# Международный конкурс для школьников

## "Английский язык – мой любимый предмет"

**METHODS OF LEARNING ENGLISH, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS**

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**The subject of the project is:** "Methods of learning English, their effectiveness".

Objective of the project:

To determine the need of learning English and to prove its value to a man in everyday life.

**The project objectives are:**

- To examine the ways and methods of learning English;

- To identify the pros and cons of the studied methods;

**Methods and ways**: analysis of scientific literature, periodicals and Internet resources for

researching the problem, analyze the data.

**The achieved results**:

- The data on the research problem have been studied and systematized;

- It has been possible to determine the influence of the English language on the life of a man;

- It has been proved that learning English is essential in everyday life.

## Introduction

I am a pupil of a specialized school with the intensive learning of English. Thus, I have been studying English for 5 years. It is my favourite school subject and my hobby.

Studying foreign languages plays a great role in our life because of the growing international contacts with different countries. An Italian film director Federico Fellini once said: **‘A different language is a different vision of life’**[2]. There are many reasons, why we begin to study foreign languages. Some people study foreign languages to be able to communicate with the native speakers, others study it for the future career. If we are planning to travel to the countries where the language we speak is used, we can communicate with people there and understand what they are telling us, learn about their traditions and way of life. If we are working in any branch of science, we naturally wish to read scientific books and magazines in other languages to raise our professional level. Doing business nowadays means the ability of speaking foreign languages. Knowledge of one or two, or even more foreign languages helps people from different countries to develop friendship and mutual understanding. We can also make our intellectual and cultural horizons wider through contacts with people of another culture. It is very interesting to read foreign literature in its original, to read foreign newspapers and magazines and understand films in foreign languages without any help and translation. **‘Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom’,** says Roger Bacon [3].

It is widely-known that English is an international language. Over 300 million people speak it is a mother tongue. The native speakers live in Great Britain, theUnited States of America, Australia and New Zealand. That is why it is the most common foreign language taught at schools.

While doing my research work I came across various ways of learning foreign languages, such as: - studying at specialized schools with the intensive course of English ; - by means of computer programmes; - taking audio and video courses; - having on-line lessons; - communicating with natives, in social networks; - listening to audio books, songs; - on your own, using self-studying books; watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons, plays and performances; - reading books in the original;

- having lessons with a personal tutor;

- writing letters to a pen-friend; -summer language camps.

**The** **First Stage**

This step of my method consists of two parts. The first part is aimed at clarifying the need of the English language skills in everyday life; the second part is dedicated to the analysis of some methods of learning English and checking their effectiveness.

**Part One:** Is knowledge of the English language needed in everyday life?

Knowledge of the English language allows communication via the global network, the "Internet", with the native English speakers, to learn a lot of new not from the literature or online resources, but from living people with their opinions and views on life.

Pay attention to the fact that all references to any sites, e-mails are typed in the English language. Of course, it depends on the creators of the "world wide web" - the initiator of these studies was Dr. Licklider, the USA, who was appointed as the chief in the project of computer technology application in the military industry in 1962. The Internet is a global system of united computer networks for storing and transmitting information, and for more fluent using the information the knowledge of the English language is necessary.

It is important to know the English language while travelling. For example, last summer my family had a rest in Italy. Neither my family nor I knew Italian, and the Italians at the airport did not know the Russian language. My sister Anastasia went to another exit and we lost her. If I had not known English, I could not have been able to explain our problem to the carabineers (police officers), my sister would not have passed passport control and we would definitely have missed the next flight. (We were flying to Sardinia with a transfer from Rome).

English gives future prospects. There are a lot of foreign firms, companies and their representatives in our life, the main requirement of which is knowledge of a foreign language. Moreover, if a person is fluent in English, he has got by far more chances to find promising and interesting job.

It is important to choose an efficient approach of learning English. To succeed we need a desire, will, purposefulness and diligence.

**Part Two**

There is an opinion that "the study of foreign languages, particularly English, trains memory, broadens the mind of a man and opens up new opportunities", but is this true?

1) Let us consider and examine studying English at school.

While studying some new foreign words pupils write words and pronounce them, and therefore use, develop visual, auditory and muscle memory. Studying new texts, they learn about new countries, events and literary works, life features of other people, etc. - thus broadening their mental outlook. Upon successful learning English, many specialized schools send their best students to study in the English-speaking countries (student’s exchange program), justifying the claim of the "new opportunities".

