

Improving Your Spoken English

There are many different ways of improving your spoken and written English!

ESOL courses: ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages

These courses aim to help people who are looking for work or who want to study and live in the UK. Further education (FE) colleges offer part-time ESOL courses, which usually start in September, but there are often long waiting-lists.

Get course advice from the Advice and Guidance staff at your local FE college.

If you are having trouble finding a college offering a suitable ESOL course, ask your local Jobcentre Plus for assistance. Most ESOL courses are free of charge to UK citizens who are in receipt of JobSeekers Allowance but those on other benefits may have to pay 50%.

Libraries

You can join your local library free of charge, and borrow books, CDs and DVDs. You can read daily newspapers, use computers, and the library can be a good place to study. Check out the English language section. Some libraries run computer drop-in sessions.

Media

Reading a daily newspaper will help your improve your English, as will watching TV, and listening to the radio

Course-books

Course-books (with DVD on online videos) at your level can be a huge help for self-driven learning. Go to the English language section at a good bookshop like Waterstones, and see what's available. You can also have a look at the Amazon website. You might find cheap second-hand books this way.

Language Learning Apps and Websites

Memrise - basic English for Hebrew speakers:
<https://www.memrise.com/courses/hebrew/english/>

Language exchange

Sites for swapping language skills. Practice your English in return for helping an English speaker who wants to learn Yiddish or Hebrew - all levels.

Tandem

Small number of people wanting to learn Yiddish and lots wanting Hebrew- free.
Smartphone app only.
<https://www.tandem.net/>

My Language Exchange

Huge numbers of people wanting to learn Yiddish and Hebrew but only limited functionality with a free account.
<https://www.mylanguageexchange.com/>

ITalki

Primarily a site selling English lessons, but has a well-regarded free language exchange at the link here.
<https://www.italki.com/partners>

Interpals

Another language exchange site.
<https://www.interpals.net/>

Voluntary work

Voluntary work can help you improve your job prospects as well as your English. It can help you become more familiar with the UK working culture and gain new skills. If you are receiving benefits, you can usually volunteer but check with your local Jobcentre first. Find more information at

www.volunteering.org.uk or

<http://jobseekers.direct.gov.uk>

'Meet Up' Groups

Well-known site for face-to-face 'meet ups' of all kinds, mostly social, but they also include English practice 'meet ups' for people wishing to improve their English. These are mostly free.

https://www.meetup.com/topics/language-exchange/gb/17/london/?_cookie-check=NvjFVwITZtK8NakL

Other Helpful Links

Grammarly - Free grammar and spellchecker as you write. <https://www.grammarly.com/>

You Tube - Search 'Learn English' for free videos on language learning, listening, grammar, pronunciation etc. <http://www.youtube.com>

Podcasts for Practicing English

BBC English Language podcasts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts?q=english>

BBC Six Minute English

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english>

Luke's English Podcasts: Funny subjects with online transcripts

<https://teacherluke.co.uk/>

Business English -

<https://www.businessenglishpod.com/about/free-podcast-subscription-options/>

British Council 'Learn English' Podcasts -

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/learnenglish-podcasts>

Online Courses

Free courses are available on the following education sites, often provided by Universities:

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

<https://www.mooc-list.com/>

Useful websites

www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish>

<http://www.ielts.org>

<http://www.fonetiks.org> – pronunciation

<http://www.howjsay.com> - pronunciation

<http://elt.oup.com/student/headway> - coursebook with good activities on the website

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en> - courses for Hebrew speakers or for people with an intermediate standard of English.

<https://www.reddit.com/r/languagelearning/wiki/index> a huge list of constantly updated tips, links, reviews and advice for language learning.

DON'T BE SHY ABOUT SPEAKING ENGLISH - THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS!