

# Learning English changed my life

READING

LEVEL  
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER  
EN\_BE\_2314R

LANGUAGE  
English

lingoda





## Goals

- Can understand a short text about how learning English changed a person's life.
- Can identify and describe vocabulary relating to career, degrees and certificates in a text.







**Do you remember these words?**

**to have your own  
business**

**to do an  
internship**

**to take a course**

**to go to  
vocational school**

**to be an  
apprentice**

**to have a degree**

**to learn how to...  
(do something)**



**to have a  
certificate**



## Examples



I have **started my own business**. I am my own boss!

Julie is **taking an online course** in marketing.



He has **been an apprentice** designer in Paris.

You can **learn how to cook** in a school.





## Examples



Kim **has a Business English certificate.**

I **have a bachelor's degree** in  
International Relations.



Tonia **went to vocational school** to  
become a mechanic.

Charlotte **did an internship** at a hotel.





## Do you remember this tense?

- Remember we use the **present perfect** tense to talk about actions that started in the past and still have a **connection to the present**.
- Look at the examples below:



I **have worked** at this company all my life.

We **have lived** in Sydney for a long time.





## Do you remember this tense?

- We can also use the present perfect tense to talk about **past experiences without being specific** about the exact date and time.
- Look at the examples below:



He **has worked** in marketing before.

They **have visited** many countries.







## Reading



My name is Michael, I'm 25 years old and I'm from Krakow in Poland. I decided to learn English when I met my friend Barbara five years ago.

Barbara didn't want to go to university. Instead she **was an apprentice** at a local florist, where she **learnt how** to arrange flowers. She was so good at it that she then **started her own business**.

She sells her flowers in the city centre and to all the tourists. For this, she uses a lot of English. I really wanted to speak English as well as her, but I didn't know how. "How did you do it?", I asked.



## Reading

She told me she studied online. She also **took many courses** about marketing and entrepreneurship in English to help her business. The problem was...I didn't speak English at all!

I was so inspired by her success that I went home, opened my laptop and started learning English online that day. Was **learning how to speak English** difficult? Yes, at first. I wasn't confident. There were many verbs, many words and expressions to learn.

Sometimes, speaking is not easy, because it is different from how you write. But with practice and a teacher to help you, it becomes a lot of fun. After a while, you don't want to stop. You always want to learn more, understand more and speak even better!



## True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Michael decided to learn English when he met Barbara.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Barbara did an apprenticeship at a flower shop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Michael doesn't find Barbara very interesting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Michael is impressed by Barbara and her business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Learning English was easy for Michael.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Michael thinks English gets boring after a while.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Who did what?

	MICHAEL	BARBARA
1. Who did an apprenticeship?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Who started a business?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Who was impressed by a friend?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Who started learning English immediately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Who wasn't very confident?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Who wants to learn more and more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Speaking

**Answer these questions with your own words**



Why did Michael want to learn English?

Why was Michael impressed by Barbara?

Why was English difficult for Michael at first?



## Reading



I **have learnt** English for a long time now...and my life **has changed** for the better! Now, I can talk to people from different countries and ask about their experiences.

I also **learnt how to** talk about marketing, social media and finance because I took online courses in English. I even **got a certificate** in Business English!

After that, I was an **intern** at a multinational consulting firm and learnt more about management. I **have even been** to meetings in English and shared my ideas!



## Reading

But the best thing about English is the new doors it **has opened** for me. I can understand my favourite music, interviews, movies and TV series. When I go to restaurants, cafés, hotels or bars, I can talk to everybody in the room!

I now understand that I live in a very big world with beautiful things to see. I **haven't been** to England, Ireland, Australia, the United States of America, Scotland or Canada, but I want to visit in the future. So many countries to discover!

Now that I speak English, some people tell me I can **get a degree** or find a job at a famous company. But honestly, that isn't really my dream. Oh, didn't I tell you? I want to start my own business now – an English school, of course!



