

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH AND ENJOY IT

Practical strategies to make progress in and outside the classroom

Improving your English does not only mean learning grammar and vocabulary. The best way to make progress is to use English regularly and develop good learning habits.

IN CLASS

Learn your lessons regularly and write new words several times. Try to use them in your own sentences and, whenever possible, think in English instead of translating everything into French.

SPEAKING



Participate in class and do not be afraid of making mistakes. If you do not know a word, use a synonym, describe it or explain the idea with different words. You can also ask: "Could you repeat, please?"

LISTENING



Listening can be difficult at first, so do not try to understand every single word. First, focus on the general meaning and identify the key information. Then listen again, pause or rewind when necessary. You can also practise shadowing: listen to a sentence and repeat it immediately, trying to copy the pronunciation and intonation.

READING

Reading is another good way to improve. Start with the title, pictures and key words. Try to predict what the text is about. If you come across an unknown word, use the context and the words around it to guess its meaning instead of translating immediately.

WRITING

Writing also requires a good method. Make a quick plan before you start. Organise your ideas and use linking words such as first, however, because, also and finally. When you finish, check your spelling, verbs and sentence structure.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



There are many ways to practise. Watch videos, films or series in English, listen to music, read about your interests or follow English-speaking creators online. You can also discover different English-speaking countries, their traditions and their cultures.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: PRACTISE A LITTLE EVERY DAY.

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EXERCISE 1 • UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

True or False? Justify with a word or phrase from the text.

1. Learning English is only about grammar and vocabulary. ☐ True ☐ False
2. You should use new words in your own sentences. ☐ True ☐ False
3. If you do not know a word, you should stop speaking. ☐ True ☐ False
4. You do not need to understand every word when listening. ☐ True ☐ False
5. You can use the context to understand an unknown word. ☐ True ☐ False
6. You can practise English outside school. ☐ True ☐ False

EXERCISE 2 • FIND THE RIGHT STRATEGY

Match each situation with the best strategy.

1. You do not know a word when you are speaking. → _____
2. You do not understand what someone is saying. → _____
3. A listening exercise is difficult. → _____
4. You find an unknown word in a text. → _____
5. You want to improve your pronunciation. → _____
6. You want to write a good paragraph. → _____

a. Use the context and the words around it.

b. Ask the person to repeat or speak more slowly.

c. Make a plan and use linking words.

d. Use a synonym or explain the idea differently.

e. Pause, rewind and listen again.

f. Practise shadowing.

EXERCISE 3 • GIVE ADVICE

A student wants to improve their English but does not know how to practise. Give them advice.

Write 6–8 lines. Use at least 3 strategies from the text and 2 linking words.

Useful expressions: First, ... • You can also ... • If you don't know..., ... • Finally, ...
