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# How to Learn English



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English is the most general language for the international business world. People who are not native English speakers must immerse themselves in English-speaking environments if they want to speak English well and be successful.

## Steps

1. There are many ways to create an English-surrounded environment. First, you must have basic listening and reading abilities in order to receive information in English. The more English information you get, the faster you will learn English.
2. To improve your listening, you should spend at least one hour everyday listening to news or discussion programs such as NPR (National Public Radio) news or BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation; the World Service or Radio Four are best) news. It's hard to understand what they are saying when you first begin to listen to them, but gradually you'll get used to the speed and tone. Then you can get a brief idea of what they are talking about, although you can't get the detail. You don't need to listen to the radio for an whole hour at once. It's best to spend twenty or thirty minutes on listening separately.
3. Most importantly, you must spend more than three hours every day on reading English news or articles. Reading builds up your vocabulary, idioms, phrases, and the concepts of English structures. If you do enough reading, it will save you a lot of time since you will not need to spend more time on building your vocabulary or grammar. Read out loud when you do your reading so that you can improve your pronunciation at the same time.
4. As a non-native English speaker, it is necessary to learn the phonetic alphabet (pronunciation symbols). This can help you pronounce correctly, and it's necessary to speak with the correct tone if you want to make some friends with native English speakers.
5. Make some pen pals and write them at least once everyday. The best way to improve your writing is to

practice writing as much as you can. The more you write the more you know how to use what you've learned from reading and listening.

6. Make friends with native-English speakers. This is the most difficult task because of the difference in culture, but you can't really master English unless you can communicate with a native English speaker fluently. You have to know enough things and have good listening skills if you want to have good conversations with an American or Briton. Remember to ask a lot of questions to keep the conversation going. When someone asks you a question, give more than just the basic information. For example, if someone asks you "Do you like living here?" don't just answer "Yes" or "No," but tell them why, too.
7. TV is the best and most inexpensive teacher to learn real English. Not only you can learn formal English from news or debate TV programs, but you can also learn everyday English from soap operas and sitcoms. Be careful because too much jargon or too many idioms make your speech ambiguous.
8. Radio is also one of the best and inexpensive English teachers. Because there is no picture, you cannot lip read. You must train your ear to listen.
9. Use an English-English dictionary and bring your dictionary wherever you go. If you find some words that you don't know, look them up in your dictionary immediately.
10. Use your newly-learned idioms or vocabulary. Once you use the words which you memorized, you will never forget them again.
11. You must think in English. Getting used to using English all the time will make it easier to listen and react with it.
12. If you can dream in English, this means that you have succeeded in becoming a fluent English speaker, but not that your English is perfect.
13. Join web groups or clubs where you can post questions freely and discuss the use of grammar such as [Kela-Bi Group at Google](#)

## Tips

- Make friends with American or British people.
- Adjust to American and/or British culture.
- If you have your sights set on the US, look for literacy programs in your area -- they are often free, learn a trade and do your best to acquire English-speaking friends. Americans like people with an "I can do it!" attitude. In Britain, a useful skill and some modesty are more the key.
- Don't read subtitles in your language while you watch T.V.
- Find a native individual who not only speaks English, but can teach it. Learn grammar and vocabulary using visual, auditory and spoken methods. Spiral the cycle and keep it interesting.
- Children might enjoy learning in a kitchen while drinking milk after school.
- As a teenager, live for a year in an English speaking country. This is much less expensive if you do a barter - accept someone in your house in trade for living in theirs.
- Learn English by reading, listening, studying, and asking questions; practice what you learn by speaking and writing.
- Dictation is an excellent way to improve your listening and spelling skills. Have a friend read a few paragraphs from a book or a newspaper. Write down what you think you hear. Compare what you have written with the actual text.

## Warnings

- Never stop getting new information in English and keep practicing writing and speaking
- Many old British sitcoms use strong (and sometimes ambiguous) accents and dialects.

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## External Links

- <http://www.english-for-students.com>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/> For the BBC news site.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/> For the BBC Radio 4 site, offering 'listen live' and 'listen again' options (down the right hand side).
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/> For the BBC World (Radio) Service site (there's no point visiting it if you don't view it in English).

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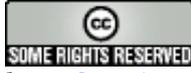
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