#### Speaking Class 2024-2025

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#### 1. Start speaking English as much as

- English fluently is **get more speaking practice**. Almost all advice on achieving your fluency goals will eventually come down to this. Nothing else you can do is as effective, or as important.
  - **Buddy up** with an English speaker who is learning your native language. If you don't know anyone, try downloading a language exchange app.
- Use English learning apps with speech recognition software.
- Connect with a small group of international learners in <u>online</u> group classes.

# 2- Expose yourself to English every single day

If you want to speak fluently, it's vital to get as much exposure to English as possible. You should be doing something in English **every day**, even if you're not actively studying. There are **simple changes** you can make to your environment to help expose yourself to English:

Change your phone/social media/tablet settings to English

Listen to English music

Read the news in English

Commit to watching <u>TV shows and movies</u> in English

This technique is called "language immersion." It's a great way to get used to the sounds and text of a new language and to reinforce what you have learned.

#### 3- Make the most of technology

- How many apps to learn English do you have on your phone right now? Probably at least one! The digital age has revolutionized language learning, and it's easy to forget how lucky that makes us.
- There's a wealth of study technology available, so choose carefully. Make sure that you're using the most effective resources for your own study habits, and that you're not falling into the trap of **relying too heavily on game-like apps**.
- VOA news, BBC world, TEDx, TED Speeches, English Speeches, etc....

#### 4- Use resources made for your level

- If you're determined to reach fluency, it can be tempting to skip over resources made for intermediate-level English learners and jump straight into content made for fluent English speakers.
- Every ambitious language learner has done this at some point or another! However, the reality is that you'll get a lot more from your study hours if you use resources made for your level.
- For instance, instead of watching the latest American blockbuster with subtitles on in your own language, try watching an episode of an English-language cartoon without any subtitles. You will understand far more and will gain more new vocabulary from the context.

#### 5- Work on your pronunciation

- Working on your pronunciation is helpful for a few reasons. We all need to be understood, and pronunciation practice helps us speak with clarity. This doesn't mean that you need to get rid of your accent, not at all. But it will be frustrating for yourself and other English speakers if they do not understand you.
- Some of the work in becoming fluent and pronouncing words clearly is physical. If your native language sounds very different from English, then you will need to pay attention to moving your mouth and tongue in a new way.

#### 6- Learn whole phrases, not words

- Pluency is being able to speak whole sentences without hesitation. If you learn English one word at a time, it will be very hard not to hesitate when constructing sentences. That's because you'll have to translate every English sentence in your head from your native language, word by word.
- There is another way: learning new words as part of a common phrase can ease mental strain when speaking.
- To take a very basic example, if you are learning the word "tonight," it would help to try and learn a whole phrase, such as: "tonight, I am going to..." This way, when you need to discuss your plans for the evening, your brain has half of the reply pre-prepared there's less pausing and thinking involved.

## 7- Accept that you will feel uncomfortable speaking English

- For almost everyone, speaking any new language means fighting through a fear barrier. This is completely normal! Your native language is a very precise tool for describing concepts. You are completely aware of the subtle implications your words carry, how to use irony and humor, and how word stress can slightly change the meaning of what you're saying.
- By comparison, speaking in any new language feels like using a blunt axe. You can't say exactly what you mean. You might offend someone, or make a fool of yourself. You certainly won't seem as smart as you really are. It's intimidating! Few language learners talk about how much it sucks.
- Language learners have to have a "tolerance for ambiguity". His method to <u>learn languages quickly</u> includes accepting confusion when learning a language. You're not going to understand everything or speak perfect English as you try and reach fluency, and that's ok.

#### 8. Consider a big lifestyle change

- It almost goes without saying: the fastest way to become fluent in English is to move to an English-speaking country. If you are determined to speak fluent English and can relocate for a few months, this will save you a lot of time.
- However, for most people, this just won't be possible. Don't worry if that applies to you because there are other big lifestyle changes you can make to boost your English level, including:
- All of these are big changes, but they're about building the language into your life. If you're speaking your native language 99% of the time, then, of course, it's going to take a long time for English to feel natural.

#### 9- Plan your conversations when you can

- This might seem like a silly tip for people who want to gain fluency. After all, fluency means being able to talk easily about anything you like! Well, that's true — but if you aren't there yet, then a bit of planning might boost your confidence.
- If you are heading to an event where you know you can practice your English skills, try **planning the small talk** you are going to make ahead of time. Are you going to talk about your kids? Your knitting group? Your job?
- whilst this may seem a bit silly, it can be helpful to have some conversation starters "ready to go" so that you can practice the vocabulary that you have been studying. This way, you won't feel under too much pressure to come up with something interesting to say in the moment.

