

Tips for Learning English

By Dr. Abraham Panavell, Professor & Head, Department of English College of Arts and Science, The University of Niwra

Why do you want to learn English?
Before you begin (or go back to) studying English, ask yourself one question: Why do I want to study English? Is it because you want to, or because someone else wants you to? Like every decision in life, studying English must be something you want to do.

Set goals
If you know why you want to study English, setting goals is easy. For example, maybe you want to travel to an English-speaking country. Great. Your goal might be to learn "Survival English". Perhaps you already know many useful phrases, but you want to improve your listening skills and pronunciation. Whatever your goals are, write them down. Make an agenda.

How long do you need to study to achieve your goals? This answer is different for every student.

The important thing is to be realistic. If you work 60 hours per week, don't plan on spending another 40 hours a week studying English. Start off slow, but study regularly.

Use material that is challenging, but not too difficult. Find out what works for you. After you have studied for a few weeks, adjust your study schedule accordingly.

Do you study best at night, or study alone in a quiet place, or with friends and background music? Make a commitment. Learning English requires a lot of motivation. Nobody is going to take your attendance when you aren't in class. If you are sure you are ready to begin studying, make a commitment.

Have fun learning English! The things we do best in life are the things we enjoy doing. If you aren't having fun learning English, you're not studying the right way! You can be a serious student who has fun at the same time. Make up your own rewards program to give yourself incentives to stay on task.

Study a Balance of the 4 Key Skills
(Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing)
Most students want to communicate better in English. If this is one of your goals, it is important to study a balance of the four major skills. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are the main (macro) skills you need to communicate in any language. Being very good at only one of these skills will not help you to communicate. For example you need to be able to read well before you can write well. You also need to be able to listen before you can speak.

It helps to think of these communicative skills in two groups.

Input
• Listening (in through your ears)
• Reading (in through your eyes)

Output
• Speaking (out through your mouth)
• Writing (out through your hand)

It's simple. Think of it this way: First you have input. Next you have output. First you listen to someone ask you a question. Second you speak and give them your answer. First you read a letter from someone. After that you write back to them. These are examples of communicating.

Input and output don't necessarily go in a specific order. Sometimes you speak first and then you listen. Sometimes you write about something you hear. During communication, the person you are communicating with uses one of the opposite skills. Therefore, in order to understand each other, everyone must be skilled in all four areas.

Some students work to know which skills they most need. Important. Since all of the skills rely on each other, they are all important. However, to communicate we do use some skills more often than others. For example, about 40% of the time that we spend communicating we are simply listening. We speak for about 35% of the time.

Approximately 10% of communication comes from reading, and about 9% from writing. These statistics are for an average communicator in English. Depending on someone's job or situation, these numbers may vary. Each of these main skills has micro skills within them. For example, pronunciation is a type of speaking skill that must be practiced in order to improve communication. Spelling is a skill that makes understanding the written word easier.

Grammar and vocabulary are other micro skills. Micro doesn't mean they are unimportant. Macro skills such as listening are very general, while micro skills are more specific. For the best results, create an agenda that combines all four areas of study. Allow one type of studying to lead into another. For example, read a story and then talk about it with a friend. Watch a movie and then write about it. This is what teachers in an English class would have you do, right?

Try the web site EnglishClub.com which has lessons in all 4 key skills (and all minor skills), as well as many outside links to help you study further.

1. How to learn LISTENING
• Listen to the radio
• Don't always have a pen in hand. Sometimes it helps to just listen.
• Watch programs in English on TV
• Watch English movies
• Choose ones with subtitle
• Learn about anything and everything. Do it in the privacy of your own home. If you can't do this at first, try reading out loud until you feel comfortable hearing your own voice in English.
• Use the telephone.
• Participate in class
How to learn READING and vocabulary
• Read something every day
• Children's books, simplified readers (Fangshu), newspapers, magazines, internet sites, novels, and much more...
• Read what interests you.
• Remember that you learn better when you are having fun.
• Read at the appropriate level.

