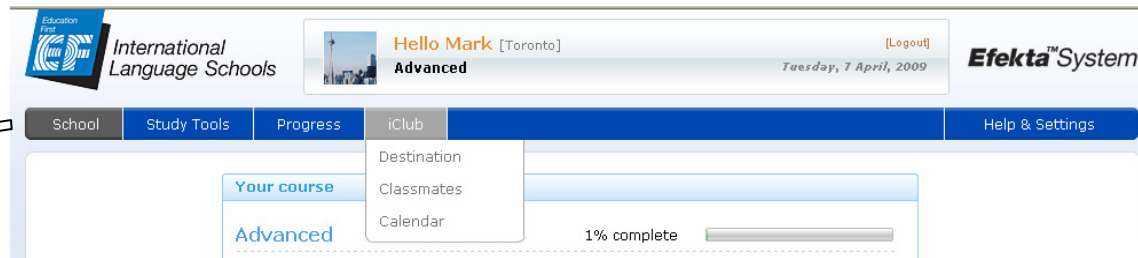


## 0916: Overview of iLab EFEKTA Functions



When your students log onto iLab, there are five tabs across the top which contain links to various areas:

1. School Tab	8. Study Tools Tab	17. Progress Tab	22. iClub	26. Help & Settings
2. My Course	9. podEnglish	18. iTracker	23. Destination	27. My Account
3. Spin Course	10. Videos	19. Lesson Report	24. Classmates	28. Course Help
4. Survival English	11. Notebook	20. Assessment	25. Calendar	29. Contact Us
5. Travel English	12. Grammar Lab	21. Placement Test		
6. Online Lecture	13. Grammar Guide			
7. Exam Preparation	14. iFlashcards			
	15. iSpeech			
	16. Translator			

1. **School Tab:** Here is where most students go first, and where the bulk of their lessons reside.
2. **My Course:** Here is a list of units which correspond to the EFEKTA book unit being used in the classroom, one unit per week. These units are broken down into four areas: Watch, Learn, Try and Test. The Watch section is related to a video language model, and includes a useful Map page which summarizes vocabulary and grammar included. The Learn section focuses on skills practice, and Try section works with authentic media from the web. Finally, students can test their overall knowledge of the unit.
3. **Spin Course:** All Intensive and Basic students have an online Spin. The first one is given automatically in the intake procedure, but after that, students can change them easily, either through the regular class change procedure, or by visiting the Academic offices. Online SPINs give students an excellent opportunity to do intensive study on particular aspects of English, especially for professional language functions or specific industries. The list of available online SPINs is posted on the Academic notice board, and it is printed on the back of the Class Change List that goes out every two weeks. The format of these units is similar to the regular "My Course" units.
4. **Survival English:** These units focus on the absolute basics, like introducing yourself in English.
5. **Travel English:** A focus on getting around, making hotel reservations, currency exchange, etc.
6. **Online Lecture:** This function can be used for inter-school collaboration. There are several "rooms", where users can communicate via voice and text, allowing for online meetings and presentations via Powerpoint.
7. **Exam Preparation:** iLab currently offers specific training and practice tests for TOEFL and TOEIC, which are delivered from this link via an external site called testden.com
8. **Study Tools Tab:** Here are extra items to extend study which focus on specific learning areas.
9. **podEnglish:** This is a rather extensive series of educational videos, which follow the Watch, Learn, Try format. Grammar points or lexis are extracted from a short film clip, explained, and followed up by a practice stage. These videos can even be downloaded to the student's laptop or iPod.
10. **Videos:** There is a Cinema section with 60 films, from beginner to advanced level. The movies are short, with clear dialogue, and can be used with or without the script. Keywords are then focused on, and finally tested with a quiz or game. Next to Cinema, there is a Characters section, with information about recurring characters throughout the series of films. Below, there is another video series called Grammar Video

- Lecture. These are 21 video lessons on specific grammar points. Finally, there is a Reviews section, where users can add comments about the videos they have seen.
11. **Notebook:** This is an interactive word list, where students can import new words via the Translator function, read the definitions and hear the pronunciation. The can also automatically load word lists for their current units, group their list by word type, search by first letter. They can even export Notebook works to the iFlashcards function, and practice them there.
  12. **Grammar Lab:** This is a grammar reference, searchable by level or by topic. Each entry includes interactive practice activities.
  13. **Grammar Guide:** This is a concise grammar reference.
  14. **iFlashcards:** This feature can be accessed within any Course unit, and it is used for memorizing vocabulary. The student can choose vocabulary lists from current units, they can choose “dictionary challenge”, which generates words at random, or they can import words of any kind via the Translator/Notebook list. With iFlashcards, students test the words on virtual “cards”, flip the card to check the meaning and pronunciation if necessary, and then sort them between “learned” and “not learned”, by dragging and dropping.
  15. **iSpeech:** This is a pronunciation program which teaches the sounds of English based on symbols in the International Phonemic Alphabet. Students can separate vowels from consonants, and examine a few stock phrases. They can also record their own voice, imitating the sounds. Then, they can then listen again to the language model, and compare it to a recording that they made.
  16. **Translator:** This is an integrated dictionary, which can be accessed here, or anywhere in EFEKTA. Students can double-click on any word and instantly see the English dictionary definition. They can also change the settings, allowing them to see the same word in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, Japanese or Chinese.
  17. **Progress Tab: Here, students see the evaluation tools of EFEKTA.**
  18. **iTracker:** Students can see the “spider-gram” which charts their progress as entered by the General English teacher every two weeks. The six areas are Understanding and Listening, Spoken Interaction, Grammar, Vocabulary, Spoken Production and Pronunciation. Each level of the spider-gram represents a numeric range of 1 to 100 for each level, relative to student achievement compared to the level's “Can Do” statement. The different colors represent different times these grades were entered, with the colored area expanding over time.
  19. **Lesson Report:** This shows which courses have been started, which have been completed, and when. Note: “Complete” means that 70% or more of the answers were entered correctly.
  20. **Assessment:** This is a simple, automated advice program. The student answers questions about his/her confidence in various areas, and then it produces a list of tips for these areas of concern.
  21. **Placement Test:** Taken either pre-arrival or on the student's arrival day in the school, to determine EF level.
  22. **iClub Tab: Here are some non-study related features of iLab.**
  23. **Destination:** Students can read about different locations in the world of EF, and they can browse sales brochures.
  24. **Classmates:** Students create personal profiles and can look up classmates or former classmates at various times in the past.
  25. **Calendar:** Students can see what activities are being offered by the Activities Coordinator locally. They can also browse activities being offered at the various EF schools around the world.
  26. **Help & Settings Tab: Administrative options for student use.**
  27. **My Account:** Students can change their email, password and name in the EFEKTA database.
  28. **Course Help:** A guide to iLab, this is similar to a “Frequently Asked Questions” list. It examines various aspects of using EFEKTA in some detail.
  29. **Contact Us:** This is a email page where students can ask questions about EFEKTA pre-arrival, which are presumably answered by the EFEKTA team in Shanghai or London.