### 10 Don't focus too much on English grammar

- Native speakers disobey the rules of their own language all of the time. This is something you'll know if you've ever had to type out a recording of a spoken English conversation. Many British high school students don't know what a <u>phrasal verb</u> is, even though they use them all the time!
- Grammar rules are useful to be aware of they're essential to study at some point. But they should be lower down your list of priorities than getting English-speaking practice. Most of the time, you will be understood if your grammar isn't perfect! Aim to be understandable, and after a little bit of work, grammatical rules will start to sink in naturally.

#### 11- Try some karaoke, learn with FUN....!

- There's no "hack" to become fluent fast, but using songs to learn English comes pretty close. Music is fantastic for learning languages, especially now that so many songs can be found on YouTube with free lyric videos.
- Learn how to sing some of your favorite songs from memory, and you will easily gain new English words and phrases! Learning songs is also helpful for improving your listening skills, and absorbing grammatical rules in a more natural way.

#### 12. Get a personal tutor

- If you are serious about becoming fluent in English, invest in a personal language tutor. Talking to an expert English tutor even just once per week can dramatically boost your progress.
- ➤ You'll be able to ask <u>questions</u> about English regularly, discuss new words relevant to your own life, and will receive feedback on your English conversation skills in real-time. It's much easier to stick to a regular learning routine when you feel accountable to and comfortable with somebody. Study with an English teacher and you'll have your own personal language coach.

#### 13. Record your own Englishlanguage audiobooks

- When we think of practicing a language, we often think of putting ourselves in situations where we have to use the language. But the truth is, a lot of confidence and fluency come from actually speaking. This technique can help you do a lot more of that.
- Think about your favorite books. Even if you don't have any favorite books that were written in English, you can probably find some in English translation. For example, the Harry Potter series has been sold all over the world.
- Take any English-language book that you already enjoy, and record yourself reading it in English. This will take you a while, of course. But it's a way to practice your English pronunciation every day in a way that's fun and interesting for you.

### 14- Think directly in English instead of translating

- Stop thinking of yourself as someone who is learning English, and start thinking of yourself as someone who speaks English. It's a small change, but it'll make you feel more confident and help you to better use the English you already know.
- This also means you need to start thinking in English. If you want to say the word "apple" in English, for example, you probably think of the word in your native language first, and then try to think of the correct word in English. Instead, try imagining a picture of an apple, and then just think the English word "apple."

#### 15- Set specific goals

- Fluency is a very high level to reach and will take a long time to achieve, so "becoming fluent" can be a pretty unclear goal. Having such a big, non-specific target won't be helpful in planning out your studies.
- Good goals should be specific and achievable. When setting a goal, you should decide exactly what you want to learn, and how long you want to spend learning it.
- Here are some examples of good goals:
- Legrn 30 new English words in 30 days
- Have a conversation with a native English speaker this week
- Learn to conjugate five irregular verbs before your next tutoring lesson
- Perfect your pronunciation of 10 words over the weekend (then ask a native speaker to tell you how you did!)

#### 16- Figure out your "weak spots"

- You might find some parts of the English language are especially difficult for you. These "weak spots" can be anything: grammar usage, pronunciation, sentence formation and so on. It's important that you find out what they are so that you can focus on improving them.
- English does have a lot of tricky features, and some can be even trickier depending on your native language. Pay attention to what you're having problems with and dedicate more studying to it.
- You want to make sure you improve in all parts of the English language without lagging behind in any of them.

### 17- Don't be afraid of making mistakes while talking

- Sometimes, it can be difficult to put all those rules and words together into a simple sentence. Don't let the fear of saying something wrong stop you from speaking at all.
- Even if you think you're making a mistake, keep speaking anyway. Most of the time, people will understand what you're trying to say, even if you make a mistake.
- Plus, the more you speak, the easier it gets, and the faster the right words will come to mind.

#### 18- RULES, RULESIS, and more RULES...!

- Be in class on time
- We are learning STANDARD ENGLISH, NO SLANG is allowed....!
- Be disciplined, behave well to your teacher and your classmates....!
- Always be postive
- We have a TEXTBOOK and we need to COMMIT to it....!
- Don'\* be a GRAMMAR NAZI....!
- Never hesitate to ASK Qs....!
- Be Argumentative
- **▼** Don't Interrupt...!
- Be prepared for your assignments
- Treat ENGLISH like a friend that you want to live with for the rest of your life...!
- Speak loud, don't prison English inside your chest, NEVER let the cat eat your tongue...!
- I am one door knock away from you....!
- It's NEVER too late...!
- **■** GOOD LUCK

# Passion...

# Peace....

# -History....