

## IMPROVING ENGLISH FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION

By

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Hello Reader!

Try out these tips, and see how far you can really go!

- **1. NEWSY!** Get the national news in English (for atleast 15 mins everyday ) on radio, cable, TV or the internet.
  - NDTV
  - CNN IBN
  - ET NOW
  - Times Now
- **Extra! Extra!** Watch the old news in English for a refreshing perspective.
  - Fox News
  - CNN (Cable News Network)
  - ABC (Australia Broadcasting Network)
  - MSNBC (NBC Universal News Group)
  - BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)
  - DW (Deutsche Welle)
- **2. SHOWTIME ! Let's Talk!** Catch engaging personalities/ vibrant group discussions / talks/ interviews/ interactive, improvised comedy/ expert analysis/commentary on
  - Quest Means Business
  - Whoaily Show (John Stewart)
- **That's Life!** Journey along with participants on hugely popular reality/ comedy-drama TV series and talk Shows
  - The Big Bang Theory
  - Psych
  - AFV (America's Funniest Home Videos)
  - The Tonight's Show with Jimmy Fallon
  - The Colbert Report
  - Jimmy Kimmel Live!
  - The Late Show with David Letterman

- Saturday Night Live!
- Frasier/ The Simpsons
- **3. MUSIC! Where's my music? Listen to English music and songs on**
  - VH1
  - MTV
  - Channel V
- **And then some!** The internet has multiple cross-platform adware media players which play radio-stations and new music and genres, too! Download apps from the internet radio play store and tune in with these online music player:
  - YouTube
  - Grooveshark
  - Pandora
  - Spotify
  - Real Player
  - 8Tracks
- **4. RADIO! Radio Gaga: Calling all radio buffs!** Listen to 3000+ free world wide English live online internet Radio stations from around the world. There's news , current events & sports and your favorite genre of music!
  - CBC Radio
  - BBC Radio
  - VOA
  - Live 365
  - Yahoo Radio
  - ABC Radio Australia

Improve your English listening using the radio. Get **free** online monthly lessons, tests and activities at [www.learnenglish-online.com/listening/radio.html](http://www.learnenglish-online.com/listening/radio.html). Listen to podcasts online, featuring on-demand topics and episodes, location, contact, schedule and broadcast information at [www.tunein.com/radio/English-as-a-second-language-p349813](http://www.tunein.com/radio/English-as-a-second-language-p349813) and also at [www.tunein.com/radio/Language-Learning-C100000159](http://www.tunein.com/radio/Language-Learning-C100000159).

- **5. PODCAST! Podcasts** are an excellent way to pick up English quickly. They are short (between 1-5 mins), entertaining, informative and free. Listen to **free** daily podcasts, audio lessons (plus Word of the Day, quizzes, and vibrant user community) on your computer or downloadable through the **iTunes** store onto your mp3 player/Android. There are programmes across 4 levels (beginners, intermediate, upper intermediate & advanced), with transcripts teaching grammar & vocabulary.

Here's a short list of first rate (U.S. & British) English podcasts- from some of the best online English language schools on **iTunes**/websites:

- Happy English(U.S.)
- British Council Learn English
- Culips ESL Podcasts
- All Ears English(U.S.)
- Listen to English by Peter Carter(British)
- Voice of America Learning English
- BBC World Service: The English we speak(British)
- English Class 101
- Splendid Speaking
- **6. TALK , AND HOW! Take a lesson to TED(Technology, Entertainment, Design) talks.** TED is a non-profit devoted to **Ideas Worth Spreading** through **TED.com**, annual conferences, the annual TED prize and local TED events. As of Feb 2015, over 1,900 TED talks are freely available on the website, covering technology & design, science, culture and assorted topics.  
Download TED's official Android app for **free** and start listening !
- **TED Books** (launched Sept 2014) are original books from TED, and are like the talks long enough to explore a powerful idea but short enough to read in a single sitting.
- **7. DEBATE! Exercise those grey cells with Intelligence Squared Debates** @[www.intelligencesquared.com](http://www.intelligencesquared.com) (the world's leading forum for provocative & informative debates and intelligent discussion) on today's hot topics. Rethink your point of view with

America's leading debate series recorded live in New York City. Listen to debates, watch videos, download past episodes/ subscribe to future episodes for **free** on the **iTunes** store.

- **8. THE DAILY BUZZ! Extra! Read all about it!** Hot coffee and the paper , anyone? Make time to read your **local English language newspaper** every day.
- Why not browse **the world's national English language n e w s papers** online? An added bonus: comment on the news / articles of general interest & discuss them with random people and so prompt debate , banter and real-world conversation. Find resources at
  - [www.onlinenewspapers.com](http://www.onlinenewspapers.com)
  - [www.thepaperboy.com](http://www.thepaperboy.com)
  - [www.world-newspapers.com](http://www.world-newspapers.com)
- Look up **English epapers/ news aggregators/ world news blogs** online at ,for instance -[www.nbcnews.com/news/world/](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/) [www.abcnews.go.com/blogs/topics/show/world-news/](http://www.abcnews.go.com/blogs/topics/show/world-news/) [www.csmonitor.com /World](http://www.csmonitor.com/World) for the latest news. Get timely updates , analysis and opinion, coverage of politics, entertainment , style, science & technology, comedy , sports and world news.
- Cut interesting articles from the newspaper, date them and drop them in a box: and you'll soon have a first- rate personal library of your own, always at hand. As you browse the web, begin **bookmarking** (marking a document for later retrieval ) your favorites. Nearly all browsers (Mozilla Firefox/Google Chrome/ Internet Explorer/Opera/Safari/Maxthon/SeaMonkey/Torch) support a bookmarking feature that lets you save the address (URL) of a web page so you can easily re-visit the page later. Now put your favorites in a an appropriately labeled file /s on your computer/ smartphone/ tablet , and you're all set to go!
- **9. WEBSITES!** Explore! Access **websites** that report news, voice opinions, and feature red-hot issues along with web-specific content (travel , literature, politics and digital culture), like
  - The Daily Beast
  - The Onion

- Wired Magazine
- The Atlantic
- The Daily Dot
- The Smithsonian Magazine
- Ars Technica
- The Huffington Post
- Lifehacker
- **10. BAG THOSE MAGS! Read an English magazine a week!**
  - **English Language Learning:** Hot English/ Just English/ Business English/ Cool English/ I love English!
- **11. BOOK 'EM! Free Ebooks!** Discover and browse ebooks (plus new releases and the best free public domain & original books). Download or read online at:
  - [www.readanybook.com](http://www.readanybook.com)
  - [www.bestfreebooks.net](http://www.bestfreebooks.net)
  - [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)
- There's also the **Amazon Kindle**, ebook readers (Rs 1999 Rs 4999) designed and marketed by Amazon.com
- Access [www.englishpage.com/readingroom/readingroomintro.html](http://www.englishpage.com/readingroom/readingroomintro.html) for **free** online English newspapers/ Books & Literature/ magazines/ reference materials and libraries. Buy a print subscription and read free emags, epapers, ebooks, ecatalogues and ejournals at [www.ezinemart.com](http://www.ezinemart.com)
- Check out [www.english-maganize.com](http://www.english-maganize.com) for its vast resources of graded reading and listening material for English learners at 3 levels: Level A1 A2 (beginner), Level B1 B2 (intermediate) and Level C1 C2 (advanced).
- **12. ALL EARS! Audio Books, Free!** Listen as you commute, sweat it out ay the or spend a chilled-out day at home resting. Pick from 2800+ free audio books, all mp3/ Android/ iPhone and iPod compatible. Download or stream them at <https://www.librivox.org/> [www.audiobooks.org/](http://www.audiobooks.org/) [www.loyalbooks.com/](http://www.loyalbooks.com/) <https://www.librivox.org>. Also check our <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.crossforward.audiobooks&hl=en> this app keeps your place for you with automatic book marking across

your whole library. It's been updated to include a sleep timer, bug fixes and download performance boost.

- **13. COMICS!** Download and read free comics and comic books (Including recent and hot releases). Online on your iPhone, iPad, Kindle fire, Andoid, Windows or browser at [www.readadcentertainment.com/free-comics](http://www.readadcentertainment.com/free-comics) or [www. newsarama. com/ topic/ free-online-comic-books](http://www.newsarama.com/topic/free-online-comic-books).
- **14. GRAPHIC NOVELS! More pictures, anyone?** Graphic novels are like comic books (combining words and pictures) and widely accepted today, 20 years on! They're generally stand-alone stories, unlike comics. Look them up on the internet public library at [www.ippl.org/div/graphicnovels/gnsHistBasics.html](http://www.ippl.org/div/graphicnovels/gnsHistBasics.html) or shop for them [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).
- **15. SPOKEN ENGLISH TEXTS-HERE AND NOW!** Look up **Karadi Tales ([www.karaditales.com](http://www.karaditales.com))** for their critically-acclaimed audio books, picture books, video books ipad apps.
- Check out these spoken English texts from CIEFL (now English foreign languages University ), Hyderabad:
  - G Radhakrishna Pillai & K Rjeevan: Spoken English for You-Level 1 (Emerald Publishers, Egmore)
  - V Sasikumar & P V Dhamija : Spoken English (with CD) - A Self -Learning Guide to Conversation Practice (2 Edition ,Tata McGraw Hill Education Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi)
- Browse, shop at Cambridge University Press and download a wide range of resources at [www.cambridge.org/gb/ cambrid geenglish/](http://www.cambridge.org/gb/cambridgeenglish/) and [www.cambridgeindia.org/ catindex, asp? criteria=elt](http://www.cambridgeindia.org/catindex.asp?criteria=elt) including books, courses foe English for special purposes.
- Here are 3 graded series from Oxford University Press:
  - 1) ECHOES: A Course in Listening & Speaking ( Books 1-10/Class 1-10, with CD-Rom) by K Rajeevan & Shefali Ray
  - 2) ACTIVE ENGLISH : A Comprehensive English Language Course(Books 1-5/ class 1-5 , with ebook CD by DH Howe
  - 3) AVENUES: A Course on Developing English skills (Books 1-8/class 1-8) by Jayashri kannan, Shefali Ray & Vandana Sin

