



Learning Tips

Grammar

Nobody's perfect

- We all learn by making mistakes, so don't worry about them, learn from them!
- Don't learn by translating into German or by trying to follow grammar rules. Instead, learn model sentences by heart. For example, learn the sentence: *I've been working for this company since (year xx)*. Learn keywords to help trigger the correct forms.
- Also translate sentence for sentence, not word for word. *Ich kenne ihn seit Jahren* is not *I know him since years* but *I have known him for years*.
- Watch out for "False Friends"! English-sounding words in German don't always have the same meaning in English e.g. *Handy* in German is *mobile phone* (UK) or *cell phone* (US) in English. *Handy* in English means "nützlich, praktisch" in German. See the Vocabulary Section for more False Friends and so that you don't become a steak!

At work

Copy emails from native speakers into a file

Use emails to make files of phrases and vocabulary that you can use when you write emails in English.

Out and about

Sing your favourite songs

Find the lyrics to your favourite songs online and accompany Adele and co. in the car. Your journey to and from work is also the perfect time to listen to an audio book or a fascinating podcast. While on the bus or train, or in a café or waiting at the doctor's: name the objects around you and give your vocabulary a jog!

Take a break

Holidays

Take your holidays in an English-speaking country and do all the planning for your trip in English.

At Home Sweet Home

Around the house

Write a word on a post-it and stick it onto the thing that it describes. Or make a short list of words that you want to learn and stick the list on the bathroom mirror, on the fridge, or near the front door.

In the kitchen

Cook in English

Buy an English cookbook, for example, the American classic "Joy of Cooking" by Rombauer or the English edition of a cookbook by Jamie Oliver or Otto Lenghi. You can learn a lot about food and English measurements. Look up recipes on YouTube and watch, listen and learn!

In bed

Read a book in English

Look for *Penguin Graded Readers* which are easier versions of novels. *Langenscheidt's Lernschmöker* which are written partly in German and partly in English are also fun to read. Both of these contain exercises which are integrated into the story, as well as key vocabulary.

On the couch

Stream a movie or series

Whether you prefer Bond movies, comedies, prize-winning dramas there is no shortage of great films and series to watch on streaming platforms. Try watching *Downton Abbey* or *House of Cards* or *The Big Bang Theory* either in German with English subtitles or the other way round.

Ted Talks are also entertaining, some as short as three minutes and the script can be read while you are listening for easier understanding. All Ted Talks can be downloaded for free.

At the kitchen table

Help your kids with their English homework

The best way to understand a concept is to explain it to someone else.

The Roman philosopher, Seneca, put it in a nutshell: "While we teach, we learn".