



Using English in Your Everyday Life

*Fun English
activities you can
do every day to
improve.*



Learning Around the Globe

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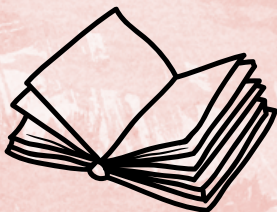
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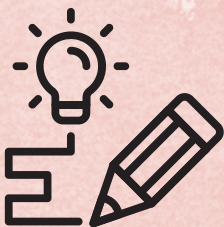
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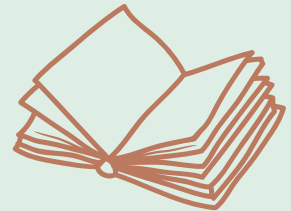


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Domains of Language Learning



- There are 4 main areas of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



- It is important to get practice in **ALL** of these areas if you want to become fluent in a language.
- Often, practicing in a specific area can help with another area too. For example, writing often helps learners with speaking as well.



Domains of Language Learning



- Listening and reading are receptive language skills. That means it helps us practice receiving and understanding the language.
- Speaking and writing are expressive language skills. That means it helps us use and express ourselves in the language.
- It is necessary to practice both receptive and expressive language skills when trying to become fluent.



Thinking

Thinking in English is a very important practice that many students don't start early enough.

You should start thinking in English within the first month (or even week) of starting to learn the language.

How:

- Make a specific time each day when you try to think in English.
- Have an English goal you want to practice while thinking. *For example: thinking in the past tense, practice fluency (not accuracy), thinking about a specific topic to practice vocabulary, etc.*

Thinking



Activities:

- Think during your daily life. Set a time while doing chores, during work, when planning a trip, etc.
 - This is a good activity if you are having a busy day and can't take time out of your day to practice English.
- Reflect on your day /environment /something that has been bothering you, etc.
 - This is a good activity to have a journal with you. You can write down words you can't remember, sentences you are struggling with, or questions that you think of.



Thinking

Remember:

- At first, you will mostly be thinking in your own language, but that is ok! Just replace the words you know in English and keep practicing.
- Start off thinking for only 10 minutes a day. As it gets easier, keep increasing the time.

How It Helps:

Thinking in English helps with:

- Speaking English
- Grammar
- Writing
- Fluency
- Vocabulary



Speaking

Apps:

If you are too nervous to speak with other people yet, try speaking out loud to yourself at home. It might be a little awkward at first, but it will help you build up the confidence to speak with other people.

Tandem

- This is an app that lets you speak with other people trying to learn the same language or native speakers also trying to learn your language.

Hello Talk

- This app connects you with native speakers looking to learn your first language too.



Listening



Most students know what they could listen to (*songs, movies, Youtube videos*).

However, students often choose listening activities that are too high for their level.

So we broke this section down by level.

Remember it is always ok to **passively** listen to something above your level (ex: *movies*). However, you should also be **intentionally** listening to different things at your level.

Intentional Listening Means:

Listening multiple times to understand the main idea and specific phrases/vocabulary

Taking notes on what you don't know
(*words, grammar, pronunciation*)



Listening



A1 Activities:

YouTube Videos

- YouTube videos made for lower-level English learners are great. They should be no longer than 5 minutes and the topic can be anything that interests you!
 - Remember you can always slow down the speed and show subtitles on Youtube.

Songs

- It's never too early to start listening to English songs! Look up the lyrics and then try to pick out words you know when listening.



Listening



A2 Activities:

YouTube Videos

- YouTube videos between 5 - 10 minutes
 - Remember you can always slow down the speed and show subtitles on Youtube.

Songs

Look up the lyrics and then try to pick out words you know when listening.

Short Ted Talks

- Ted Talks, between 5 - 10 minutes, that discuss a topic you know a lot about.

News Clips

- News anchors can talk fast, but listening to short news clips and trying to understand the main idea is helpful.



