



10 Effective Tips to Improve Your English

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Note – There is a glossary on page 7 for your convenience.

Do you find yourself wanting some guidance about learning English but you do not know who to ask? Have you hit a plateau in studying English? Are you unable to find new ways to improve your English? In this eBook, you will learn ten useful tips that will help you overcome that plateau and discover new ways that will enable you to learn English better. We wrote this eBook to assist you in making progress with your English. Each tip will give you new advice about learning English that will help you form new ways to study better. With your passion, attention, and patience you will be able to use these tips to start improving your English now. Let's take a look at Tip 1!

Tip 1 - Be realistic about learning English

You are not going to become a fluent English speaker in one month, and it is unrealistic to think this. Instead of making a deadline for yourself about when you need to be fluent, think about smaller progress goals along the way. Think about the different aspects of English and set short-term goals for yourself. Think about a short-term goal that you have in English and break it down into smaller goals so you will be able to monitor your progress. When you see that you are improving, you will have more motivation in learning English and have more confidence!

Tip 2 - Keep a journal

Writing notes in a journal is a great way to keep track of your progress and stay organized. Make it part of your daily routine to write down some of your thoughts about learning English. Be sure to include your strengths and weaknesses. This way you will be able to monitor your overall progress more effectively and set realistic learning goals for the future. It is also important to note new vocabulary, sentence structure, etc. that you have learned so that you can review it later. After you write in your journal, you should reread some of your other journal entries and compare your

past problematic areas to your current ones. Is there an area that you keep struggling in more than others? If so, perhaps it is time for you to set a new goal to try to improve it. Your English teacher can also help you with this.

Tip 3 - An English environment

Many students attend training centers once or twice a week to learn English, but after their lesson, they do not try to learn English outside of the class. This method is not as effective for learning a language. Think about your native language. At a very young age, you were surrounded by it which allowed you to learn the language fluently. The environment is just as important when you are learning another language. The chances are that the language you are learning is not around you which you may see as an obstacle. Instead, try to incorporate English into your everyday life. Try thinking about things in English. It may be difficult to think about complicated ideas in English, so instead, try thinking about simple things. When you go to the supermarket, try writing an English list and practice thinking about each item in English when you are in the store. Doing things like this can help you build an English environment which can lead to improving your fluency.

Tip 4 - When listening to a native speaker, don't be overwhelmed. Focus on the words you recognize.

Do not be discouraged if you don't understand an entire sentence that a native speaker says to you. No one can understand everything that is said in English when they first begin learning the language. It is important to set realistic goals for yourself as well as, to have realistic expectations. Do not get down on yourself when you cannot understand everything that someone is saying to you in English. Instead, focus on recognizing the most important words in a sentence and try to judge the meaning of the overall context this way. In time, you will start to understand more of what people are saying in English. Be sure to keep learning new words and phrases, and you will improve your overall understanding. Remember that learning a new language takes time, but with patience and dedication, you will be able to become fluent!

Tip 5 - Be confident

Do not stop yourself from speaking because you are worried about what other people might be thinking about your English. Remember that you are your own worst critic. This phrase means that no one will judge you as much as you will judge yourself. A lot of native speakers will be impressed that you can communicate with them in their language instead of judging your English ability. So be confident and speak whenever you have the chance.

Tip 6 - It's only a mistake if you don't learn from it!

Many non-native speakers see making mistakes as a sign of failure in their English ability which can make them lose confidence in their English overall. Remember, it is only a mistake if you do not learn from it! Everyone makes mistakes when they start learning new things, which is part of the learning process. Don't look at mistakes as being bad or as a sign of failure. Instead, use your mistakes to your advantage and learn from them. Learn to see an error as part of improving your English for the better.

When you keep a journal with new vocabulary words, be sure to write down some common mistakes that you have trouble with, so you can review them. When you have a lesson, make notes of different things your teacher corrected you on. Then, try to be more conscious of those mistakes. If you are aware of the common errors that you are making you can start correcting those mistakes, and that will help you improve your English.

Tip 7 - Get a tutor

It is very important that you find a native speaking tutor who has experience in teaching English. Remember that the native language and official language of a country can vary. Even though English may be the official language of a country, it does not mean that citizens of that country speak English continuously in their daily lives. For example, a person who lives in a country where the official language is English may speak English at work but not at home.

Although their work vocabulary might be great, their everyday English vocabulary may be lacking.

On the other hand, it is not enough to only choose a tutor because they are a native speaker. It is very important that your tutor has experience in teaching English so they can guide you in learning the language more effectively. Therefore, it is essential that you find a native English speaker who is experienced in teaching and makes you feel comfortable. If you are comfortable with your tutor, you will be more relaxed in your lessons and get more progress from them.

