

EL Civics READER



Keep Trying


Don't be afraid

**Use English
Every Day**



10 minutes a day

Build Your Vocabulary



fish camp hunt swim
read write learn
car bus
today

Read everything you can.



Watch TV in English.

TIPS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH



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Learning English can be a challenge. You have to comprehend the structure of English, including the grammar and the sound system. In addition, you have to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

1




2



Picture Story

3


Build Your Vocabulary



fish camp hunt swim
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4

Identify Cognates



la grammaire et structure
Grammatik und Struktur
a gramática e estrutura
Exit = Exito?

5


Read everything you can.



Watch TV in English.

6

Pay attention to grammar.



Every Sunday, I call my mother.
Last Sunday, I called her twice.

Remember: The more you know, the more you know.



TIPS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH

Learning English can be a challenge. You have to comprehend the structure of English, including the grammar and the sound system. In addition, you have to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Here are some tips for learning English.

- 1. Take Risks.** Don't be afraid of mistakes. It's OK to make errors. Don't be embarrassed. Over time, you will learn more and get better. Don't try to be perfect. Ask for help when you are stuck.
- 2. Use English everyday.** It's like exercise, if you do it everyday, you can see results. Start with 10 minutes outside of class every day and practice more each day. Make English part of your daily routine.
- 3. Build your vocabulary.** Pay attention to sounds and look at word components. Make flashcards and carry them with you. Practice on the bus, when you stand in line at the store, or at the bank. Pay attention to words all around you. Look for interesting words on signs, labels, and in the newspaper. Make a plan and use a new word every day.
- 4. Identify cognates and look at sentences.** Ask yourself: Is this word familiar? Is it similar to a word in my language? How is it the same? How is it different? Is the meaning the same or different? (If the meaning is different, it is a "false" cognate, so be careful.) Make a list of cognates. Add new cognates to the list each week.
- 5. Read everything you can, silently and aloud.** Ask others to read with you. Read everything you can - in English and in your native language. Read simple story books aloud. Practice reading with expression. Also read signs and store ads. Watch TV shows that teach reading to children.
- 6. Pay attention to English sentences and grammar.** Ask yourself: Is the structure in English the same as the structure in my language? Pay attention to the difference. Notice English sentences that use the structure. Memorize these sentences and use them as guides.

DICTIONARY

Words	Explanations
afraid	scared (The little boy is afraid of the night.)
aloud	using a speaking voice others can hear (He read the paragraph aloud to the class.)
build	make something (I plan to build my house out of adobe.)
challenge	an interesting and difficult problem. (Raising triplets is a challenge.)
class	group who are taught together (My math class meets every Monday.)
cognate	related words, word in one language that is related to a similar word in another language ("Immigrate" in English is a cognate of "immigrar" in Spanish.)
comprehend	understand (It is impossible to comprehend the vastness of the universe.)
different	not like something, distinct, unusual (I like to wear clothes that are different from everyone else.)
each	every one (Each week has seven days.)
embarrassed	uncomfortable (He was embarrassed driving an old car.)
error	mistake (I made three errors on the test.)
familiar	well known (I know him. His face looks familiar.)
flashcards	vocabulary cards (He Looked at his flashcards to learn vocabulary.)
grammar	the system of rules for making sentences (English grammar is difficult.)
know	be certain of something, realize something (I don't care what you say. I know I'm right!)
label	a tag (The label on my blue jeans says, "Made in Costa Rica.")
learning	acquisition of knowledge (We are learning English.)
listen	pay attention, try to hear something (I like to listen to birds in the morning.)
look	use eyes to see something (Look there. That's the strangest thing I've seen.)
main	principal (The main idea of this text is to use English every day.)
memorize	learn and remember something (I was able to memorize the alphabet when I was a child.)
mistake	error (It was a mistake.)
newspaper	paper, a publication with news (I read the newspaper every day.)
outside	external (He went outside to see the stars.)
perfect	without fault, excellent (It was a perfect day for sitting outside.)
plan	procedure for achieving something, intention (I plan to go to college after I complete the GED.)
practice	repeat something to get better (I have to practice speaking English to get better.)
read	understand written material (I love to read books while on vacation.)
remember	recall something, keep something in memory (I remember I was scared when I first went to school.)

result	outcome, consequence (Eating too many jalapenos can result in an upset stomach.)
risk	the possibility of embarrassment or danger
sentence	written or spoken words that express a complete thought (Look out! is a short sentence.)
sign	advertising or information notice (The street sign said I had only three miles to go.)
silently	in silence (Sometimes we read aloud, and other times we read silently.)
similar	alike, sharing similar qualities (Many words in English and Spanish are similar. No words in English and Chinese are similar.)
speak	talk (Speak slowly, please.)
start	begin, commence (He wants to start his own business.)
structure	something that is built, the arrangement of things (The Eiffel Tower is a large and beautiful structure.)
stuck	cannot move, confused (I don't know what to do. I'm stuck.)
tip	pointed end, good idea, extra payment for service (Here's a basic writing tip: Always re-read your papers before handing them in to a teacher.)
try	make an effort (I will try.)
unfamiliar	not known or recognized (I don't know this word. It is unfamiliar.)
use	do something with something (I will need a hammer to drive the nail.)
vocabulary	words and meanings a person knows (My brother has a huge vocabulary. He always seems to know the right words to say.)
word	a unit of language (His words made me laugh.)
write	put words on paper (I must write a 10-page paper for class next week.)

Phrases	Explanations
ask for help	request assistance (If I do not figure this out, I'll have to ask for help.)
daily routine	things a person does everyday (I take a shower as part of my daily routine.)
it pays	it's beneficial (It pays to be bilingual.)
keep trying	continue to make an effort (I tell my children, Keep trying.)
native language	first language (My native language is Spanish.)
pay attention	attend to, notice, concentrate (When reading English, pay attention to vowels.)
sound system	system of sounds in a language
stand in line	wait with others (He had to stand in line at the bank.)