

TURNING TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

Bill's World-Class English Class Conversation Kickstarter #12 (Version 1.9)



Let's talk about using technology to help you learn English!

I. Changing the Language Settings On Your Phone



(Credit: Kopmmy200 / [Wikipedia](#))

The first step to becoming more familiar with everyday technology English is changing the language setting on your phone to English. But be warned, Google Maps could start speaking to you in English!

1. How often do you use GPS navigation apps? Do you use other means to find your way around?
2. Changing the language settings on your most-used everyday electronic device could be equivalent to raising the first foot for a “jump into the deep end of the pool.” Do you agree?

II. Changing the Language Settings On Your Laptop



(Credit: VladIsLoveW / [Wikipedia](#))

The next step is to change the language setting on your laptop or similar device. Be prepared: the instructions for Zoom and other programs might switch entirely to English!

1. Have you ever used a software program entirely in English before? Did you find it difficult?
2. Do you know who invented the first “laptop”? Hint: He [wrote the Declaration of Independence](#).

III. Connecting With Other English Speakers Via Social Media



Your phone's apps (everything from Airbnb to Whatsapp) might start appearing in English once you change the device's settings. Therefore, it might behoove you to download the [DeepL app](#) as well.

1. Do you think translation apps are a blessing or a curse for those trying to learn a foreign language? What's your opinion as to the quality of their translations?
2. Some think social media (Instagram, etc.) is a great way to connect with others. Do you agree?

IV. Using Streaming Services to Learn Your Target Language



(Credit: Brain Cantoni / [Flickr](#))

Disney+, HBO Max, Hulu, Netflix, Paramount+ and Peacock are just a few of the US-based streaming services available globally. Most are owned by Hollywood film studios providing their own content.

1. Are you able to access these services and all of their offerings in your own country? Does your own country and/or region have their own streaming services?
2. It's been suggested that language learners watch a movie first in their L1, then with audio and subtitles in their target language, then in their target language sans subtitles. Have you tried this?

V. 2012 Passat Commercial: Spanish "Vámonos"



Let's watch this commercial from 2012 and discuss!

- 1. What's the longest car trip or plane ride you've ever taken? Did you use the time productively?**
- 2. Language-learning technology has changed a lot in the last decade. How do you think it will change in future years and decades?**

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