



# Learning tips: Strategies for Learning English

## **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 useful model sentences by heart. For example, learn the sentence: *"I've been working for this company since (year xx)"*.
- 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"*.
- Be careful! Not every German word that seems to be an English word has the same meaning in English. For example, the German word "Handy" is a mobile phone in Britain and a cell phone in the USA but not a handy. And a "Flat" in German is a flat rate for your phone but in English "a flat" is either "eine Wohnung" or "ein platter Reifen" but not a flat rate.

## **At work**

### **Copy emails from native speakers into a file**

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

## **In the car**

### **Listen to the words of your favourite songs on the way home from work**

On the internet, e. g. at [www.lyrics.com](http://www.lyrics.com), you can download the words to your favourite songs. The car is also the perfect place to listen to an audio book. Podcasts can be downloaded on almost any subject that interests you.

## **At the Supermarket**

### **Look at the labels**

These days you can find English everywhere. While you are queuing at the supermarket, you can read the English labels on the packets to see what each product contains.

## **At Home**

### **Put post-its everywhere**

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 in a strategic place - in the toilet, on the bathroom mirror, on the fridge, or near the front door.

## **In the Kitchen**

### **Cook with an English cookbook**

Buy an English cookbook, for example the American classic "Joy of Cooking" by Rombauer or buy the English edition of a cookbook by Jamie Oliver. You can learn a lot about food and English measurements.

## **Homework, homework, homework**

### **Help your kids with their English homework**

The best way to learn is to teach it to someone else. Help your kids with their homework.

## **In Bed**

### **Read a bedtime story**

Scientists say that people can remember things better that they read just before they fall asleep. Or why not listen to an audio book before you fall asleep?

## **On Holiday**

### **Go on holiday to an English-speaking country**

English is spoken in many different countries, which is one reason for learning the language. Take your holidays in an English-speaking country this year and do all the planning for your trip in English. Go to English websites and print out the brochures in English. If you stay in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, you can save some money and meet some very interesting people as well.

### **Read a book in English**

There are many good bilingual editions of classical novels and short stories. One page is in English and on the opposite page, you can find the German translation. There are also so-called "Graded Readers" which are easier versions of more complicated novels. In addition, you can buy short novels that are written in both English and German. Langenscheidt, for example, offers "Lernschmöker", where the story is written in German but the main character's contacts to an English-speaking country, including most of the dialogues between the main characters, are in English. These books contain exercises that are integrated into the story as well as a glossary of difficult words.