

The Key To Excellent English

What is the most important English skill? What skill must you have to communicate well?

Obviously, number 1 is Fluency. What is fluency? Fluency is the ability to speak (and understand) English quickly and easily... **WITHOUT translation**. Fluency means you can talk easily with native speakers-- they easily understand you, and you easily understand them. In fact, you speak and understand **instantly**.

Fluency is your most important English goal.

The research is clear-- there is only **ONE** way to get fluency. You do not get fluency by reading textbooks. You do not get fluency by going to English schools. You do not get fluency by studying grammar rules.

Listening Is The Key

To get English fluency, you must have a lot of understandable repetitive **listening**. That is the **ONLY** way. To be a FANTASTIC English speaker, you must learn English **with your ears**, not with your eyes. In other words, you must listen. Your ears are the key to excellent speaking.

What kind of listening is best? Well, it must be understandable and must be repetitive. Both of those words are important-- **Understandable** and **Repetitive**.

If you don't understand, you learn nothing. You will not improve. That's why listening to English TV does not help you. You don't understand most of it. It is too difficult. It is too fast.

Its obvious right? If you do not understand, you will not improve. So, the best listening material is EASY. That's right, you should listen mostly to **easy English**. Most students listen to English that is much too difficult. They don't understand enough, and so they learn slowly. Listen to easier English, and your speaking will **improve faster!**

Understanding is Only Half The Formula.

Understanding is not enough. You must also have a lot of **repetition**. If you hear a new word only once, you will soon forget it. If you hear it 5 times, you will still probably forget it!

You must hear new words and new grammar **many times** before you will understand them **instantly**.

How many times is necessary? Most people must hear a new word **30** times to remember it forever. To know a word and instantly understand it, you probably need to hear it 50-100 times!

That's why we tell our students to listen to **all** of our lessons **many times**. We tell them to listen to

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the Mini-Stories, the Vocab Lessons, and the Conversations everyday. We recommend that they listen to each lesson a total of 30 times (for example, 2 times a day for two weeks).

So, the two **most important points** are: listen to easier English and listen to each thing many times.

Powerful Listening and Excellent Speaking

1. Practice “Narrow Listening”

“Narrow listening” means listening to many things about the same topic. This method is **more powerful** than trying to listen to many different kinds of things. Students who listen to similar things learn faster and speak better than students who listen to different kinds of things.

For example, you can choose one speaker and find many things by him. Listen to all of his podcasts, audio books, and speeches. This is powerful because all speakers have favorite vocabulary and grammar. They naturally repeat these many times. By listening to many things by the same person, you automatically get a lot of vocabulary repetition. You **learn faster** and deeper!

Another example is to choose one topic to focus on. For example, you could read an easy book, listen to the same audio book, listen to a podcast about the book, and watch the movie.

A.J. did this with his class in San Francisco. The class read “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. Then we listened to the audio book. Then we watched (and listened to) the movie. Then we listened to interviews with actors in the movie. His students learned a lot of vocabulary in a short time, and their **speaking improved** very quickly.

2. Divide Your Listening Time

Which is better: to listen for two hours without a break, or to divide that time during the day? Well, dividing your listening time is best.

By dividing your time throughout the day, you remember more and learn **faster**. So its much better to listen 30 minutes in the morning, then 30 minutes in the car or train, then 30 minutes coming home from work, then 30 minutes before sleep. In fact, this is the exact schedule we recommend to our students!

3. Use an iPod or MP3 Player

iPods are fantastic. You can put a big listening library on one. Then you can carry your English lessons **everywhere**. You can learn English while walking, while shopping, in the car, in a train, while cooking,.....

With an iPod or MP3 player, you don't have to worry about CDs. Also, you can find a lot of English listening on the internet. You can find lessons, stories, podcasts, TV shows, interviews, and audio books. Simply download the audio, put it on your iPod.. and learn English anywhere!

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4. Listen To Movies

Movies are great for learning English **BUT** you must use them **correctly**. Don't watch all of an English movie. You will not understand it, and therefore you will not learn anything.

Only watch one scene or segment per week (maybe 2-3 minutes). **Follow this method:**

- a) First, watch the scene with subtitles in your language. This will help you understand the general meaning.
- b) Second, watch the scene with English subtitles. Pause. Use a dictionary to find new words you don't understand. Write the new sentences in a notebook.
- c) Listen to the scene a few times, with English subtitles. Do not pause.
- d) Listen to the scene a few times, without subtitles.
- e) Repeat a) - d) everyday for one week.

On the second week, go to the next scene/segment and repeat again. It will take you a long time to finish a movie. That's OK, because you will improve your listening and speaking **VERY FAST**. This method is powerful-- use it!

5. Read and Listen at the Same Time

Listening and Reading together are very powerful. While you listen to something, also read it. This will improve your **pronunciation**.

Reading while listening also helps you understand more difficult material. Read and listen to learn faster. After you do this a few times, put away the text and just listen. You will understand a lot more and you will improve faster. Always try to find both audio **and** text materials.

To start, you can **read our blog** and listen to our podcast at:

Audio & Text

<http://www.LearnRealEnglish.com>

Another great idea is to get both a book and its audio book (ie. the above example of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory").

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6 Months To Excellent English Speaking

Follow the above suggestions (and the 7 Rules in our email course) and you will speak **excellent** Real English.

We have been teaching over 25 years combined. Every student who follows these methods succeeds. Always! The Effortless English method is **the key** to speaking **excellent English**. It is the key to fluency.

You only need 6 months-- 6 months and you will speak easily to native speakers. 6 months and you will **speak quickly and naturally**. 6 months and you **feel relaxed** when you speak English.

You have tried the old ways. You tried textbooks. You tried schools. You tried grammar study.

It is time to try something new!

Good luck. We wish you success with your English learning!

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Listening & Learning Resources On The Internet

7 Rules of Effortless English (Free Email Course)

<http://learnrealenglish.com/7-steps-to-powerful-english-conversation>

Learn Real English Lessons (Intermediate & Advanced Level)

<http://www.EffortlessEnglishClub.com>

The Learn Real English Blog (Text for Audio)

<http://www.LearnRealEnglish.com>

The Learn Real English Podcast (Listening)

<http://www.LearnRealEnglish.com>

ELLLO (Listening)

<http://www.elllo.org>

KanTalk (Internet Chats and Conversation)

<http://www.kantalk.com>

VOA News (Listening)

<http://www.voanews.com/english/podcasts.cfm>

Business English Pod (Listening)

<http://www.voanews.com/english/podcasts.cfm>

ESL Pod (Listening)

<http://www.eslpod.com>

Just Vocabulary (Listening)

<http://justvocabulary.libsyn.com/>

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