Conclusion: Alongside with education in specialized schools, there are other ways of studying foreign languages.

2) If you wish, you can learn English by means of computer programs, audio and video educational courses and with the help of communication in social networks, for example, "School ESHKO», «schoolenglish» «eng-school.com» and others. (Supplement №1 )

Conclusion: According to the responses of people trained in the courses and all kinds of schools, we can state that social networks help to learn foreign languages quite effectively, enable communication on the Internet, but this communication is not always a literary language.

3) I decided to test the effectiveness of learning English (as a second language) with the help of social networks. I communicated with a friend Sasha by means of correspondence. He lives in Belarus and learns English with the help of ‘Mylanguageexchange’, that is, through social networks. He has been learning English through "live communication" for several years. It was unexpected that some of the phrases and words he wrote in English, were shortened, and sometimes he used their American version. Sasha did not always understand me correctly. In my turn, I often failed to understand him. Of course, I guessed the meaning of the words, but I wanted his speech to be more perfect.

From our conversation with Sasha, I learned a lot of interesting things, for example: sometimes he ended his conversation with the word "Best" and his name. I did not know what it meant: "Best wishes." Now, I know that. (*Supplement* № 2)

4) You can "learn" English on your own, using self-study books.

The peculiarity of learning any language is in its pronunciation. Thus, being a student of a specialized school, I know for sure that it is not possible to read correctly, to learn poems by heart, without listening to the text read by the native speakers.

Conclusion: People do not always hear the pronunciation of a certain word properly, so live communication of a student and a teacher, while studying a foreign language are very important.

5) I have studied the method of learning English by listening to the feature films and cartoons. That is, a person listens to the English language and reads the Russian titles and thus "learns" the language. But this method of studying has its disadvantages. I listened to different movies and cartoons in this way ( "Spy Kids", "Asterix and Obelix", "Ice Age," "The Kid and Carlson", "Despicable Me" and etc.) and came to the conclusion that it was shorter, even more careless, or sometimes with "slang".

While watching the film with the dubbed translation "Asterix and Obelix" I was misled by the translation of the phrase "go out", which was translated as "get out of here." However, the computer translator and the dictionary translated this phrase as "Exit".

In the movie "The Kid and Carlson" the interpreter translated the question "Come again?" as "Came back?". Although the plot sounded differently. The question "Come again?" can be interpreted here as: "Repeat what you said!"

Having the basic knowledge of English, you can and should additionally watch movies in English, but duplicate the original translation.

Conclusion: You cannot learn the English language only this way, but this method can exist as an addition to the main studying, as learning some phrases and speech patterns, pronunciation of some specific words, considering a rigorous selection of works.

**The Second Stage.**

The second phase of my research consisted of questionnaires and interviews.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the most effective, according to the students, method of learning English.

For my project, I conducted a survey and interviewed 20 students of the 5th and 6th grade of different schools. (12 children - from School № 7, 8 children - from School № 24). (*Supplement* №3)

Aссording to the survey the most effective method of learning English among students is the immersion in the English-speaking environment. The survey results are presented in *Supplement* №4 (Table №1; diagram №1).

The purpose was to identify the most popular method of learning English. In my survey it is studying in specialized schools with the intensive course of English. The survey results are presented in *Supplement* №5 (Table №2; chart №2).

**Conclusion**

The English language is an integral part of the everyday life, as its studying trains memory, broadens the mind and opens up new opportunities and perspectives.

You can learn English in various ways, but the main thing is to take a responsible approach to the choice of the learning methods, to avoid using slang and "dirty" speech. People need English for a successful, interesting and varied life.

There are many reasons why we begin to learn foreign languages. Some learn foreign languages ​​in order to be able to communicate with native speakers and the others study it for a future career. If we have an opportunity to go to a country where the target language is used, we will be able to communicate with the native people there and to learn about their customs and traditions, their way of life. If we decide to work in any branch of sciences, reading scientific books and magazines in foreign languages ​​will help to improve our skills and have a good command of the language. In business affairs, the ability of speaking foreign languages is of great importance. Knowledge of one or several foreign languages ​​helps people from different countries to maintain friendly relationships and mutual understanding.

