

THREE REASONS FOR LEARNING

ENGLISH AND THREE TIPS FOR GETTING

GOOD AT IT

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We spend so much time teaching and learning English that we can forget why we are doing it in the first place. There are many good reasons to learn English, and everyone you ask will have different ones. But these are my top three reasons plus (as a bonus) three tips at the end for improving your English.

Three Reasons to Learn English

1. English opens the world to you. English is an official language in many different countries. Not only American, Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa, but also Hong Kong, India, the Philippines and Singapore, even parts of Africa (Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria) and the Caribbean (the Bahamas, Jamaica). Moreover it is by far the most common second language in the world; part of the school curriculum in Austria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. Almost anywhere in the world, English will enable you to communicate.
2. English provides you with amazing opportunities. English is the language of science: crucial discoveries in Biology, Chemistry, Medicine and Physics are communicated in English; and those scientists who do not know it are at a crucial disadvantage. Engineers need to be able to attend conferences in English and speak with colleagues from other countries. Over fifty per cent

of communication on the internet is conducted in English. If you would like to study later at elite universities like Berkeley, Harvard or Oxford, you will need English. English will make you more desirable to employers and open doors.

3. English enables you to follow your passions. If you like movies, understanding English will enhance your appreciation. If you prefer literature, many of the greatest writers who ever lived (for instance, Austen, Dickens, Faulkner, Joyce, Milton, Shakespeare) wrote in English. If music is more your thing, most of the world's most famous bands and pop-singers sing in English: Adele, the Beatles, Beyonce, David Bowie, Drake, Led Zeppelin, Michael Jackson, Nirvana, Radiohead, and so on.

Three Tips for Improving your English

1. Overall, my main piece of advice for the best way to learn English is to look for topics and activities that you genuinely like that you can use to practice your English. One great way to improve your spoken English is to think of a recent English-language film that you genuinely like (maybe 'Captain America: Civil War' or 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' or even 'Finding Dory'). Get a copy and watch it over and over, until you know every line. This will familiarize you with contemporary idioms and hone your speaking and listening skills.
2. Another good idea is to search out reading material that you actually enjoy. If you like baseball, or cooking, or golf, or working on cars, or looking after cats, find an English-language website dedicated to that interest and read about it (you might even participate and make some new friends!). If you like Manga, try some American comics. If you are interested in current affairs there are many English-language websites available to you.
3. My third tip is 'Don't get discouraged'. There are plenty of people who end up speaking excellent English who were not very good at it at first, or who had serious problems with it at certain stages, or who felt they were behind other

people or were not making any progress. Those who end up with good English are the always the ones who find ways of making it enjoyable and kept on practicing. Remember learning English is a marathon not a sprint.
Gambarimasu!