

Englische Seite

Tips to improve your English!

English is an excellent second language to learn, whether it's for business, travel or personal reasons. But learning a new language or brushing up knowledge lying far in the past requires hard work, commitment and a willingness to make mistakes – and English is no different. Are you happy with the progress you're making as a learner of English? Or are you frustrated and feel you could learn much more? Here is some advice on how to improve your English skills.

1. Find out your learning style

Different people learn in different ways. Some students are visual learners, while others are auditory learners. And still others learn best when lessons involve movement. According to scientists, there are mainly three different types of learning styles – visual, auditory and/or tactile. First of all - find out what kind of learner you are and which style is best for you to make sure that you learn in the most effective way.

2. Speak a little English every day

The absolute best way to learn any new language is just to speak it. It doesn't matter if you only have basic knowledge or if you're practically fluent – speaking English with another person is the fastest, most effective way of improving. Don't wait until you feel more comfortable speaking in English – you probably won't reach that level for a long time, so push yourself outside of your comfort zone and start speaking English today. You'll be amazed how quickly your language skills improve.

3. Attend an English class or discussion group

Another great way to incorporate some extra English conversation into your weekly routine is to sign up for a class or discussion group. Attending an English class is a great way to focus on some of the more formal aspects of speaking English. A class

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Vocabulary:

commitment	-	Engagement, Einsatz, Hingabe
to be amazed	-	erstaunt sein
to become more comfortable	-	sich sicherer fühlen
to decline significantly	-	deutlich verringern
to make deliberate efforts	-	sich ernsthaft bemühen
pronunciation	-	Aussprache
to pay particular attention to	-	besonders achten auf
awkward or embarrassing situations	-	unangenehme oder peinliche Situationen
to embrace	-	umarmen, hier: sich zu eigen machen

will teach you the grammatically correct way of speaking – which includes proper sentence structure, right use of tenses and verb conjugation. Attending a discussion group is a more informal and relaxed way where the emphasis is more on communication and relationship-building than on speaking correct English. Speaking English in this setting can help you to become more comfortable with speaking in front of other people.

4. Expand your vocabulary

The wider your vocabulary and the more English phrases you learn, the easier speaking English will become. The formula is: ONE word a day! In terms of vocabulary development, we were all little geniuses in childhood, learning hundreds of new words every year. But unfortunately, we weren't geniuses for very long. By age 11 or 12, equipped with a kind of survival vocabulary, we lost some of our early enthusiasm for language, and the rate at which we picked up new words began to decline significantly. As adults, if we don't make deliberate efforts to increase our vocabularies, we're lucky to pick up even 50 or 60 new words a year. But the English language has so much to offer (at least half a million words) that it would be a shame to let our vocabulary-building talents go to waste. So here's one way that we can regain some of our youthful brilliance: learn a new word each day.

5. Work on your pronunciation

Even if you have an acceptable grasp of the English language, with good grammar and an extensive vocabulary, native English speakers may find you very difficult to understand if you don't work on your pronunciation. Correct, clear pronunciation is essential if you really want to improve your level of English. Listen closely to how native English speakers pronounce certain words and sounds and do your best to copy them. Pay particular attention to any sounds that you are unfamiliar with or that do not exist in your native tongue. For instance – some people have difficulty pronouncing the "r" sound, while other people have difficulty with certain consonant clusters, such as the "th" sound.

6. Don't be afraid of making mistakes

The biggest obstacle that stands in the way of learning a new language is the fear of making mistakes. This fear serves no purpose – it's merely a hindrance that prevents you from reaching your goal of fluency. Remember that everyone makes mistakes when they are learning a language and it's a right of passage. You will almost certainly have your fair share of awkward or embarrassing moments – when you accidentally say something rude or incorrect, but this is all part of the fun. Let it flow! Remember that you are not aiming for perfection when learning to speak English, but aiming for progress. Making mistakes is all part of the process – they will help you to become better, so embrace them!