

Language Links

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7 Tips for learning a language through English newspapers

1. **Read articles just above your current reading level.** This will help you acquire new vocabulary incidentally, or by chance, as you read things you're interested in. By the same token, if you struggle to understand sentences because too many words are unfamiliar, choose something simpler.



2. **Learn to scan texts.** Scanning texts means reading through something quickly in order to get the main idea. This can be a helpful skill to learn, especially if you need to find particular information within a text. It's not always necessary to read and understand each and every word.

3. **Read without a dictionary (the first time).** Read without a dictionary, at least the first time, and guess the meanings of words you don't know. This will allow you to read an article straight through without stopping. The second or third time you read, you may want to look up some of the words you still do not understand, especially words that appear several times.

4. **Read out loud when you can.** Reading aloud helps you combine your reading time with speaking time. You can work on your pronunciation as you go along and build confidence that you can use words and expressions in the correct context.

5. **Read at your own pace.** Depending on your goal, you read as quickly or slowly as you like. If you want to consume a lot of information, try scanning an article until you find the information you are interested in. If you want to deeply understand what you are reading, go slower and spend time looking up words and reciting them.

6. **Read about topics you like!** We learn most naturally (and enjoyably) when immersed in meaningful texts. Rather than reading for the express purpose of building vocabulary and improving grammar, make sure that you are reading for to be entertained, informed, to find meaning, or be enlightened. If you read about cooking or football in your language, read about cooking or football in your target language. This way, you are more likely to come across the same vocabulary in different texts, aiding understanding and memory. This will come in handy since what you like is usually what you want to talk about with others!

7. **But...read a variety of content.** While reading about what you like will keep you engaged and help you master certain vocabulary, make sure to expose yourself to other topics. Sometimes other people will initiate conversation with you, and it is important to have a broader working vocabulary.

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By
Trisuda

Culture Corner

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How Do You Celebrate?



People everywhere celebrate the New Year. It is a time to say goodbye to the past and to think about new beginnings.

In many countries, people get together with family and friends on December 31 to eat, drink, dance, and welcome January 1 at midnight.

In many Western countries people make New Year's resolutions. They make promises to themselves to make changes in their lives over the coming year, such as to lose weight, get a new job, or learn a new skill.

In many Asian countries, people also celebrate the Lunar New Year, usually in late January or early February. People spend time with family and eat special foods. In most countries, the holiday lasts for several days.

In late February or early March, some countries celebrate a special festival called Carnival. Many think that Carnival first started in Italy or

Greece. People dressed in costumes, wore colorful masks, ate, drank, and danced all night on the Tuesday before the start of Lent. A period of time in the Christian calendar of forty days before Easter, when fasting is common. This tradition spread to France, Spain, and Portugal, and later, to Brazil and the United States.

Now, two of the biggest Carnivals take place in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and New Orleans in the United States. People still wear flamboyant costumes, and at Carnival in Rio there is a huge parade that lasts for four days.



In New Orleans, Carnival is called Mardi Gras, French meaning Fat Tuesday and lasts for three weeks. Both celebrations combine music and traditions from all over the world. Millions of visitors travel from around the world to join the party.



LET'S PARTY!

By
Piyaporn

Adapted from: Anderson, N. J. 2003. *Active Skills for Reading*. Massachusetts: Thomson Corporation.

Here's the Answer

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Job or Work



Do you know the difference between the words **job** and **work**?



You can refer to what someone does in order to get paid as their **work** or their **job**. Used in this way, **work** is uncountable so it never has 'a' in front of it and is **never** plural.

For example:

*Has he found a **job**?*

*She has had many different **jobs**.*

*Have you had a holiday **job**?*

*Have you ever been offered a **job** in a foreign country?*

*How many different part-time **jobs** have you had?*

*It's fascinating **work**.*



*What time do most people start **work** in your country?*

*Is it easy to find **work/jobs** in your country?*

*What kind of **work/job** does your father do?*

By
Napassawan

Bits And Pieces

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6 Things Really Productive People Do

Have you noticed that some people just seem to accomplish tons and still appear happy and relaxed? Here are six tips for becoming more productive.

1. Pick Your Priorities

Make choices about the activities in your life. With most endeavors, you can either go deep or go wide. Focus on spending time that for you is fun and productive. If you like big families, have them, but recognize up front that kids require time and you'll have to choose a lifestyle that supports quality time with them, for you to feel satisfied.

2. Go For Efficiency

You don't do everything well. The things you do well usually give you greater joy and require less time. Don't take on something with a steep learning curve if you don't have the available bandwidth. Design your life to meet your wants, and recognize when to say no to opportunities that are outside the scope of your desires. [Live your life by design, not default.](#)

3. Integrate Your Activities

Many people go crazy trying to figure out how to spend time with friends, family, work, play, etc. Stop trying to balance time between them all. Find ways to enjoy them in a combined manner. Build your social life around people in your work environment. Find people in your company who share common interests and develop your career around the people and activities you love. If everything is out of synch to the point where you feel pulled and stressed, a change is likely imminent one way or another.

4. Actively Manage Time-wasters

Social media, family, friends, employees, co-workers and general whiners all under certain circumstances can suck precious time from you if you let them. Budget your time for necessary activities. Make a choice to limit non-supportive interactions that don't energize you. As for social media, it can easily be a black hole for time and productivity. Use it appropriately and sparingly as a tool to support your endeavors and social needs, but lay off the Farmville.

5. Be an Active Learner

You would think [learning](#) takes more time from you, but actually there are always new tools and new ways of doing things that can save you time on mundane tasks freeing you up for your priorities. Always be looking for a new way to [gain back an hour](#) here or there. Just try it and dump it quick if it starts to drag on.

6. Lighten Up

No need to beat yourself up if you can't do all the things you want because you are handling other stuff that needs attention. It happens. [The world won't come to an end](#) in most cases just because you left a few things undone. Celebrate progress and keep refining toward a happy productive existence. This is why making lists and crossing off items is a staple in any productivity handbook. Every completion is a small victory that adds up in a big way.

Adapted from: <http://www.inc.com/kevin-daum/6-things-really-productive-people-do.html>?

By
Pimravee

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