You want to learn new vocabulary, but you also want to understand what you are reading. If you are looking up every word, the reading is too difficult.
• Review Who, What, Where, When, Why for each story you read.
You can do this for almost any type of reading. Who is it about? What happened? Why did it happen? Where did it take place? When did it take place? This is very useful when you have no comprehension questions to answer. You can write or speak your answers.
• Always have an English-English dictionary nearby. It is a bad habit to always rely on a translation dictionary or electronic dictionary.
Think of your English-English dictionary as your lifeline.
Use online dictionaries when you are using the Internet (keyword online dictionary).

4. How to learn WRITING and spelling
• Keep a diary/journal
• Don't always pay attention to grammar. Free-writing can be very useful. It can show you that writing is fun. Have fun with the language.
• Write e-mails in English
Stay in contact with teachers or other students.
• Rewrite your local news in English
This is another exercise that can be done on a daily basis. Remember that regular activities are the best ones.
• Get pen friends from an English speaking country.
• Grammar is for communication
Sometimes students get obsessed with grammar.

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This is especially true for students who grew up with strict grammar schooling. Remember that you only study grammar in order to communicate. Practice with a few exercises, then write an essay or have a conversation and try to use your new tools.

• Isolate your weak points. Don't waste time on grammar exercises that you already understand just because they are easier for you. Concentrate on grammar that is difficult for you. If you are unsure of where your problems are, write a few short essays or paragraphs, and ask a teacher to circle repeated errors. Then you can look up your problem and practice it.

• Stay organized. Keep separate notebooks for exercises, writing, and vocabulary.
• Study in short, regular periods.
• Allow a short amount of time for review.
• Study in a place where you feel happy and comfortable.
• Don't allow distractions. Consider email, TV, and the telephone (unless in English) off limits while you are studying.
• Have a drink and snack handy so that you don't have to get up.
• If you study in pairs or groups, make an English-only rule.
Visit an English-Speaking Country
• Take a language holiday.
• Stay with a home stay family.
• Gain access to English culture.
• Get a part-time job.
• Volunteer.
• Make friends with people from other countries.
• Become more confident.
• Offer language lessons/swap in your own native tongue.
Fun with English Ideas
• Have an English-only evening once a week. Cook in English (rewrite your recipe in English)
• Write an English love letter: If your loved one doesn't understand English that's even better!
• Rewrite fairytales, jokes or instructions in English.
• Go out and pretend you don't understand your native language (try to get by in only English).
• Go online and find the lyrics to your favorite English songs and sing along to them (use a search engine).
• Invent an English character for yourself (with job, family, etc.). Write this person's biography. Always remember that hard work pays. Practice makes one perfect.

Success is not a single entity. It is the combination of Hope+ Vision+ Hardwork. These are inseparable. Food+shelter+clothing is to any individual, whereas Hope+Vision+Hardwork is to a student. Be aware of your potential, this helps to bring in Hope. Once you are hopeful, it is time to aspire your Vision. Now put in hardwork to achieve your goal. Your efforts must be rightly channeled, otherwise without proper focus the achieved task will not be of use. Guided attempts are sure to hit the target!

University of Niwra is built upon people's vision: UNI Vision 2009. The Board of Trustees and the University Academic Council always visualize the growth of this institution with the growth of the society. Their vision could be attained easily with the contribution of the faculty, the staff and the students. UoN aims at UNI Vision 2009 through the society. Because it foresees victory with serving the society, which undoubtedly leads to the upliftment of society. Educating the youth is a noble service to the Society. Well-educated citizens are the strength of Omani Society. Standard of the society, once improved with education, decides the future of the country.

UoN is determined to undertake every student at the entry-level with another mission of returning the same as well-trained UoN product to Society. UoN products are expected to re-enter society after spending 5 years-learning with more knowledge, more confidence, more achievements, etc. etc.