## Multiple choice

1. Michael wanted to learn English because...

- a. ...he wanted to be like Barbara      b. ...he wanted to marry Barbara      c. ...he wanted to move to London      d. ...he wanted a British passport

2. Michael thinks English...

- a. ...is very easy      b. ...opens new doors      c. ...is always extremely difficult      d. ...is useless

3. Barbara did an apprenticeship, because...

- a. ...she was a horrible student.      b. ...she decided to travel, not study.      c. ...she wants to be a dancer now.      d. ...she didn't want to go to university.

4. Now Michael has learned how to speak English, he wants to...

- a. ...travel more.      b. ...get a new job.      c. ...do an internship.      d. ...be famous.





## Can you put these events in the right order?

Michael decided to learn English.

Michael got a certificate in Business English.

Michael found English a little difficult at first, but didn't give up.

Michael started his own business.

Michael was impressed by Barbara.

Michael was an intern at a consulting firm.



## Discuss

What do you think will happen next?

Will Michael start his school?

Do you think he will be successful?





Imagine you are...

Imagine you want to start your own business as a Fitness Coach.  
What are some steps you can take?

- Learn how to...
- Take a course in...
- Get a degree in...
- Do an internship...
- Be an apprentice at...
- Take an online course...





## Dictation

**Write down what you hear your teacher say**

A sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side. The paper has horizontal lines for writing. The binding is represented by a series of small circles on the left edge.



## Discuss

**Why do you want to learn English?**

**Take a moment to think about your reasons. Then, share them with your classmates.**

“

I want to learn English because...

”





## Speaking

**Why do these people want to learn English?  
Think about different possibilities for each character!**





Talk together

**Why is it so  
important to learn  
English nowadays?**



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no

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## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again



## Answer key

### Exercise p.11

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False

### Exercise p.12

1. Barbara
2. Barbara
3. Michael
4. Michael
5. Michael
6. Michael

### Exercise p. 16

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. A

### Exercise p. 17

1. Michael was impressed by Barbara.
2. Michael decided to learn English.
3. Michael found English a little difficult at first, but didn't give up.
4. Michael got a certificate in English and specialised in Business English.
5. Michael was an intern at a consulting firm.
6. Michael started his own business.



## Transcription

"My name is Mary and I have a degree in International Relations. I studied a lot about politics and did an internship in New York. I have studied English for a long time! It was a little difficult at first, but now I can speak well. I decided to study English because I wanted to work at an embassy and have a good salary. And you? Why did you decide to learn English?"





## Put these paragraphs in order

A

### Problems

"At first, English was difficult. I wanted to do an internship at a very famous company, and I felt really pressured to learn English fast. I studied a lot every day and felt a little stressed."

B

### New opportunities

"In the end, I can't believe the way English has changed my life! I finally got the internship I wanted. I also want to travel to Australia next year. All I can say is...I love English!"

C

### My decision

"I decided to learn English when I was in university. I have a degree in Communications and specialised in Digital Communication. I really needed English for my career!"

D

### Change

"But I didn't give up. I decided to study one hour every day and started seeing progress! With the help of my teachers and classmates, English became a habit."

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



## Writing

**Answer these questions.  
What are your opinions about English?**

Why do you  
want to learn  
English?

Is English easy  
or difficult to  
you?

What do you  
want to do after  
learning  
English?

What English-  
speaking  
countries do you  
want to visit?

What is your  
favourite word  
in English?

What is your  
favourite  
expression in  
English?



I want to learn English because...





## Writing

**Write about your educational background.  
Mention your degrees, certificates, online courses or  
internships!**

<input type="radio"/>	I have a degree in Engineering and a certificate in Business
<input type="radio"/>	English.
<input type="radio"/>	I took an online course in Management. I did an internship at...
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
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<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	



## Answer key

### Exercise p. 31

1. C My Decision
2. A Problems
3. D Change
4. B New Opportunities





## About this material

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Why learn English online?



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Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!