

Language learning opinions

Learner training and opinions language practice

Read through the following ideas for studying English and mark each one with a tick for good ideas and a cross for bad ideas (not thinking about it too much, just going on your first impressions). If there are several ideas on one line, rank each one.

- Arranging a conversation exchange
- Doing exercises in self-study grammar books and vocab books
- Drawing pictures of the words you want to learn
- English language exams
- English language exercise videos
- Finding a pen friend
- Getting tipsy (= a little drunk) before speaking English
- Going to an English pub and starting conversations
- Having a foreign boyfriend or girlfriend
- Having English radio on in the background while you are doing your housework
- Keeping a diary in English
- Keeping a list of language to learn, and going through it several times a day
- Labelling things in your house or office with their English names
- Learning a famous speech or poem in English by heart
- Learning and using the phonemic script
- Learning as many words as you can of one category, e.g. 100 animal words
- Listening to audio books/ English music/ English tapes when you are asleep
- Listening to the radio news in English
- Modelling your accent on one particular actor, e.g. trying to speak like Robert De Niro
- Occasionally talking to or e-mailing your local friends in English
- Online chat
- Playing English language learning video games
- Reading a grammar book/ an English-language newspaper/ children's books in English
- Reading classic books (e.g. Shakespeare or Charles Dickens) in the original
- Reading graded readers (= easy readers)
- Reading the lyrics of English songs, e.g. from a CD jacket or on the internet
- Recording your own voice speaking English
- Saying or thinking what you are doing in English ("I am unscrewing the bottle cap", etc.)
- Singing in English, e.g. doing karaoke in English
- Starting conversations with foreign people you see on the train.
- Starting English lessons very young, e.g. when you are two
- Taking holidays abroad
- Translating to and/ or from English
- Using a dictionary while you are watching a movie/ an English-English dictionary
- Watching English children's films or TV programmes
- Watching English films with subtitles in your own language
- Watching English language films with English subtitles
- Watching the same film or TV episode over and over again
- Working your way through a whole dictionary
- Writing fiction in English

Ask about any which you don't understand, are not sure are a good idea, etc.

Read through the list again and label all the ideas for learning languages above by how good you think they are with a number representing your opinion as below:

- 14 This is an absolutely fabulous idea. It's one of the best ideas I've ever heard.
- 13 This is an excellent idea. It's almost guaranteed to work.
- 12 This is a great idea.
- 11 This seems like a really good idea.
- 10 I would say this is a good idea.
- 9 This could be quite a good idea.
- 8 This is not a bad idea. It could work.
- 7 This is an acceptable idea. It might be worth thinking about.
- 6 This is quite a bad idea. I doubt whether this would be any use.
- 5 This is a bad idea. I don't see how it could possibly work.
- 4 This is a very bad idea. There is no chance it could work.
- 3 This is a terrible idea. You shouldn't even consider doing this.
- 2 This is a really awful idea. It would be pretty stupid to do this.
- 1 This is a totally atrocious idea. It would be worse than doing nothing.

Use this language to give opinions on one of the ideas above until your partner guesses which one you chose.

- Frankly,...
- In my opinion,...
- If you ask me,...
- Generally speaking,...
- As far as I know,...
- The way I see it is...
- As far as I'm concerned,...
- If you want my opinion,...
- I (personally) believe that...
- Not everyone will agree with me, but...
- (This might be a bit controversial but) I would say (that)...
- Without a doubt...
- I'm convinced that...
- I'm absolutely certain that...
- I'm positive that...
- With some reservations, I'd probably say that...

- Another thing is that,...
- I would also say that...
- Perhaps I should also mention that...
- In addition,...
- Not only that, but...
- What's more,...
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