UoN's faculty looks at each student as a piece of gold. Hard-core gold is melt and beaten into thin strands to make a jewel out of it. A masterpiece is created with the hands of a sculptor, of course with repeated chisel-beatings. Similarly, raw-education from the books is not sufficient. Hence the faculty is expected not only to educate but also to teach and mould the students into desired shape.

Who, actually, decides the 'desired shape'? Truly, it is the desire of the SOCIETY. Society waits to see its products as omnipotent 'success' in the whole-wide world. Purpose of education never ends with learning, but gets completed by applying the skills, learnt in any campus, to LIFE. The teachers' vision is to show their students 'how to live their Life'.

Every ward in the hands of a teacher waits to be moulded into the required shape, to attain his/her own personality. The development in the student's personality decides the hallmark of Confidence. Thus every proud, educated UoN personality walks back home (Society), certainly with Confidence to achieve!!

Witness your growth in the growth of University of Niwra. Join hands with UoN as its success lies in your educational march.

Mrs. Uma G Rajan, M.A, M.Phil.,
Instructor, Department of English,
University of Niwra

Good Luck!

Grow with your University of Niwra

Welcome to Freshers and Welcome Back Ever-Freshers!

Every living being looks ahead of one's own life with a VISION. An early bird starts its day with a mission to achieve. Once it is achieved, success is overwhelming. A common crow rejoices by accomplishing its vision, then why not you? Get yourself armed; Equip yourself with profound knowledge. Certainly you are privileged in this world, because you can quench the thirst of knowledge preventing yourself from the wear-and-tear of searching. Everything you need, everything you demand, everything you dream of is readily available within the campus of University of Niwra. Today's Youth can do wonders to make your alma mater and your country to feel proud of you.

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استقبال ٨٠ عضوا في الهيئة الأكاديمية من حملة الدكتوراه و٢٠ من حملة الماجستير

و تم تعيين الأستاذ الدكتور وليد عبد الملك ذنون عميدا لكلية الهندسة والعمارة، وعين الدكتور أيهم الرحاوي عميدا مساعدا بكلية. إضافة إلى تعيين الدكتور صالح محمد الرواضية عميدا مساعدا للدراسات الجامعية بكلية العلوم والآداب والدكتور نذير الدالعة عميدا مساعدا للتدريب بذات الكلية. وذلك انطلاقا من حرص الجامعة على توفير هيئة أكاديمية على مستوى عال من الإعداد: تساعدها على بناء الطالب الجامعي والرقي بمستواه العلمي.

استقبلت الجامعة حوالي ٨٠ عضوا في هيئة الأكاديمية من حملة الدكتوراه و٢٠ من حملة الماجستير في تخصصات متنوعة. كما تم تعيين الأستاذ الدكتور صبحي علي محمود عميدا لكلية الصيدلة والتمريض وعينت الدكتورة نفسية شمس الدين عميد مشارك للتمريض بكلية الصيدلة والتمريض، والدكتور أوسكار تورونجان عميدا مساعدا للدراسات الجامعية بذات الكلية، وعين الأستاذ قاسم أحمد الريامي عميدا مساعدا للتدريب بكلية الصيدل والتمريض.

إضافة جديدة بمكتبة الجامعة



حرصا من الجامعة على مواكبة أهم التطورات التكنولوجية الحديثة اشتركت المكتبة في قواعد بيانات تطرح عددا من الدوريات الإلكترونية منها: Info Trac One file وتضم هذه القاعدة ١١٠٠٠ دورية، وأكثر من ٦٥٠٠ عنوانا بالنص الكامل تغطي موضوعات متعددة في الزراعة، والفنون، والاقتصاد، والعلوم السياسية وغيرها.

