

My career as an English learner

I have been already studying English for nine years, which is more than a half of my life. I am going to mention how I rate my knowledge of the language which in fact forms a bedrock for whatever achievement in one's future job and the teaching methods. I will also remark the ways of learning the language I practise in recent time.

To evaluate my language skills, writing and reading can be judged as very sufficient, but speaking abilities lay on a lower level. And speaking is regarded as the only power able to change this troubling truth.

With a sigh I recollect the last year's English Club hours. Everyone who felt being interested in could come after school every two weeks and talk with the others and two American teachers on a certain topic (Euthanasia, Legal/Illegal music on the Internet, Sports we practise...). That time I saw my disability to say what I want. It was a very unpleasant experience, that highlighted the lack of speaking in the lessons of English. The sad reality is that it is technically impossible to fulfil the need of practising oral abilities in regular lessons.

Recently, I do not study English in the degree that would satisfy my ambitions, which can describe the situation in every other school subject. More concretely I am a bit nervous because of the speaking.

Let's take a closer look at some methods connected with the Internet a highschool student can use to improve their language skills:

- Read news on reputable servers (bbc.co.uk, guardian.co.uk) as well as surveys and in-depth articles on topics tackling present day affairs. For the news from Czechia in English go on praguepost.cz
- Listening to the radio is an excellent way of reaching a very high level in listening comprehension. I recommend BBC World Service available on bbc.co.uk/radio. If the news does not attract you, try audio books on gutenberg.org/catalog/world/search and in the form in the Category item select Audio books (human read). I have heard some crimes from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- If you study for school, try foreign sources. In this aspect, the Czech Internet is a very poor neighbour of an affluent English family. In every case I browse on a site of a university professor I felt myself fascinated what else I will ever see. For example:

Copies of the class notes used in Religious Studies 201 (University of Calgary) are available online, linked to this document.

Click on the appropriate text to search for notes on Judaism, Christianity, Islam.

On this site you can study religion online and free at a university level! And there are pages containing materials on every other topic you know.

- Make your teacher content and read the list of 200 common phrasal verbs on englishclub.com/esl-vocabulary/phrasal-verbs-list.htm
- Reading is considered as the best way of getting into any language. Mrs Vankova and Andrew, my favourite teacher from the Hampstead School of English told me this, so you can believe me. Not only you but also the teacher of literature will be happy if you read just one work from an amazing list of the most important works of all writers in our history on etext.library.adelaide.edu.au

I think I am not too far from the time when I will be able to affirm that I am fluent in English. Nevertheless, the distance exists, so let`s keep on. I believe many classmates including me are well prepared to be thrown into a pond and start swimming wherever they want.

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