- Look at two from Orient Black Swan Pvt Ltd:
  - 1) **SPEAK ENGLISH!** Books 1-10/class 1-10(with CD) by **Don Dallas**
  - 2) **Spoken english: A Foundation course (Revised edition)**, Parts 1 &2 by **Kamlesh Sadanand & Susheela Punitha**
- **16. BLOOKS! It's a book! No, it'a a blook!!!** Browse **internet books(blooks)** - printed books containing content that first appeared on a blog. Bloggers who've published books **Salaam Pax**, **Ellen Simonetti**, **Jessica Cutler** and **ScrappleFace**, with blogger **Tucker Max** making it to The New York Times' Bestseller list.
- New Yorker **Julie Powells's** hugely popular blog, **The julie/ Julia Project (2002)** was made into the hit movie, **Julie and Julia (2009)**- starring **Meryl streep** (as acclaimed chef Julia child and **Amy Adams** (as a lowly call centre employee in a dead-end job), the first major motion picture based on a blog.
- **17. A Comic/book/magazine, anyone?**
- **The Little Free Library** ([www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)) is just that: a box full of books! Stop by, pick up a book, and bring back another to share.
- **Amazons's Lendind Library** is a great treat for kindle-owing Prime numbers: nearly 3,00,000 ebooks to read for free. And [www.Lifehacker.com/5985336/here's-how-to-see-all-the-books-you-can-borrow-for-free-on-your-kindle-from-your-browser-for-free](http://www.Lifehacker.com/5985336/here's-how-to-see-all-the-books-you-can-borrow-for-free-on-your-kindle-from-your-browser-for-free) tells you just how!
- **18. BLOG!!!** Read, write, contribute to, or make money with one! Learn what blogging's all about as you look at some of the world's most powerful blogs:
- The Huffington Post (Founder: Arianna Huffington, 2005) @ [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)
- Boing Boing (Jan 2000) @ [www.boingboing.net](http://www.boingboing.net)
- Techcrunch (Founder: Michael Arrington, 2005) @ [www.techcrunch.com](http://www.techcrunch.com)
- Kottke (Founder: Jason Kottke, 1998) @ [www.kottke.org](http://www.kottke.org)
- Dooce (Founder: Heather Armstrong, 2001) @ [www.dooce.com](http://www.dooce.com)

- Talking points memo (Founder: Joshua Mica Marshall,2000) @ [www.talkingpointsmemo.com](http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com)
- Xu Jinglei (Founder: Xu Jinglei, 2005) @ [www.blog.sina.com.cn/xujinglei](http://www.blog.sina.com.cn/xujinglei)
- Subscribe to language/ culture..blogs such as [www.fluentu.com](http://www.fluentu.com), [www.rosetta.com/blog](http://www.rosetta.com/blog) or <https://blogs.transparent.com> and get immersed in real-world language.
- **19. GET DINNER AND A MOVIE!** Catch quality **English Movies**. Pick a movie/movies of your choice, and watch over the weekend. Use the English subtitles provided (downloadable if they aren't provided) to enhance fluency.
- **20. ONLINE LANGUAGE LEARNING!** Learn English (online) from any of the **Online English Language Schools** listed above. Create a free account and select your level. Provide your email address and join up, or sign up using **Facebook**. Get to learn the language and culturally relevant lessons. Use a mobile app, desktop software and website that feature English lessons. There are also **Hangouts** with tips on grammar and different aspects of speaking English, and people from around the world discussing what's been presented.
- **21. YOUTUBE TOO!** Learn **English on Youtube** through free videos and a wide variety of language learning materials. Pause, rewind and re-learn. Plus, watch a video again later by signing in to add a video to a playlist. Use **Youtube** playlists for subject listings.  
Great **Youtube** channels for learning (American and British) English:
  - Real English (Michael Marzio, U.S)Linguas pectrum Interesting English (British)
  - BBC World Service: The English We Speak (British)Holmwood's Online Learning
  - British Council Learn English Kids (British) Learn American EnglishOnline (Paul, U.S)
  - VOA Learning English (U.S) Learn English 232 (U.S)
  - JenniferESL (U.S) Business English Pod
  - EnglishClass101 Speak English with