star / BEŞ Ulduz

Is a native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin daşıyıcısıdır

has a university degree in Teaching or related subjects / Dərs deməkdə və ya əlaqələndirilən fənnlərdə (mövzularda) universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching certificates such as TEFL, CELTA etc / İNGİLİS DİLİNİN XARİCİ DİL KİMİ TƏDRİSİ, CELTA və TEFL kimi təlim şəhadətnamələrinə malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 10 years / 10-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has taught English in some other foreign countries / bir qədər başqa xarici ölkələrdə İngilis dilini öyrətmişdir

FOUR Star / dörd Ulduz

Is a non-native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin qeyri doğma spikeridir

has a university degree in Teaching or related subjects / Dərs deməkdə və ya əlaqələndirilən fənnlərdə (mövzularda) universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching certificates such as TEFL, CELTA etc / İNGİLİS DİLİNİN XARİCİ DİL KİMİ TƏDRİSİ, CELTA və TEFL kimi təlim şəhadətnamələrinə malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 10 years / 10-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has no experience in teaching English in any foreign country / heç bir xarici ölkədə təlim İngilis dilində (İngilislərdə) heç bir təcrübəyə malik olmayıb

THREE Star / üç Ulduz

Is a non-native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin qeyri doğma spikeridir

has a university degree in Teaching or related subjects / Dərs deməkdə və ya əlaqələndirilən fənnlərdə (mövzularda) universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 5 years / 5-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has no experience in teaching English in any foreign country / heç bir xarici ölkədə təlim İngilis dilində (İngilislərdə) heç bir təcrübəyə malik olmayıb

TWO Star / iki Ulduz

Is a non-native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin qeyri doğma spikeridir

has a university degree in other fields than Teaching English / Təlim İngilis dilindən (İngilislərdən) başqa sahələrdə universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 3 years / 3-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has no experience in teaching English in any foreign country / heç bir xarici ölkədə təlim İngilis dilində (İngilislərdə) heç bir təcrübəyə malik olmayıb

ONE Star / bir Ulduz

Is a non-native speaker of English / İngilis dilinin qeyri doğma spikeridir

Has a university degree in other fields than Teaching English / Təlim İngilis dilindən (İngilislərdən) başqa sahələrdə universitet diplomuna malikdir

has teaching experience for more than 2 years / 2-dən çox il ərzində təlim təcrübəsinə malikdir

has no experience in teaching English in any foreign country / heç bir xarici ölkədə təlim İngilis dilində (İngilislərdə) heç bir təcrübəyə malik olmayıb

RAMINEM Teacher = 5 Ulduz VIP teacher

53. Can I bring my notebook or IPAD to class?

There is no need for it. I will provide them for you if needed.