



English for adults... by the sea

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How To Study English!

Here are some ideas to help you use your time effectively.

Speak without Fear

Don't be shy! Don't worry that you won't say things correctly or that you will look stupid so you don't talk at all. Don't do this. The fastest way to learn anything is to do it – again and again until you get it right. Like anything, **learning English requires practice**. Don't let a little fear stop you from getting what you want.

Use all of your Resources

Remember that you are learning all the time – not just in the classroom. Using as many different sources, methods and tools as possible, will allow you to learn faster. There are many different ways you can improve your English. The internet is a fantastic resource for virtually anything, but for the language learner it's perfect. Sites like www.bbc.co.uk are excellent for helping you to use natural English. If you like sport, find an English sports website. If you like theatre, find a website for that, too.

Get the right equipment

Make sure you have some different coloured pens, a highlighter pen, a file or note pad. I recommend you take notes in class in one book (a 'rough book') and then copy your notes up in the evening. This will help you to organize your ideas and help you remember the new language.

Surround Yourself with English

The absolute best way to learn English is to surround yourself with it. Take notes in English, put English books around your room, listen to English language radio broadcasts, watch English news, movies and television. Speak English with your friends whenever you can. The more English material that you have around you, the faster you will learn and the more likely it is that you will begin "thinking in English."

Listen to Your Host Family as Much as Possible

Try to speak as much as possible with your host family. They are 'real' English people and they will speak very naturally. The closer you can get to this natural rhythm or flow, the more comfortable you will become.

Write a Diary

Writing your personal thoughts down in English not only helps you practice writing but it also provides you with a wonderful daily memory of your time in Margate! It only needs to be about 300-500 words a day. This can be an opportunity to talk about the things you did during the day and what you were feeling.





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Watch English Films and Television

This is an effective and fun way to practice your listening skills. By watching English films (especially those with **English** subtitles) you can expand your vocabulary and hear the flow of speech from the actors. If you listen to the news you can also hear different accents. I recommend you watch films that you have seen in your own language, or films where you have already read the book.

Study As Often As Possible!

Only by studying grammar and vocabulary and doing exercises, can you really improve your knowledge of any language. But you must have direction. If you have one of the “Murphy” grammar books (*Essential Grammar in Use* or *English Grammar in Use*), don’t just start with unit 1 and progress through the book. Use the book to reflect your lessons. Ask your teacher for advice on how to use it.

Take Tests and Exams.

There are a number of useful exams you can take – IELTS and TOEIC are examples. Talk to Tony or Jake about what possibilities there are. If you plan to stay in England for a while, getting a qualification is very useful and will be important if you want to get a job speaking English.

Record Yourself

Nobody likes to hear their own voice on tape but like tests, it is good to compare your tapes from time to time. You may be so impressed with the progress you are making that you may not mind the sound of your voice as much.

Listen to English

By this, we mean, speak on the phone or listen to radio broadcasts, audiobooks or CDs in English. This is different than watching the television or films because you can’t see the person that is speaking to you. Many learners of English say that speaking on the phone is one of the most difficult things that they do and the only way to improve is to practice.

Finally

Enjoy!

