

## HOW TO STUDY ENGLISH

### Vocabulary

- Start using On Track mobile app.
- First, try and figure out the meaning from the context.
- Pick new words from the text: write them down, read them out aloud, or check the pronunciation.
- Look them up in the online dictionary.
- Listen to the most difficult words and repeat them a few times.
- Use the new word: make your own sentences, the funnier the better
- Check whether long words have prefixes or suffixes, e.g. MISunderstandING.
- Try to learn longer chunks instead of single words, e.g. a long time ago.
- Underline, circle or use some other visual ways to learn new words.
- Use word association.
- Draw mind maps.
- Use colours.
- Find the opposites.
- Find synonyms.
- Compare to your mother tongue.
- Create funny rules.
- Play with words: there are lots of online games.
- Learn to use an English–English dictionary.
- Use online apps for learning, e.g. flashcards.
- Remember to test yourself or take tests online.

Rich vocabulary helps you in speaking, listening and writing English!

### Text and reading

- Read a lot in English. Read different types of texts: books, articles, magazines, comic books and so on, both online and on paper.
- At school, read the text aloud in pairs or groups. Read texts aloud at home on your own or with friends.
- Listen to the text a few times before reading, if possible.
- After reading and listening, summarize the content in English or in Finnish: what is the text about?
- Read the difficult parts again.
- Do all the reading comprehension exercises.
- Ask questions about the text.
- Go online, find different types of texts, e.g. an article on psychology, if you are interested.

Reading is probably the most important thing you can do to extend your vocabulary!

### Speaking

- Listen to English every day: audio shows, TV, online radios, podcasts, talkshows for pronunciation, and discuss them with your friends in English.
- Make questions based on what you have heard.
- Repeat the lines while watching English movies.
- Read the texts in the textbook aloud.
- Listen to music and sing along.
- Speak English whenever you have a chance.
- Practise English at home, with friends, online.
- Explain things you are doing alone, in English, e.g. when baking or cleaning your room.
- Keep a video blog / vlog, or keep a spoken diary.

### Writing

- Keep a diary or a blog in English.
- Write short stories and tales – be creative!
- Start with shorter tasks.
- Always plan your writing.
- Go to the On Track *How to write* section for help.
- The more you write, the better writer you will become.
- The more you read books in English, the easier it is to write in English.
- Read your friends' essays and let them read yours.
- When writing an essay in English, try sometimes this: write a plan on Monday. Write the first draft on Tuesday. Rewrite the essay on Thursday. Give it to your teacher or somebody else to read. Ask for comments. Revise.

### Listening

- Watch TV and movies in English (subtitles off, or in English).
- Listen to music, check the lyrics e.g. on Youtube.
- Sing along: you will learn pronunciation as well.
- Try online listening comprehension tests, there are loads of them.
- Test yourself: listen to the news online and summarize the content in Finnish or English.
- Sometimes you have to listen for exact information, such as numbers and names. This kind of listening is almost like aural scanning. Don't try to understand everything, in this case. Just listen for the relevant information, e.g. what time your train for Liverpool departs.
- Watch Youtube videos.

### Grammar

- Draw a picture, or a chart of certain grammar items, e.g. when to use the perfect tense.
- Make sure you understand where you need certain grammar, e.g. when to use the perfect tense, and when the simple past tense is enough.
- Try to pay attention to using the correct grammar in your speaking and writing.
- Create a grammar-rap.
- Try using rhythm in studying grammar rules.
- Note the differences in English grammar and your mother tongue.
- Learn the grammar rules, but remember that there are many exceptions to the rules too.