



**If you** have decided you want to learn English, you're about to begin on a fairly difficult journey. While English is one of the most frequently spoken languages, especially in the western hemisphere, it's also one of the most difficult to learn. If you have committed yourself to learning the language, here are some suggestions you can use to make it a bit easier.

### **Tip 1 - Identify Your Motivation and Desire**

Before you begin down the path of learning English, be sure you want to. If you cannot say that you truly want to learn the language, you're going to struggle, especially if you're trying to learn English online. Remember it's a challenging language and will take a measure of dedication to learn.

Also, you need to identify your motivation. Ask yourself why you want to learn English. Understanding your motivation, if it is to help qualify for a better job or to communicate with someone who you know, can help you stick to your goal of learning English.

### **Tip 2 - Set Realistic Goals**

You're not going to learn English immediately, even if you're highly motivated, are a great student, and are attending the ideal online English school you may find. You need to set realistic goals which you can work toward as you master the language.

Your goal for the first week is to master some basic vocabulary. Then you may want to tackle a significant grammar rule. If you already have a basic comprehension of English, you can set goals to increase your pronunciation or listening comprehension. You need to know your basic goals before beginning attending English school so you can choose the ideal program that will help you meet them.

### **Tip 3 - Set Aside Time to Practice**

Learning any language takes practice and a lot of it. Knowing how to practice a language is important. You can't simply sit and speak to yourself. Even if you're trying to learn English online, you need to find native speakers to speak to. You may use the telephone or internet chats to speak with people who understand English well, but you need to find someone to speak to.

You can also practice by writing English. Write letters, emails, and notes in English whenever the recipient can understand English. Your English Lesson at school will most likely have you composing too, but practical writing in the real world is the perfect way to discover whether or not you understand the language well enough to communicate.

### **Tip 4 - Immerse Yourself in the Language**

The best way to train your brain to think and understand in a different language is to immerse yourself in the language as much as possible. Subscribe to books in English, and examine them. Read books in English, and listen to records made in English. Speak the language when you have someone near you who can understand it, especially when that person is a native speaker who can help you with your pronunciation.

Watch television programs in English. This is one of the best ways to help

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yourself learn English, as you'll have a visual reference that will help you realize the spoken word. If your tv has closed captioning capabilities, turn this on. Then you'll also have a written reference to reinforce what you're learning.

The best thing about the immersion approach is that it gets you used to the proper pronunciations of the words. Also, by immersing yourself in the culture that surrounds the English language, you can pick up on slang words and words which aren't quite used properly, but the sound right to English speakers. You will pick up on phrases which are commonly used, and phrases which are best left untouched. So, whenever you have the opportunity to practice speaking, writing, or listening to English, take advantage of it. You'll quickly learn English as well as any native speaker, or perhaps even better!

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