

## ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS

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**Abstract.** Learning a new language can be a difficult task, but if you make it fun and entertaining for yourself, think about the use in your daily life and what benefits it can bring you – it will become much easier to do.

**Keywords:** language, learning, English, linguistics.

**Introduction.** Learning anything becomes way more tedious if you make it an obligation for yourself, set up a schedule, come up with goals and reasons "why". Taking up any hobby ends up way more successfully if you don't think what it will give you in the future and how you will implement all of your plans related to it [1].

Most of people who use English in the Internet for communication and watching content are not native speakers and barely learnt the language on purpose [2]. Each person has their own reasons of why they made that choice and turned to the English segment of the Internet.

It may be unpopular hobbies, narrowly targeted forums or communities, or even better and more reliable sources of information. A lot of content you receive daily has its roots coming from the West: music, videos, apps, games, etc. And you could've missed it because you don't exist in the English-speaking Internet, so other people adapt it for your mother-tongue and get all the credits.

**Materials and methods.** Let's talk about the best ways of unintentional learning that I've came up with.

- Reading. Usually, the best sources of information are English ones since it's the international language and has the widest user base than any other. Wide user base provides a lot of good and valuable content that you may enjoy: various articles on endless amounts of topics for any need or interest, translation of all sorts of literature, guides, top lists, etc., that, for some reason, haven't been made in your mother-tongue.

- Listening. Usually series, movies and cartoons sound better in the original language than in the dub, because acting is performed by trained professionals who don't simply read the text, but express all the emotions with their body language fully fitted into the role. Often voice acting just lacks the soul because of the deadlines or absence of interest from the voice actor's side. You also get to hear various accents and the words they have.

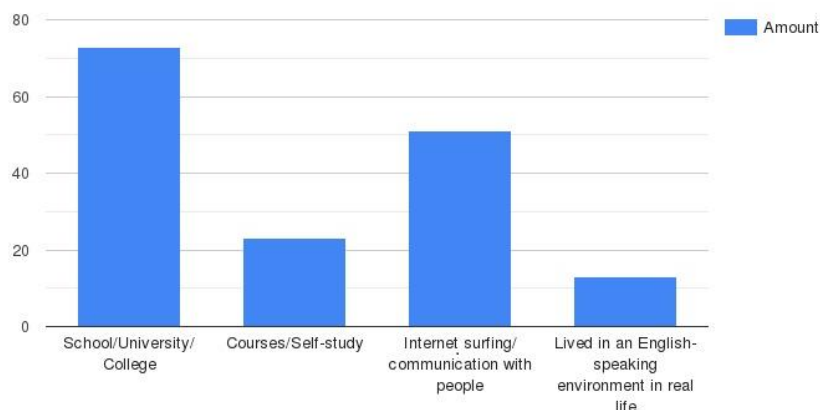
- Communication. The combination of both previous methods. You listen to a lot of casual talks and get used to stable expressions and proper usage of the articles along with the prepositions, so you won't need to remember the rules of how to use them all correctly. You start using what you hear in your speech and, due to it, you practice your pronunciation with the accent. Plus, other people can point you to your mistakes and besides that, the most important part is to meet new people and make new friends. Knowledge of the language opens up huge abilities and perspectives, such as job opportunity, useful connections and perhaps even love. People relocating to their online friends is not a rare thing at all, people in online communities have personality behind the screen just like everyone you know in real life and you enjoy spending time with them even without their physical presence.

**Pros and cons.** What are the pros and the cons of online English learning by yourself?

The indisputable advantages are reliability and enjoyment. You don't get burnt out and you learn the language steadily, step by step, without even noticing it, just using it as you need in your daily life, without paying attention to language rules. You will manage to understand the jokes and lyrics of your favorite songs and you don't have an urge to wait for the translation of something you like to watch or read.

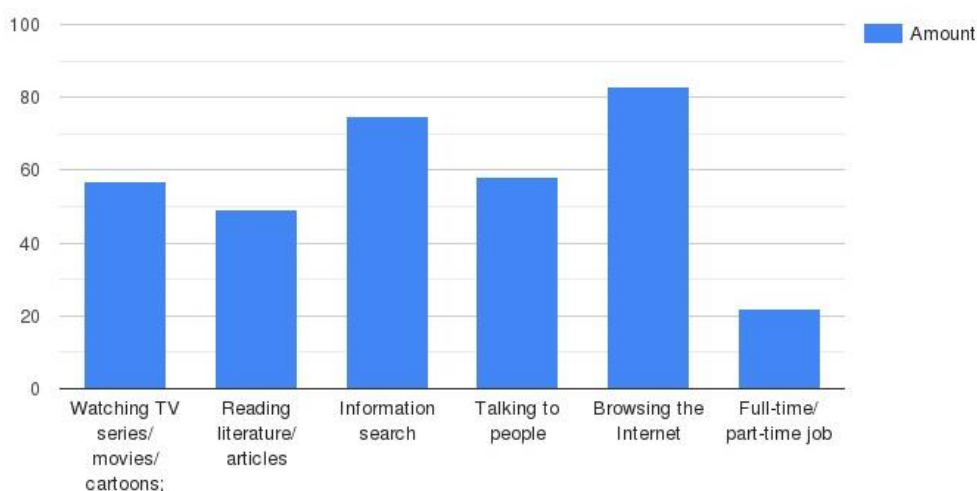
However, the disadvantages, are also present, but in the end it's slower than a fully paid course in a specialized school where professionals will teach you really well in just a few months. Learning the English language surfing the Internet will give you good, but unbalanced knowledge. Communication with native speakers is one thing, but gaining proper grammar rules is another, besides, you get to hear a whole bunch of various accents: American, British, Australian, Irish and so on, which are far from standard English accepted as 'correct' [3].

**Conclusion.** Is it worth learning English? Definitely and undoubtedly – yes. I've asked 100 people two different questions with an ability to choose more than one option: “Where did you get knowledge of English?” and “How do you use English in everyday life?”. The results are shown on pictures 1 and 2.



Picture 1 – Results of the survey “Where did you get knowledge of English?”

Educational institution has shared their knowledge to more than 70% of the respondents. Courses and self-studying resulted with almost 25% of the knowledge. Almost a half of the skill is due to the unintended Internet surfing and human communication. English-speaking environment is the smallest number of respondents, though it doesn't mean that it's a bad way to learn the language, it just means that not a lot of people lived in the country where English is the national language.



Picture 2 – Results of the survey “How do you use English in everyday life?”

As you see from picture 1, most of the daily English usage falls onto video content. The most popular services among such ones are YouTube, Twitch and TikTok. The second and less popular option is “looking for information” as much more valuable information is presented in English. «Reading literature/articles» crosses the mark of 50 %, but it's not as popular as series, movies and

cartoons, that practically shares the spot with communication being around 60%. And the least popular option now is a full-time or part-time job.

In this article I told you how easy, fun and useful English can be for anyone and I hope this subject matter was of interest to you.

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## **АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ДЛЯ ЛЮБОЗНАТЕЛЬНЫХ**

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**Аннотация.** Изучение нового языка может быть трудной задачей, но, если вы сделаете процесс изучения веселым и интересным, подумаете об использовании языка в вашей повседневной жизни и преимуществах, которые он может принести вам - эта задача станет гораздо проще.

**Ключевые слова:** язык, изучение, английский, лингвистика