

Activity 1

For each question, you will read a statement related to language learning. Think about yourself and choose one of the following answers:

1. Never or almost never true of me.
2. Usually not true of me.
3. Somewhat true of me.
4. Usually true of me.
5. Always or almost always true of me.

Remembering more effectively	1	2	3	4	5
1. I make connections between what I already know and new things I learn in English.					
2. I use new English words in a sentence so I can remember them.					
3. I connect the sound of a new English word and an image or picture of the word to help me remember the word.					
4. I remember a new English word by making a mental picture of a situation in which the word might be used.					
5. I use rhymes to remember new English words.					
6. I use flashcards to remember new English words.					
7. I physically act out new English words.					
8. I review English lessons often.					
9. I remember new English words or phrases by remembering their location on the page, on the board, or on a sign.					

The higher the score, the better you may be at memorizing new information. This is an important skill to have in English. If you scored high, you will not need to focus on developing these skills. If you scored low, don't stress! You can try out some of these strategies today! Also, you will learn more about memorizing later in the iEnglish program.

Activity 1 Continued...

Using a variety of study strategies	1	2	3	4	5
10. I say or write new English words several times.					
11. I try to talk like native English speakers.					
12. I practice the sounds of English.					
13. I use the English words I know in different ways.					
14. I start conversations in English.					
15. I watch English language TV shows spoken in English and/or go to movies spoken in English.					
16. I read for pleasure in English.					
17. I write notes, messages, letters, or reports in English.					
18. I first skim an English passage (read it over quickly) then go back and read carefully.					
19. I look for words in my own language that are similar to words in English.					
20. I try to find patterns in English.					
21. I find the meaning of an English word by dividing it into parts that I understand.					
22. I try not to translate word for word.					
23. I make summaries of information that I read or hear in English.					

Using a variety of study strategies means you will stay motivated and interested in learning English. Also, knowing about many different ways to study English means you can choose the one that suits your learning style. If you scored high, you may already know the strategies that suit your style. If you scored low, try out a few different activities to see which ones you find enjoyable and effective!

Activity 1 Continued...

Compensating for missing knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
24. To understand unfamiliar English words, I make guesses.					
25. When I can't think of a word during a conversation, I use gestures.					
26. I make up new words if I do not know the right ones in English.					
27. I read English without looking up every word.					
28. I try to guess what the other person will say next in English.					
29. If I can't think of an English word, I use a word or phrase that means the same thing.					

You shouldn't avoid speaking English because you're afraid of making mistakes, or because you might not know a word. You can use these strategies to help you when you don't know a word, or when your listener doesn't understand you! If you scored high, you are probably good at making yourself understood, so you might focus your attention on other study strategies. If you scored low, you will benefit from our later activities, all about learning compensation strategies!

Organizing and evaluating my learning	1	2	3	4	5
30. I try to find as many ways as I can to use my English.					
31. I notice my English mistakes and use that information to help me do better.					
32. I pay attention when someone is speaking English.					
33. I try to find out how to be a better learner of English.					
34. I plan my schedule so I will have enough time to study English.					
35. I look for people I can talk to in English.					
36. I look for opportunities to read as much as possible.					
37. I have clear goals for improving my English skills.					
38. I think about my progress in learning English.					

Being organized and planning how you might learn different English skills is vital for your success. If you scored high in this exercise, you are already skilled at this. If you scored low, you might wish to pay special attention to future activities which help you to develop these skills.

Activity 1 Continued...

Managing my emotions	1	2	3	4	5
39. I try to relax whenever I feel afraid of learning English.					
40. I try to encourage myself to speak English even when I am afraid of making a mistake.					
41. I give myself a reward or treat when I do well in English.					
42. I notice if I am tense or nervous when I am studying or using English.					
43. I write down my feelings in a language learning journal.					
44. I talk to someone else about how I feel when I am learning English.					

How you feel about learning English is very important, but many people don't pay attention to this. Knowing how to stay positive can help you enjoy learning English and speed up your progress. If you scored high on this exercise, you probably enjoy learning English! If you scored low, try to take some of the suggestions, and see if it helps you relax.

Learning with others	1	2	3	4	5
45. If I do not understand something in English, I ask the other person to slow down or say it again.					
46. I ask English speakers to correct me when I talk.					
47. I practise English with other students.					
48. I ask for help from English speakers.					
49. I ask questions in English.					
50. I try to learn about the culture of English speakers.					

Languages are meant to be used to communicate! Don't be afraid to interact with others. If you scored high on this exercise, you probably don't feel shy about speaking English. If you scored low, try to find more opportunities to use your English. This is an important part of your future iEnglish studies.

Activity 2

These activities asked you to think about how you have learned English until now. We hope you have a good understanding about the type of learning you are used to, the strategies you already use, and what iEnglish can help you learn.

Answer the following questions. Your answers will help you make the most of your iEnglish studies!

1. Some students choose iEnglish because they don't have time to study in a class, because they don't like classrooms, or because they feel like classroom-based English does not teach what they want to learn. Why do you want to start the iEnglish program? How will iEnglish help you achieve your goals?
2. Think about how you learned English (or anything else) in your home country. Did you enjoy this style of teaching and learning? Why or why not? Do you think you will enjoy the iEnglish style of learning? Why or why not? What can you do to make "the shift" easier?
3. What can you do today to start learning English independently? Which of the study strategies do you need to improve the most? Which ones do you feel you already do well?
4. Think of something else that you learned without a teacher. This might be a computer skill, a recipe, camping skills, dancing, singing, car repair, painting, gardening, etc. Did you enjoy this experience? What strategies did you use to learn? Can you apply any of the strategies you learned then to learn English now?

Activity 3

iEnglish requires you to view the world as a classroom. This means taking advantage of many resources that you can use to improve your English! The iEnglish program will help you find some of these resources, but you also need to feel free to explore and find some of them for yourself!

You can start learning English today. To get yourself started, visit this link: <http://myenglishonline.wikispaces.com>. It will take you to a website with helpful tips and activities that you can use to learn English. Take some time to explore the wiki.

What else can you do this week? Here is a list of tasks: choose 2 or 3 that interest you and do them!

- Read the newspaper to keep up with current events.
- Watch a soap opera every day to follow the story.
- Learn some standard small talk topics, and practise with as many people as possible.
- Colour-code your notebook so you can find things easily.
- Find a new recipe in English and try it out!
- Start a list of positive statements about yourself. Add a new one every day.
- Teach yourself to look for 'context' clues in listening and speaking.
- While listening to someone speaking, mentally predict what he or she will say next.
- Ask someone for feedback on your speaking or writing: did you understand?
- Eavesdrop on native speakers when out in public (but don't stare!).
- Use mental images to help remember new words and phrases.
- Pay attention to the way native speakers move their mouths; try to imitate this in a mirror.
- Look up song lyrics and sing along to your favourite songs.
- Start an email correspondence with another language learner.
- Play Scrabble in the target language!
- Teach a board game or a card game to a friend and play together.
- Keep a daily journal. Write about anything you want.
- Get a guidebook or map to Winnipeg, and explore a new part of the city. Visit with a friend and talk about your impressions.
- Visit a museum with the purpose of learning new language. Read the museum brochures while there.
- Develop a friendship with a native speaker from whom you feel comfortable asking for help and correction.

Adapted from: Rebecca Oxford, Language Learning Strategies. Boston: Heinle & Heinle, 1990.