وتعرف القاعدة الثانية بـ Proquest 5000 وتشمل على ١٠٠٠٠ دورية و٤٤٠٠ عنوانا كلها بالنص الكامل، كما وتغطي هذه العناوين موضوعات في مجالات متعددة. أما Journals: Taylor and Francis فهي تحوي أكثر من ١١٢٦ عنوانا بالنص الكامل، كما تساعد المطلاع على إمكانية الوصول لعناوين بحثية قديمة تعود إلى عام ١٩٩٧م. وقد نظمت الجامعة لطلابها بالتعاون

جامعة نزوى تشارك في المخيم الكشفي العالمي عبر شبكة الإنترنت



رعى سعادة المكرم الدكتور أحمد بن خلفان الرواحي رئيس الجامعة افتتاح المخيم الكشفي العالمي على شبكة الإنترنت الذي عقد يومي ٢٠-٢١ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٧م. وقد تعاون جواله وجواله الجامعة مع مدرسة محمد بن جعفر الأزكوي؛ حيث وضعت الجامعة كافة الإجراءات من خلال الإعداد والتجهيز لهذا الحدث العالمي بقاعة الاجتماعات الكبرى بالجامعة تحت إشراف رئيس الجامعة ومدير شؤون الطلاب ومدير نظم المعلومات وقائد عشائر الجواله بالجامعة. اشتملت الإجراءات بتوسيع قاعدة المشاركة في المخيم وعقد اجتماع تمهدي لتنسيق الجهود بين قادة من المفوضية الكشفية بالمنطقة الداخلية وعشائر الجواله والجواله بالجامعة؛ لتوزيع العمل على اللجان كل في اختصاصه وتشجيع الفرق التابعة لها من مختلف المراحل للمشاركة على البرنامج الذي سيتم استخدامه مباشرة في المحطة، وكذلك تسليمهم دليل المدارس المشاركة لتعريفهم بتلك الخبرات الفنية. وقد تم تقديم الدعم الفني على مدار الساعة والمشاركة من خلال الربط مع المحطة الرئيسية بشمال الباطنة للمحادثة كتابيا على شبكة الانترنت. ولم يتخلف جواله وجواله الجامعة في المشاركة بهذا الحدث العالمي الذي يقام سنويا بهدف إتاحة الفرصة للكشافيين من مختلف دول العالم لتنمية العلاقات والصدقات وتعزيز روابط الأخوة وتبادل الخبرات فيما بينهم. ومع اللحظة الأولى من فجر يوم السبت ٢٠/١٠/٢٠ انطلقت الاتصالات من محطة الباطنة شمال

إنا في جامعة نزوى نؤمن إيمانا راسخا إن الفكر الإيجابي سر من أسرار النجاح للفرد والأمة معا. وسنعمل جاهدين على تعزيز هذا الفكر لدى أسرة الجامعة طلابا وموظفين فاستمروا هذه التجربة لرغم مستويات نجاحكم المنشود بزيادة قدراتكم في هذا المجال الحيوي الهام.

لن أعد هنا ما أضافته الجامعة منذ انطلاقتها وما ستضيفه في قابل الأيام بالحرم المبدئي والحرم الرئيس للجامعة لأنتي واثق. ولله الحمد والمنة. أنكم ستعيشونه واقعا حيا، وسترون ذلك بأب أعينكم، فليس من رأى كمن علم، بل ليس من جرب كمن أبحر.

أدعو الله لكم بالسداد والتوفيق وأن يلهمنا وإياكم أسباب الخير والعطاء والصلاح والنجاح. ولا يفوتني باسمكم جميعا أن أسجل عظيم الشكر والامتنان لمولاي حضرة صاحب الجلالة السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم - حفظه الله ورعاه - الذي تعهد النماء في عُمان بجميع أشكاله ومجالاته وهذا الصرح المعرفي شرف برعايته الكريمة منذ أن كان فكرة وتواصلت مكارمه واحدة تلو أخرى بل واحدة تلو أخرى.

عظم الله الأجر، ونفع الله بهذا العمل الأمة جمعاء. والله ولي السداد ومنه نستسلم العون والتوفيق...»

