



Learning English - Outside of Class

If you want to learn some more English outside of class, here are some ideas.

Learning English – Outside of Class: Some Ideas

- A Tandem partner. The idea is that two people with different languages get together and help each other learn the other's language. You don't pay, you don't actually "teach", you don't hold classes, you help each other learn. In this case, if you want to learn more English, you look for a native speaker of English who wants to learn your language (German or whatever). The Tandem Team in the SLI will help you find a partner. You can contact them in room E 715.
- In the Selbstlernzentrum (SLZ) of the SLI you can use cassettes, CDs, videos and the accompanying books to help you learn. There are, for example, materials to help you prepare for the IELTS Exam or the Cambridge Proficiency Exams.
- In the Selbstlernzentrum (SLZ) you can also sit down and enjoy videos in English, whether feature films, documentaries, or TV soaps – there is a big selection available. (In the SLZ you will also find a separate folder with details of all the video material relating to Scotland.) Watch whatever interests you.
- You can also watch English language television in the SLZ, for example BBC World, with a wide range of topics, not just the news. If you are relatively up-to-date on current affairs in your mother tongue, it isn't difficult to understand the English version of world news and learn the equivalent vocabulary. That is a really effective way of practising listening comprehension and enlarging vocabulary.
- In the Mediothek (in the university library) you can select materials for learning English (books, videos, cassettes, CDs), use them there, or take them home with you (and listen to English while you are washing the dishes!)

- In the library there are newspapers and journals in English from several English-speaking countries. Take a quarter of an hour, regularly, to skim through one of them. As said above, if you are relatively up-to-date on world news in your mother tongue, it isn't difficult to understand the English version of world news and learn the equivalent vocabulary. What I personally find really interesting is when an English-language newspaper reports on events or issues in Germany, as that way you get to know how to express the things that are important for you in Germany, in the English language.
- In the library there are also many books in English, both fiction and non-fiction, and the fiction is not just the classics of English Literature. Try the "Reading for Pleasure" list also available at FindYourFeet. You will find Adventure, Detective Stories, Romance, Historical novels – everything.
- There is a steadily increasing number of good books which have been turned into good films. You could read the book, watch the film, read the book again – or vice versa. For a list of books/films see [FyF_cm_fictionfilm.doc](#).
- If you are looking for a video (whether feature film or documentary, comedy series or interview etc) with a special topic or a particular accent, come and ask. I have my own databank of most of the English language videos in the SLI and the Mediothek. You can choose according to topic, genre, regional accent etc. (Not every film made in Australia actually has Australian English; not every film made in Scotland actually has Scottish English and so on.) Listening to the accent of the country you want to go to is quite useful when you're preparing for a stay abroad.
- Buy yourself a magazine in English from time to time, the kind of magazine that reflects your interests or hobbies. After all, if you love fashion and know lots about it in German, you are going to learn the English words so easily when you read a fashion magazine in English. That is much more effective than looking up words in a translation dictionary.
- If you need more help or advice, please contact us, the English Section, in our office hours. But please make sure you read this sheet carefully first.

My basic learning-message is: human beings are amazing detectives and can learn so much if they follow their own interests with suitable materials.

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