**TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATON SKILLS**

* **Practise every day. Make yourself a study plan.**
* **Practise the 4 core skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. They all need to be worked on for you to improve.**
* **Keep a notebook of new words you learn. Use them in sentences and try to say them at least 3 times when you speak.**
* **Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Be confident.**
* **You will find words easier to remember if you try to remember an example sentence using that word rather the word on its own.**
* **Create an atmosphere in which you want to learn, not because you have to. You’ll learn more when you’re learning because you want to. Make it your passion of learning a new language like your mother tongue.**
* **Newspapers are a good place to find passive constructs. Read through an article and see if you can find the passive sentences.**
* **When you learn a new word, think of all its other forms: Beautiful (adjective), beauty (noun), beautifully (adverb).**
* **Keep an eye on your punctuation as it can totally change what you’re trying to say.**
* **Don’t become too reliant on your dictionary. Your dictionary should be an aid, not your main teacher. Try to guess the meaning of words rather than going straight for your dictionary.**
* **Don’t give up! Stay positive! Sometimes you will feel that you aren’t learning quickly enough. Everyone feels like this, don’t worry about it. You’ll get there in the end. (Remember: All’s well that ends well).**
* **Enjoy it! We learn more when we are having fun!**
* **If you get nervous when speaking, take two deep breaths before you say something. You’ll speak better when you feel relaxed.**
* **Don’t worry about making your accent perfect. It’s an important part of your cultural identity to keep your accent. Native English speakers enjoy hearing English spoken with an accent. First focus on learning English properly and then go for accents.**
* **There are many types of English: British, American, South African and so on. None of these are wrong or not as important. English is English.**
* **Instead, be aware of the differences in American and British English and use your words accordingly. For example: Elevator (US) / Lift (British).**
* **Gather your thoughts. Take a second to think about what you’re going to say. You know the grammar, but maybe you don’t use it correctly when you speak.**
* **Verb tenses are used by English speakers to talk about the timing of actions. You might not have the same expressions in your own language. It’s important that you know these tenses and when to use them.**
* **Remember, the way we write English is not the same as how it’s pronounced. Familiarise yourself the Phonetic Alphabet. It will help you correctly pronounce words in the dictionary.**
* **You can also watch English movies and read books for active listening and learning of English language.**