الجامعة لن تدخر جهدا في توفير كل المقومات اللازمة لبيئة تعليمية متكاملة



أحمد بن خلفان الرواحي

لقد اثبت هذا الصرح العلمي الذي يزداد مع الأيام رسوخا وشموخا، وتثبت بكل ثقة واقتدار أنه نعم المدد والامتداد لعراقة علمية موعلة في التاريخ، راسخة في العطاء والتفاعل البناء والأسهام الفكري والحضاري الخلاق. وقال إنني إذ أرحب بكم كوكبة أخرى تنضم إلى طلائع المعرفة السابقة، فإنني أدعوكم لتشمروا عن ساعد الجد في استثمار هذه الفترة من أعماركم بما يرفع من قدراتكم العلمية والفكرية، وبما يمكنكم من صقل مواهبكم ودعم مهارات الاتصال والتفكير النقدي البناء وسائر مهارات الحياة، والتفاعل اللازم لإثراء حياتكم وتهئية الفرص الأفضل أمامكم لا سيما في ميادين العمل التي أضحت عالمية المعايير لا تحابي إلا شرف الانتساب الكفء إلى هذه المهارات والقدرات. وأؤكد إن جامعة نزوى كمؤسسة علمية أهلية ذات نفع عام لن تدخر جهدا في توفير كل المقومات اللازمة لبيئة تعليمية متكاملة. وما فتئت الجامعة منذ لحظاتها الأولى بمد المنتظمين بها بأسباب التميز من هيئات أكاديمية وفنية وإدارية عالية التاهيل والقدرات وبني أساسية من مختبرات وتجهيزات وقاعات وفق أعلى المواصفات، ونظم وقواعد أكاديمية ثرية بعميق تجربتها وعراقتها في مؤسسات علمية عالمية مرموقة.

إن حسن الاستفادة من سنين الدراسة في الجامعة لن يتأتى إلا لمن أوتي الرغبة الذاتية للتعلم واكتساب الفضائل ومهارات الحياة، ثم ترجم تلك الرغبة إلى جهد متصل للفهم، وتوسيع مدارك الاطلاع من خلال الانضباط في حضور المحاضرات، والمشاركة التفاعلية في التطبيقات العملية والميدانية، وأداء الواجب على الوجه الأنم والأكمل وحسن الاستفادة من سائر الموارد والطاقات التي تتيحها بيئة الجامعة المنشدة للإبداع والتميز والتفوق.

إننا في جامعة نزوى نؤمن إيمانا راسخا إن الفكر الإيجابي سر من أسرار النجاح للفرد والأمة معا. وسنعمل جاهدين على تعزيز هذا الفكر لدى أسرة الجامعة طلابا وموظفين فاستمروا هذه التجربة لرغم مستويات نجاحكم المنشود بزيادة قدراتكم في هذا المجال الحيوي الهام.

لن أعد هنا ما أضافته الجامعة منذ انطلاقتها وما ستضيفه في قابل الأيام بالحرم المبدئي والحرم الرئيس للجامعة لأنتي واثق. ولله الحمد والمنة. أنكم ستعيشونه واقعا حيا، وسترون ذلك بأب أعينكم، فليس من رأى كمن علم، بل ليس من جرب كمن أبحر.

أدعو الله لكم بالسداد والتوفيق وأن يلهمنا وإياكم أسباب الخير والعطاء والصلاح والنجاح. ولا يفوتني باسمكم جميعا أن أسجل عظيم الشكر والامتنان لمولاي حضرة صاحب الجلالة السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم - حفظه الله ورعاه - الذي تعهد النماء في عُمان بجميع أشكاله ومجالاته وهذا الصرح المعرفي شرف برعايته الكريمة منذ أن كان فكرة وتواصلت مكارمه واحدة تلو أخرى بل واحدة تلو أخرى.

عظم الله الأجر، ونفع الله بهذا العمل الأمة جمعاء. والله ولي السداد ومنه نستسلم العون والتوفيق...»

سعادة الدكتور المكرم أحمد بن خلفان الرواحي رئيس جامعة نزوى