Tip 8 - Imitate

If you have a native teacher or friend, try to listen to them carefully and imitate their pronunciation. Instead of focusing on the pronunciation of only one word, pay close attention to the way they say a sentence. A native speaker will naturally stress different words in a sentence. If you focus on listening to the sentence stress and try repeating it in the same way, you will begin to sound like a native speaker. Although pronunciation is important for a word, it is equally important in a sentence. When a word is used in a sentence, the stress may vary depending on the context of the word. Paying more attention to this can help you to change your accent to sound like a native English speaker.

Tip 9 - Entertainment vs. Learning

Some students try to watch English TV programs or movies to improve their language skills. Although this can be an effective way to help improve your listening, the way you do it is very important. For example, if you watch a movie/TV program once with subtitles from your native language, the chances are that you will rely on the subtitles and focus more on reading than listening. After watching it, you might feel that you didn't gain anything from it. Instead, think of watching the program or movie as learning, not just entertainment. First, try watching a TV program once with subtitles from your native language. While you are watching it, write down words and phrases that are useful for you. Then, watch it again with English subtitles. This time focus more on listening

carefully to what the people are saying. Finally, watch it again without any subtitles. Compare your understanding from the first time to the last time.

Tip 10 - Learn about the cultures associated with the language

If you truly want to learn a language and be fluent in it, then it is important to learn about the culture too. When you learn more about the culture, you will understand more about the native speakers who use the language every day. Learning about their culture will also help you to understand their language because you will better understand their way of thinking. There are so many cultures out there so it is normal for people to think differently, especially when learning a new language. Finding out more about the culture can help to open doors for you as to how a native speaker thinks when talking. When you learn about this, it can help you to imitate native speakers sentence structure. You don't need to know everything about the culture but learning different parts that you are interested in can be beneficial to you.

Thank you for downloading your free eBook from kateandrobenglish.com. We hope that you have enjoyed these useful tips. Now that you have read them try applying these tips to your learning process so you can gain more progress in learning English. Be sure to visit our website regularly to find more English learning resources in the future. If you are interested in learning English, come and join us at kateandrobenglish.com to sign up for English lessons.

Glossary

Please note that the definitions used here are based on the words and phrases used in this eBook. Many of these words have more than one meaning.

- guidance – help and/or advice that is given to someone about an area
- hit a plateau – to come to a point where you are not making progress anymore
- overcome – to get past or through difficulty successfully
- discover – to find something new
- enable – to make able or possible
- progress – improvement
- form – to develop

- realistic - practical about things that are possible
- fluent - able to speak and write well or easily in a language
- unrealistic - not practical about things that are possible
- deadline - the latest time that something must be finished by
- progress goals - targets for improvement
- aspects- different parts of something
- break it down into - to divide something into smaller parts to make it easier to understand or do
- monitor- to pay attention to something
- motivation - to have the drive to achieve

- journal - a book for someone's personal notes or thoughts
- to keep track of - to note the progress of something
- daily routine - the same things you do every day
- strengths - things that someone is good at
- weaknesses - things that someone is poor at or needs to improve
- overall - complete
- to note - to write down
- journal entries - parts of writing in a journal
- problematic area - something you have trouble with
- struggling - having trouble

- training center - a place where people (usually adults) learn skills
 - native language - the first language someone has learned
 - surrounded - to have something all around you
 - (the) chances are that - something is likely
 - obstacle - something that is in your way of achieving your goal or making progress; barrier
 - incorporate - to include as a part
 - complex - complicated; not simple
-
- overwhelmed - feeling an emotion so strongly that it is difficult to think clearly
 - recognize - something that you remember or know from a previous experience
 - discouraged - to lose motivation or confidence
 - entire - complete; whole
 - expectation - outcome you think will probably happen
 - get down on yourself - to criticize yourself (usually in a way that makes you feel discouraged)
 - judge (the meaning) - to make a careful guess or opinion about something
 - context - information that is related to something
 - dedication - devotion to something; commitment
-
- critic - a person who judges or finds fault with someone or something
 - impressed - to strongly affect the mind; admire
-
- sign of failure - a show of defeat
 - conscious - to be aware of something
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- tutor - a person who is employed to give private lessons
 - official language - the language usually used by a government and taught in schools
 - vary - change
 - citizen - someone who legally belongs to a country
 - constantly - always
 - lacking - to not have enough of something

- on the other hand - from another side; used to give another opinion or fact
- essential - very important
- imitate - to copy the way someone speaks
- naturally - in a normal way
- stress - emphasis; say a word or part of a word louder than others
- accent - a special style or way in which someone speaks
- entertainment - something that we do or watch for fun
- subtitles - the words that show the dialogue of a movie, TV program, etc. usually on the bottom of the screen
- rely on - to depend on for help
- gain - to improve; make progress
- focus - to pay attention to; concentrate
- culture - the way of life in a society
- associated - connected
- to open doors - to bring new possibilities
- beneficial - to be helpful or advantageous
- applying - putting into use
- regularly - routinely; usually
- learning resources - materials to provide information