

Are you doing everything you can to improve your English?

Here are 8 areas in which you can dramatically boost your English just by making a few small changes:

Before you read the complete article, look at this vocabulary and find it in the text:

instead: in place of this

guess: to try to know something by using your imagination

do so: to do this (the thing mentioned before)

board games: games played around a board on a table

Bob's your uncle: problem solved

challenge: to give sb a task to see if they can do it

whether: if (or not)

no good: not effective, useless

TV: when you watch a series in English, the initial goal shouldn't be to understand every word, but rather to train your ear. Forget about having a good time, and **instead**, focus on what you can gain from the experience. This means you can read the subtitles if necessary, note down new words and phrases that you'd like to remember, and watch one scene or episode several times to see how quickly your ears adapt!

Technology: if you have your phone, your Facebook or your laptop in your first language, you might like to change it to English! It may take you a few days to get used to the new appearance, but it will get you thinking in English much more quickly and it will teach you new vocabulary in a practical context.

Reading: instead of simply reading in English, you could try my method: read just one paragraph or one page, and pay attention to all the words you don't know. First, see if you can **guess** what they mean from the context. Next, look them up in a dictionary and write a list of the new words and their definitions. After this, read the short text again and see how much you understand this time. You should go back and read the text as many times as necessary until you can **do so** without looking at your notes.

Socialising: find people who want to speak English, find one or two **board games** in English, and **Bob's your uncle!** You might speak your mother tongue most of the time, but the game will force you to have fun in English.

Vocabulary: if you make lists of vocabulary, you ought to go back and look at them. Simply make two columns –word and definition–, and you can cover one of the columns to test your memory. Gradually, you'll find you can throw away pages of your vocabulary notebook as the words become familiar to you.

Songs: don't just listen to music in English. Look up the lyrics and try to write them down from memory. Learn to sing along while reading the lyrics, paying special attention to rhythm and pronunciation. After this, why not find a karaoke video on YouTube and **challenge** yourself to a great performance?

Everyday tasks: whether it's adding a reminder to your calendar, writing a shopping list, or conversing with your pets (or plants), I'd recommend making it a habit to do these little daily activities in English.

Pronunciation: it's **no good** just hoping the sounds will come out right. Look up new words online and compare your pronunciation with that of the audio available. Repeat the word until you're happy with the similarity between the two. You can also imitate how other people sound and ask for feedback if you're not sure!

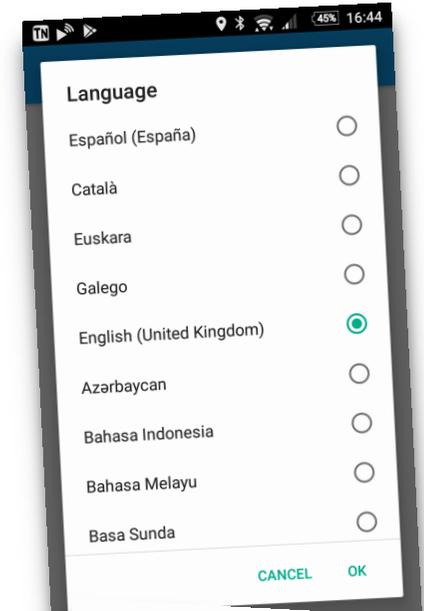
Written by ECP coach Alison Keable [Watch the video here :-\)](#)

Flesch Reading Ease: 67.6 (Standard: see explanation on page 2)

Let's chat about that!

Write your opinions in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

- How many of these things do you already do?
- Do you think this is good advice?
- Is there anything you'd add to this list?
- What are the obstacles to learning a language?
- Is language-learning success a question of talent, luck or attitude?



Social Events In English

Real-Life English in Vitoria-Gasteiz



iLook, iThink, iSpeak

Real Language to Express Yourself Better



CINEMA NIGHTS!

Come and socialise in English!

The last Friday of every* month from October to June, come to ECP to watch a film in English (with English subtitles) and talk about it afterwards.

October 26th - November 30th - January 25th
February 22nd - March 29th - May 31st - June 28th

**WhatsApp John for more details on:
657 73 13 54**

Time: 19:30 to 21:30

Place: ECP Hub (C/San Ignacio de Loyola 15)

Price: Free!

Friends welcome

**Please note: there will be no Cinema Nights in December or April.*

Our next
Coffee Saturday
will be on
10th Nov.
For more info:
**WhatsApp
Alison: 608
42 64 92**

LIVE!English presents:

COFFEE SATURDAYS!

Come and socialise in English!



LANGUAGE FOR GIVING ADVICE

The text on page 1 contains several forms we use to give someone advice.

Can you find a few examples?

You should...

You ought to...

You could...

You might like to...

Why not...?

I'd recommend...

Flesch Reading Ease Formula

This formula is used to assess the difficulty of reading a text written in English.

- 90-100: Very Easy
- 80-89: Easy
- 70-79: Fairly Easy
- 60-69: Standard
- 50-59: Fairly Difficult
- 30-49: Difficult
- 0-29: Very Confusing

Different ways to say the same thing:

First language 👍 Native language 👍 Mother tongue 👍

Now, use the expressions on the left to practise giving advice to someone...

...who wants to meet new people.

... who doesn't know which political party to vote for.

...who is trying to lose weight.

...who is always stressed out.

...who struggles to understand computers.

...who wants to earn more at work.

3 LINKS YOU OUGHT TO ADD TO YOUR FAVOURITES:



[Sing King Karaoke](#) is a YouTube channel where you can sing along in English from the comfort of your living room.



[Macmillan Dictionary](#) is one of many online English dictionaries that provides clear, simple definitions and audible pronunciation.



[Linguee](#) is a bilingual dictionary that provides definitions as well as real examples from the internet.