



PROBLEMS OF LEARNING ENGLISH

Yesenkulova Karligash

English teacher of Vocational School № 1 Bo'stonliq district, Tashkent region

Annotation: This article goes on to think about the difficulties in learning English and their solutions. It also lists one of the best solutions for learning English in today's competitive job market.

Keywords: language, English, problems, solution, students, difficulties.

The English language is one of the most important languages in the world. It is the language of global business and is spoken by millions of people around the globe. Yet, English can be one of the more difficult languages to learn. English is full of rules and exceptions to the rules that make its mastery challenging. However, as millions have proven, it can be done.

In most cases, students only make an effort to speak proper English in the classroom when they are under supervision. Moreover, students don't always hear people around them speaking proper English. As a result, it becomes more difficult to learn correct English.

Learning materials refer to items that aid in the learning process. Books may be a necessary material, but books are not enough by themselves. Audio tools are also needed. As observed above, if a student sees a sound symbol in a book, how does he/she know how to pronounce it? The fact is, students of English Language graduate into teachers of the English language without ever getting to hear the correct pronunciation by a native speaker.

Students also study haphazardly. They have books to read but they can't tell how certain words are said. How would a student know how to pronounce the word 'ewe'? He/she must hear the right pronunciation from his/her teacher or from a native speaker of English. Students tend to learn from movies they watch but they often learn the wrong things because movies contain slang and dialects that are not appropriate in many forms of communication. In this case, students often think that the same English they speak at home or on the street is the same they will write in their exams. However, because communication doesn't have to be grammatically correct in order to be intelligible, students don't always abide by the rules they learned in school and therefore do not get fully educated and/or pass their tests.

It is also the case that students don't study English as much as they study other subjects. In most cases, students study English only in the classroom when the teacher is teaching. After the class, they drop their books and wait for the next class. They don't study pronunciation, they don't study essay writing, and they don't make an





effort to learn new words. They bring every little problem to the teacher during classes, even things they could just look it up in the dictionary. When learners make mistakes and are corrected, they often say "It is not my language after all." This greatly affects their ability to learn English.

Students have the following difficulties in learning English.

Pronunciation. One of the biggest problems faced by English learners is pronunciation. This is because English is different than your native language. You must learn how to form the pronunciations in a proper way. This is not always easy to do. Sometimes, you must repeat the words several times before you can pronounce the words correctly. This involves adjusting the insides of your mouth to form the English pronunciation.

Understanding English. It can be difficult to understand English spoken by a non-native English speaker. Nuanced English impedes understanding. When non-native speakers of English converse with one another, it is done so with an accent that makes learning more difficult. If one Vocational ESL student speaks to another with a heavy accent, understanding may be difficult.

Grammar. Many English learners find grammar complex and difficult. They recount the many hours in the classroom learning and reciting grammatical rules and vocabulary. Even Americans find grammar challenging, so, it's no surprise that foreigners find the studies of American English difficult.

In the English language, there are multiple verb tenses. Those tenses are in the past, present and future: Simple, Continuous, Perfect, and Present Continuous. They can be baffling, particularly if you don't have direct interpretations in your own language.

However, grammar is vital to the study of English. It is a set of rules that helps you speak correctly. It also helps you structure English correctly.

Slang and Colloquialisms. Casual, informal language is the English of the people. Many words have been added to the English language and even used in formal settings. "You good?" is one example. When someone asks this question, they are not necessarily referring to a person's state of being, but rather whether their situation is okay. The petitioner wants to know if they are in good standing.

Idioms. Idioms and phrasal verbs are words and phrases that, when put together, mean something outside of the normal meaning. If you say you "put your foot in your mouth," it doesn't mean that you literally picked up your foot and pushed it into your mouth. The general meaning is that you said something that you should not have said.

Practicing English. Lacking the ability to practice with someone can make learning English difficult. Many students say that there is no one to practice with them. This is particularly true if they are learning online and have no family members or friends who speak English.





Sound Detection. The inability to detect sounds can make learning English difficult. It impacts your ability to pronounce words correctly. For example, some students have problems pronouncing words that begin with 'v" and "w." They don't have these sounds in their native language so they will pronounce "vet" and wet" the same. Even when they learn to pronounce them properly, they are sometimes unable to hear the difference themselves. It takes practice to make the distinction between these two letters to detect the difference.

Speech Pace. The English speak very quickly. Many students lament how they are unable to understand everything someone says because of the speed at which it was spoken. Asking the speaker to slow down would be the solution. However, many learners are afraid to speak up for fear that they will be thought of as ignorant.

What is the Solution?

With disciplined study, conversation practice, reading, writing, and growing your vocabulary, English mastery is possible. Despite all the complexities of the English language, people all over the world are reading, writing, listening to podcasts, watching videos, and studying vocabulary to speak fluent English. While this is admirable, students don't have to go on the journey alone.

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