

## **Some Advice for Learning English**

By: Bassam O.

Source: Spring 2025 Write@Home

### **Pre-Reading Activity**

Share the answers to these questions with your instructor:

1. How do you usually study a new language like English?
2. What role does education play in learning a language for you?
3. Have you ever traveled to an international country where English is spoken?
4. Do you think using subtitles can help you understand English better?
5. How often do you read magazines or watch broadcasts in English?
6. What routines do you have to strengthen your English skills?
7. How important is it to allocate time each day to practice a language?
8. Can you share a conversation experience that helped you gain confidence in speaking English?
9. What tools, like a dictionary, do you use when studying English?
10. How does perseverance help you develop your language skills over time?

## Reading

The English language is the greatest spoken language, so it is important to learn it. It is the international language of the world and used in important things in our lives like education, work and travel, but people that learn English as a second language have many difficulties learning it. To learn English, you must determine what you want to use it for, e.g., for study, work, travel, communication, etc.

First, you must develop your listening skills by watching movies and series with subtitles, and by listening to songs and English broadcasts.

Second, you must speak English with people or your friends to practice conversation, and use the English language in learning applications such as Duolingo and Hello Talk.

Third, you must develop your reading skills by reading English learning books for beginners, and reading magazines and daily news.

Fourth, practice writing by writing your daily routine, chatting with your friends via text messages, studying vocabulary and copying from the dictionary.

You must allocate daily time to practice English for an hour a day. Accept your mistakes and learn from them to build self-confidence.

Continuing to train will make your level develop day after day, and do not forget to use tests to evaluate your level once in a while and know your weak points and strengthen them. In the end, patience and perseverance are the basis of success.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is the main purpose of learning English according to the text?
  - A. To become a professional translator
  - B. To use it for study, work, travel, and communication
  - C. To pass language proficiency exams
  - D. To read only English literature
  
2. According to the text, how can someone develop their listening skills?
  - A. By reading English books
  - B. By writing daily routines
  - C. By watching movies and series with subtitles
  - D. By practicing grammar exercises
  
3. What advice does the text give about practicing English?
  - A. Study for less than an hour per day
  - B. Avoid making mistakes
  - C. Allocate daily time to practice for an hour
  - D. Only use formal learning methods
  
4. What is recommended for improving English conversation skills?
  - A. Watching English movies alone
  - B. Speaking with people or friends
  - C. Reading dictionaries
  - D. Writing daily routines

5. How does the text suggest evaluating one's English language progress?

- A. By completely avoiding mistakes
- B. By studying grammar books
- C. By using tests to identify weak points
- D. By only reading advanced texts

6. What attitude does the text recommend for learning English?

- A. Getting discouraged by mistakes
- B. Practicing only on weekends
- C. Patience and perseverance
- D. Focusing only on perfect performance

7. What is suggested for developing reading skills?

- A. Reading complex academic texts
- B. Watching English movies
- C. Reading English learning books, magazines, and daily news
- D. Writing daily routines

### Vocabulary Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary from the word bank.

allocate, train, subtitles, travel, education, broadcasts, language, international, magazines, strengthen, study, dictionary, perseverance, conversation, confidence, develop, routine

- A. The English language is the greatest spoken \_\_\_\_\_(1), so it is important to
- B. learn it. It is the \_\_\_\_\_(2) language of the world and used in important
- C. things in our lives like \_\_\_\_\_(3), work and \_\_\_\_\_(4), but people that learn

- D. English as a second language have many difficulties learning it.
- E. To learn English, you must determine what you want to use it for, e.g., for \_\_\_\_\_(5), work, travel, communication, etc.
- F. First, you must \_\_\_\_\_(6) your listening skills by watching movies and series
- G. with \_\_\_\_\_(7), and by listening to songs and English \_\_\_\_\_(8).
- H. Second, you must speak English with people or your friends to practice
- I. \_\_\_\_\_(9), and use the English language in learning applications such as Duolingo and Hello Talk.
- J. Third, you must develop your reading skills by reading English learning books for beginners, and reading \_\_\_\_\_(10) and daily news.
- K. Fourth, practice writing by writing your daily \_\_\_\_\_(11), chatting with your friends via text messages, studying vocabulary and copying from the \_\_\_\_\_(12).
- L. You must \_\_\_\_\_(13) daily time to practice English for an hour a day. Accept your mistakes and learn from them to build self-\_\_\_\_\_ (14).
- M. Continuing to \_\_\_\_\_(15) will make your level develop day after day, and do not
- N. forget to use tests to evaluate your level once in a while and know your weak points and \_\_\_\_\_(16) them. In the end, patience and \_\_\_\_\_(17) are the basis of success.

2. Match the vocabulary with the correct definitions.

Definitions:

- a. a reference book that lists words along with their meanings, pronunciations, and usage.
- b. to make something stronger or more powerful, enhancing its effectiveness.
- c. a feeling of self-assurance and belief in one's abilities or qualities.
- d. the act of going from one place to another, usually for pleasure or exploration.
- e. an exchange of spoken words between two or more people discussing various topics.
- f. to teach someone skills or behaviors through practice and instruction.
- g. relating to or involving multiple countries around the world.
- h. the activity of examining or learning about a subject in detail.
- i. written translations of spoken dialogue that appear on screen during movies or shows.
- j. a system of communication used by people to express thoughts and ideas through words, sounds, or symbols.
- k. to distribute resources or responsibilities for a specific purpose or task.
- l. to grow or improve something over time, making it more advanced or effective.
- m. the ability to keep trying and not give up, even when faced with difficulties.
- n. periodical publications filled with articles, stories, and images focused on specific interests or themes.
- o. programs or information transmitted via radio, television, or online platforms to reach a wide audience.

1. subtitles
2. confidence
3. broadcasts
4. dictionary
5. strengthen
6. conversation
7. allocate
8. education
9. language
10. routine
11. international
12. study
13. travel
14. develop
15. perseverance
16. magazines
17. train

p. a regular pattern of activities or tasks that are done consistently each day or week.

q. the process of learning and gaining knowledge, often in a school or academic setting.

### **Extension Activities**

1. Roleplay with your instructor. You are an interviewer, and you will interview your instructor. Ask them the questions below, and write down their answers.

Questions:

- A. What are some of the steps a student should take to develop their listening skills in English?
  - B. How can a student practice speaking English and improve their conversational skills?
  - C. What are some ways to develop reading skills in English?
  - D. What are some techniques for practicing and improving writing skills in English?
  - E. What are some tips for staying motivated and improving English skills over time?
  - F. What are the best online websites to help learners study English by themselves?
2. Using your instructors answers, write an email to a friend, who is looking for advice on improving their English.