

Learning a Second Language

Some people learn a second language easily. Other people have trouble learning a new language. How can you help yourself learn a new language, such as English? There are several ways to make learning English a little easier and more interesting.



The first step is to feel positive about learning English. If you believe that you can learn, you will learn. Be patient. You do not have to understand everything all at once. It is natural to make mistakes when you learn something new. We can learn from our mistakes. In other words, do not worry about taking risks.

The second step is to practice your English. For example, write in a journal, or diary, every day. You will get used to writing in English, and you will feel comfortable expressing your ideas in English. After several weeks, you will see that your writing is improving. In addition, you must speak English every day. You can practice with your classmates outside of class. You will make mistakes, but gradually you will become comfortable communicating in English.

The third step is to record your language learning. You can do this in your journal. After each class, think about what you did. Did you answer a question correctly? Did you understand something the teacher explained? Perhaps the lesson was difficult, but you tried to understand it. Write these accomplishments in your journal.

You must be positive about learning English and believe that you can do it. It is important to practice every day and make a record of your achievements. You will enjoy learning English, and you will have more confidence in yourself.

Source: Themes for Today by Lorraine C. Smith and Nancy Nici Mare

“LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AND THE CULTURE THAT GOES WITH IT, IS ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL THINGS WE CAN DO TO BROADEN THE EMPATHY AND IMAGINATIVE SYMPATHY AND CULTURAL OUTLOOK OF CHILDREN.”

MICHAEL GOVE

© Litchack Quotes

Name: _____

Directions. Annotate the article. Make at least 7 annotations (at least 2 questions).

Directions. Answer questions about the article.

1. What is the topic of this article? Answer with one or two words.

2. What do we learn about this topic in the article? Answer with a few words—not a sentence. Do not copy from the article.

2. Use the information from questions 1 and 2 to write a complete sentence that expresses the main idea of this article.

3. What does this article say about making mistakes?

4. How does writing a journal help you improve?

5. How can you make a record of your language learning?

Directions. The following questions are about YOUR opinion. Answer completely.

1. Are these suggestions helpful? Will you do any of these? Why or why not? Write two complete sentences.

Vocabulary

Directions: These words are from *Learning a Second Language*. Use context and context clues to help understand the meaning. Write the meaning of the word and the context clues. (2 points each)

What is the meaning of the word *ease* in paragraph two? _____

What context clues helped you? _____

Directions: Fill-out Vocabulary Log entries for the following words:

risk
express
gradually
accomplishment
perhaps