

Parents are always asking me, "How can my child learn English?" Well, today is your lucky day. I'm going to give you some ideas that will certainly help you.

Mr. Nelson's Top 10 Ideas for Learning English

#01: Read books! (15 minutes a day)

* It's important for kids to choose something they enjoy but at their reading level. What is your reading level? Well, if you understand at least 90 out of 100 words, that's the book for you.

#02: Make friends!

* Go to the park, join a community recreation team, talk with neighbors (especially the elderly), invite people to your home for a get-together. Make an effort to speak to other people! Don't be shy!

#03: Join a small church!

* You don't need to be religious to join a church. A small church of 20-50 is best. Even better, choose a church that has a weekly reception after the sermon.

#04: Speak English at home!

* Start by speaking common phrases at home, like: Good morning! / Time to get up! / See you!

#05: Attend community events like Open Air Theater

* Most communities have free open-air theaters or performances you can watch during the summer. They also have concerts, festivals, and other community events. Search for "Parks & Recreation" online for your city.

#06: Sign up for a Community Recreation Team (like basketball)

* Joining a team where no one is Japanese is a great way to meet people and use English. They cost some money, but it's not that expensive

#07: Join a club at your local library

* Many libraries have a bulletin board that lists clubs that you can join. I once joined a Japanese/English study group at the Schaumburg library. It was free.

#08: Play board games or interactive online video games in English

* I have had students learn English only from playing video games. They play games where they talk or text their partners online. There are also clubs that feature playing board games in groups.

#09: Go to the movies or watch TV shows

* I learned Japanese by watching TV shows. Find something you like and just start watching. You won't understand in the beginning, but as time passes, you will.

#10: Learn the words in your environment

* I would put little stickers all over my apartment with the word of the thing I wanted to learn. I could never everything I saw in every room of my place. After that, I learned all the words to thing outside my home and my workplace. I walked around with a pocket dictionary, notebook, and a pencil.

If you need help or any advice, just ask your English teacher. But, more importantly, help each other. You are all living in America. This is a wonderful opportunity for you. Take advantage of it. Not only your kids should be learning English, the culture, or about life in America. Moms & dads you can do this, too! Be confident and be open to trying new things.