Listening



B1 Activities:

YouTube Videos

- YouTube videos between 10 - 20 minutes
 - Remember you can always slow down the speed and show subtitles on Youtube.

Songs

Look up the lyrics and then try to pick out words you know when listening.

Ted Talks

- Start with Ted Talks that discuss topics you know. Then start watching ones that discuss topics you are interested in learning about in English

Listening



B1 Activities:

News

- News anchors can talk fast but try listening for the main idea first and then all of the details the second or third time.

Podcasts

- Listening to podcasts can be difficult at first because you don't have any videos or pictures. Try to listen to short podcasts, 10 - 15 minutes, to get used to this format.

TV Episodes

- Episodes up to 30 minutes long



Listening



B2 Activities:

YouTube Videos

- YouTube videos between 30+ minutes

Songs

Ted Talks

- Try watching longer Ted Talks with topics you don't know a lot about.

News

Podcasts

- 15 - 30 minute podcasts

TV Episodes

- Episodes 30 minutes to 1 hour
- Don't forget to practice intentional listening!

Movies

- Try watching movies you have already seen in your first language.

Listening



C1 - C2 Activities:

YouTube Videos

- YouTube videos between 30+ minutes

Songs

Ted Talks

- Try watching longer Ted Talks with topics you don't know a lot about.

News

Podcasts

- Any length

TV Episodes

- Any length

Movies

- Try watching movies you haven't seen in your first language.



Listening



Popular American Podcasts:

Stuff You Should Know

- 30 minutes- 1 hour episodes
- "Short Stuff" Episodes are around 10 minutes long
- One of the most popular podcasts in the world

Ted Talks Daily

- 5-20 minutes
- Ted Talks in audio form

This American Life

- Episodes are around 1-hour long
- Famous Weekly Public Radio Show
- Won Multiple Award



Listening



Popular American Podcasts:

Serial

- Episodes are around 1-hour long
- Nonfiction/Investigative Journalism
- Won Multiple Awards

The Joe Rogan Experience

- 2-3 hours long
- Long-form conversation with a famous Comedian Joe Rogan



Vocabulary

While vocabulary is best practiced by speaking and writing, it can become tricky when you get to a higher level of English.

You may need to remember words or phrases that aren't used as often.

Activities:

Scrabble

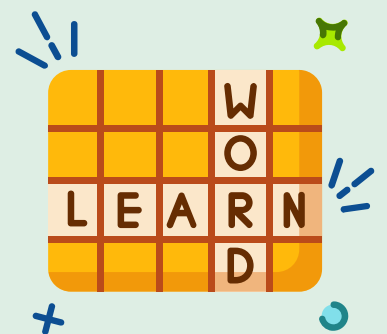
- This game is great to play with others or by yourself.
- Great for all levels of English learners

Bananagrams

- Great when you have others to play with.

Crossword puzzles

- Great solo activity for high level English learners.



Vocabulary

Activities:

Sticky Notes

- Write the word or phrase you want to remember on a sticky note. Place that note on something you use every day. (Ex: Mirror, refrigerator, etc.)

Whenever you see the sticky note, remember what the word means and try to create a sentence with it.

Remember to think about any special prepositions rules we use with the word.

- This also works great for pronunciation. On the sticky note write down how you think the word should be spelled because of its pronunciation. Then say the word out loud every time you see it.



Writing



Activities:

Journaling

- Journaling is great for all levels and you can write about your life or any topic you want to write about. Have your English teacher check it from time to time as part of your homework.

Using "Random Topic Generators"

- If you are not sure what you want to write about, type into Google "Random Topic Generator". This will take you to websites that will give you many topics to help you decide what to write.



Reading



Activities:

Blog Posts

- Great for learners level A2+

Disney Stories

- Great for learners A2+

News Articles

- Great for learners level B1+

Short Stories

- Great for learners B1+

Classic English Novels

- Great for learners B2+
- Make sure they were written in the 1950s or later. If not, the English may be hard to understand.

