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Auszug aus:

English Advanced

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LANGUAGE:

How to Improve Your English



Learning English (or any language for that matter) is a process. You are continually improving your English and the following "How to" describes a strategy to make sure that you continue to improve effectively.

Here's How:

1. Remember that learning a language is a gradual process - it does not happen overnight.
2. Define your learning objectives early: What do you want to learn and why?
3. Make learning a habit. Try to learn something every day. It is much better to study (or read, or listen to English news, etc.) 10 minutes each day than to study for 2 hours once a week.
4. Remember to make learning a habit! If you study each day for 10 minutes English will be constantly in your head. If you study once a week, English will not be as present in your mind.
5. Choose your materials well. You will need reading, grammar, writing, speaking and listening materials
6. Vary your learning routine. It is best to do different things each day to help keep the various relationships between each area active. In other words, don't just study grammar.
7. Find friends to study and speak with. Learning English together can be very encouraging.
8. Choose listening and reading materials that relate to what you are interested in. Being interested in the subject will make learning more enjoyable - thus more effective.
9. Relate grammar to practical usage. Grammar by itself does not help you USE the language. You should practice what you are learning by employing it actively.
10. Move your mouth! Understanding something doesn't mean the muscles of your mouth can produce the sounds. Practice speaking what you are learning aloud. It may seem strange, but it is very effective.
11. Be patient with yourself. Remember learning is a process - speaking a language well takes time. It is not a computer that is either on or off!
12. Communicate! There is nothing like communicating in English and being successful. Grammar exercises are good - having your friend on the other side of the world understand your email is fantastic!
13. Use the Internet. The Internet is the most exciting, unlimited English resource that anyone could imagine and it is right at your finger tips.

Tips:

1. Remember that English learning is a Process
2. Be patient with yourself.
3. Practice, practice, practice

TENSE & ASPECT:

Past Tense Simple vs. Present Perfect Simple



a) Which of the keywords in the box indicate that you should use the *present perfect*, and which ones indicate that you should use the *past simple*? Sort them into the right categories!

for	since	ago	just	yet/not yet
	so far	yesterday		In 1997
last week/day/year/month		ever		never
	recently		already	

Present Perfect: _____

Past Simple: _____

b) Now translate the following sentences from German to English!

1. Ich habe noch nicht gegessen.

→ _____

2. Ich war noch nie in Spanien.

→ _____

3. Ich habe ihn gestern gesehen.

→ _____

4. Ich bin 1998 in die Schule gekommen.

→ _____

5. Bis jetzt habe ich noch keine Fehler gemacht.

→ _____

LANGUAGE: Idiomatic Ways of Expressing the Future



Complete the following sentences using the expressions from the box!
(Ergänze die folgenden Sätze mit den Ausdrücken aus dem Kasten!)

might just	bound to	likely to	unlikely to
	about to	in the pipeline	

1. Well, the seminar starts at 10:00, so if he's taking the 8:45 train, he's certainly cutting it very fine. He _____ make it, but he could also end up being very late indeed.
2. Phew, you've just made it! The seminar's _____ start, the speaker is getting ready!
3. - Do you know if we're getting a new teacher this year? - I don't, actually, but it's certainly _____.
4. If he keeps on telling her how bad she looks he's not very _____ win her over any time soon!
5. - Are the exam results out yet? - No, and we've just been told that they're _____ arrive before next week.
6. If she keeps studying as much as she's doing at the moment, she's _____ end up with a very good degree.

LANGUAGE:

Commonly Confused Words



Complete the following sentences with the words indicated.

(Ergänze die folgenden Sätze mit den angegebenen Wörtern.)

1. remember/remind

- a) Can you please _____ me to go to the bank after school, I know I'll forget otherwise!
- b) There's just too much to learn! I'll never _____ all of it for the exam!

2. sensible/sensitive

- a) Are you sure it's a _____ thing to do to place all your eggs in one basket? I'd keep my options open if I were you.
- b) She's very _____ and easily upset.

3. sympathetic/pleasant

- a) He's always friendly and he's got a smile for everyone. A very _____ chap, really.
- b) It's not that I'm not _____ to the cause of childhood cancer; I just haven't got any cash on me I could give you.

4. opportunity/occasion

- a) Many young people nowadays take the _____ to spend some time abroad _____ while studying.
- b) The concert last night was a really memorable _____.

5. economics/economy

- a) He's studying _____ at university.
- b) The _____ is doing badly this year.

6. economic/economical

- a) My new car does 60 miles to the gallon. It's really quite _____.
- b) Given the _____ circumstances, the company is doing better than could be expected.

7. actual/current

- a) Well, we thought the distance was 50 miles, but the _____ distance was nearly twice that!
- b) I'm not very happy at my _____ job. I think I'll start looking for a new one soon.

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