**‘You live a new life for every new language you speak’,** says the Czech proverb.

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5. <http://www.youtube.com/user/englishbluemurphy>;

6. [begin-english.ru/biblio/](http://begin-english.ru/biblio/);

7. [lib.ru](http://lib.ru/ENGLISH/);

8.  vk.com/beginenglish\_ru.



Supplement № 1

**Different ways of learning foreign languages:**

 

Studying at specialized schools By means of computer programme

with the intensive course

of English

 

Taking audio and video courses Having on-line lessons

 

Listening to audio books, Communicating with natives, in social networks

songs

 

On your own, using self-studying books Watching TV programmes,

feature films, cartoons,

plays and performances



Reading books in the original Having lessons with a personal tutor

 

Summer language camps Writing letters to a pen-friend

Supplement №2

Pen -friend: Alexander (He studies English at school and wants to have a good command of Russian.)

Age: 10 years

City: Mlawa

Country: Poland

**Correspondence in social networks**

*-Dear Sasha,*

***- Hi! How are you ?***

- I’m fine. I’ll hang out with my friends at 12 PM .

***-Exactly 12 PM ? PM-this afternoon ! AM-before noon !***

-Sorry, I forgot .

***-What are you planning to do with your friends ?***

-We’re going to play football. The previous time our school team won with the score three-zero.

***-Excuse me, but I think 3:0- is three-nil.***

-Exuse me, I have to go. Goodbye.

***-Bye !***

*Conclusion:* Communicating and learning a foreign language online have some disadvantages: my peer from school in Mlawa (Poland) makes vocabulary and grammar mistakes.

Supplement № 3

**Survey**

For my project I interviewed 20 students of the 5th - 6th forms of different schools. (12 children - from school №7; 8 children – from school № 24).

They were asked the following questions:

**1. The best way of learning English:**

a) Immersionin the English-speaking environment;

b) communicating with natives, in social networks;

c) Watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons;

d) Having lessons with a personal tutor;

e) school education;

f) others.

**Results:**

a) Immersion in the English-speaking environment- 45% - 9 students -

8– school №7 and 1 students – school № 24 ;

b**)** Having lessons with a personal tutor- 25% - 5 students – school № 24;

c) School education- 15% - 3 students – school №7;

d) Watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons- 10% - 2 students – school №24;

e) Communicating with natives, in social networks - 5% - 1 student – school №7;

f**)** others - 0%

**2. Their preferences of learning English.**

**Survey Results**

The survey showed that the most commonly used methods of learning the English language are:

1. School education - 60% - 12 students – school № 7;

2. Having lessons with a personal tutor - 30% - 6 students – school № 24;

3. Communicating with natives, in social networks - 5% - 1 student – school № 24;

4. Watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons - 5% - 1 student - school № 24;

Conclusion: education at specialized schools with the intensive studying of English is the most common and effective way of teaching children.

Every person chooses his own method of studying English. However , each method has its advantages and disadvantages.

Supplement № 4

**Survey**

The interviewed students of the 5th -6th classes of different schools.

(Total: 20 children: 12 - from school №7; 8 - from school №24)

They were asked the following questions :

1. **Which way would you like to learn English?** Table № 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Percentage** | **Quantity** | **School №** |
| Immersion in the English-speaking environment | 45% | 9 | 8 - № 7  1 - № 24 |
| Having lessons with a personal tutor | 25% | 5 | № 24 |
| School education | 15% | 3 | №7 |
| Watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons | 10% | 2 | № 24 |
| Communicating with natives, in social networks | 5% | 1 | № 7 |
| Others | 0% | - | - |

Diagram №1

Supplement № 5

1. **How do you learn English?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Percentage** | **Quanlity** | **School №** |
| School education | 60% | 12 | 12 - № 7 |
| Having lessons with a personal tutor | 30% | 6 | 1 - № 24 |
| Communicating with natives, in social networks | 5% | 1 | 1 - № 24 |
| Watching TV programmes, feature films, cartoons | 5% | 1 | 1 - № 24 |
| Others | 0% | **-** | **-** |

Diagram №2

**Survey Results**

The survey showed that the most commonly used methods of learning the English language are:

1. School education;

2. Classes with a tutor;

3. Online studying and commucation in social networks;

4. Watching films /cartoons