



TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

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HI AND WELCOME!



Cecilia J. Rojas

Hi and welcome to **Evolve English Online!**
I hope you're doing really well.

I am Cecilia, founder and English teacher in EEO.

When students get in touch with me for the first time, they usually express how difficult they find communicating in English.

Let me tell you that **mastering and becoming fluent in a foreign language is a process that takes time, plenty of patience, commitment and a daily immersion to the target language.** However, there are many practices you can adapt to your routine which will help you a lot to improve your language skills.

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Watch movies and/or series in English with English subtitles

Watching movies and/or series in English will help you **improve** your **receptive language skills** such as listening and reading (subtitles). Besides, it will help you **increase** your command of **English vocabulary** since you will be exposed to current and daily language like slang, phrasal verbs and idioms. Finally, it will also **influence** positively on your **pronunciation** due to the received input.



Do you feel you are not still ready to watch a whole movie/ series fully in English?

I advise you to start watching at least 10 minutes of your chosen movie/ episode in English with English subtitles, and as your confidence grows the allotted time should also increase.

Another option is to watch your favourite movie, or one you know very well, in English. As you already know the plot, it will be easier for you to completely focus on the target language.

Extra: Pay attention to any new items of vocabulary and start your own **vocabulary bank**: a list of words and phrases that you can start using in your next class/ real life opportunity.



Listen to music in English and... sing!

Songs are really useful **tools for language acquisition**. Not only will they help you improve your listening skills, but they will also assist you memorise **new vocabulary** and syntactic forms. Besides, your **pronunciation will also develop positively**.

Listening task idea:

Pick up a song you like and listen to it once.

Then, find the lyrics and read them while listening to the song again; underline and look up any new lexical item that calls your attention in a dictionary. By studying the written text, you can quickly expand your vocabulary.

Finally, listen to it and sing! Try to imitate the pronunciation.

Listen to podcasts in English and/or watch Ted-talk videos on Youtube

I personally find podcasts and Ted-talk videos to be excellent resources not only to **develop a foreign language** but also to **learn about certain topics** I am really keen on.

I recommend you to do these activities in a quiet place where you can focus a hundred percent on the content of the podcast/ Ted-talk.

Listen to audiobooks

For those who may not know, audiobooks are **voice recordings of the text of a book**. Thus, instead of reading the text, you listen to it.





Read texts in English

Find a topic you are interested in and read.

Reading in English **widens your vocabulary enormously**, and it also **reinforces your writing skills**. Besides, it will help you **acquire grammatical structures in a more natural way**.

Reading out loud is also an excellent way of **improving fluency and pronunciation**; I really advise you to do it!

What types of texts can you read?

It could be **anything**; it only depends on **your preferences**.

- Articles.
- News.
- Recipes.
- Fiction/ non-fiction books.
- Short stories.
- Leaflets and brochures.
- Academic texts and papers.

REMEMBER

It is not necessary to understand every word you read but to **gather a general understanding of the whole text**. With practice and dedication, your reading skills and understanding will improve notoriously.





Set English as the main language in your electronic devices

We spend many hours a day using our electronic devices, so why don't we set English as the main language? In doing so, we are being **continuously exposed to the language**, even when we are not conscious about the **input** it generates.



Write your shopping list in English

Are you doing the shopping? Write the shopping list in English! List- writing is **one of the simplest ways to put your writing skills into practice**. It will help you recall the lexical items in the foreign language and your spelling will improve notoriously. Besides, it is an easy way to **use the target language on a daily basis**.



Attend courses in English

Attending courses in English is a way of putting **all receptive and productive language skills into practice**. With courses in English, I do not mean only language lessons, but any subject or field of study you would like to learn about. It could be from a **crafty workshop, a webinar, a specialisation training or a whole higher education program**. The options are infinite. You just need to find the one that fits your needs.





Speak English

Last but not least, the best advice I can provide you to improve your target language is to speak English.

Don't be afraid of making **mistakes**. In fact, they **are part of the learning process**.

If you are an English language learner, it is of considerable importance that you do your best to **communicate in English as much as you can** all along your lesson. The more you speak, the less afraid you will feel about expressing your ideas and communicating in the foreign language. Thus, your **confidence will grow considerably**.

Speak English with your English buddy:

Find a friend, classmate or someone who also wants to practise his/ her speaking skills and meet at least once a week to communicate in English and have fun in the meanwhile! It is important that you and your English buddy set common goals beforehand.

Café conversation clubs are also great options to put your speaking language skills into practice.

All in all, there are numerous ways to improve your English language accuracy in your daily life. Do not try to do all the above at once, instead start with a few of them and add more activities as your confidence increases. I cannot say it will be an easy journey, but I guarantee you it will be worth all the huge effort.

