



ienglish

LIFE IS THE CLASSROOM - IMMERSE YOURSELF

STRATEGIES: **REPEATING** >> use it

Activity 1:

Now that you've learned how valuable repeating can be, it's time for you to start repeating! In this activity, you'll try using routine reading and routine listening to develop your vocabulary and grammar skills.

Plan an iLEAP cycle that will help you achieve some of your personal and/or professional goals. Next, find several sources on your topic. Spend several days or weeks reading, listening to, talking with, viewing, or otherwise experiencing your sources. As you do, consider the following questions:

1. What vocabulary words are mentioned in all (or most) of these sources? If there are more than 5-7, which ones should you try to memorize first?
2. What grammar structures frequently appear with those vocabulary words? Are you familiar with these structures? Does it feel natural for you to use these sentences yourself? If not, why not practice saying them 'a thousand times'?



Activity 2:

Pronunciation requires you to exercise your tongue, lips, and jaw so that you can learn to make English sounds like or close to how English speakers do.

In the previous activity, you were asked to practice routine reading and/or listening as a way to get used to seeing and hearing vocabulary and grammar that will be helpful for you. Now, you will practice using your new language in different ways. This will help you to remember it!

1. Read and reread one of your sources several times until you are familiar with what it says. Then, write a short outline of the piece using key words. Next, put the text away and try to rewrite it using only the short outline to help you. Don't look at the original text until you're finished!
2. Compare your writing to the original text. Did you use the vocabulary and grammar structures in a similar way? How is your spelling? Do you think the differences between your writing and the original text affect the meaning? Did you repeat any sentences exactly as they appear in the original text.

Note: In Canadian culture, it is not okay to copy someone else's writing and pretend that it is your own. This is called plagiarism. However, memorizing sentences and writing them out as vocabulary and grammar practice is fine.

3. Take note of your answers in Question 2, and rewrite the piece again. Is this version better than the previous one? Was it easier? Do you feel that writing another version will help? If so, do it!
4. Find another source that requires you to listen as someone speaks English. As you listen, parrot/mimic the speaker and try to copy their pronunciation exactly.
5. Repeat #4. Then, repeat #5.
6. Use a handheld digital recorder, your computer's Recorder program, or a smartphone app to record yourself parroting/mimicking. As you listen to the recording, pay attention to the differences between the native or fluent English speaker's pronunciation and your own pronunciation. What differences do you notice? How will you work on improving these areas?
7. Try recording yourself as you read your work from #s 1-3. Listen to the recording, and be critical of your pronunciation. Repeat the activity until you feel happy with your pronunciation.



Activity 3:

1. Make your own sources using the vocabulary and grammar structures that came up again and again during your routine reading and listening. Try writing several texts that use these language forms in different ways. Remember to use the writing process, and be creative!
2. Find someone to proofread some of your sources for you to make sure you are using the vocabulary and grammar forms correctly. Remember, people are your best resource!
3. Record your proofreader as he/she reads your work aloud. You can use a handheld digital recorder, your computer's Recorder program, or a smartphone app to do this. Then, listen to the recording and practice parroting/mimicking the speaker. Pay attention to his/her pronunciation, and do your best to duplicate it.
4. Record yourself reading your work, and compare it to the proofreader's voice. What differences do you notice? Can you find someone else to help you identify these areas for improvement?

Activity 4:

This activity will help you to organize your thoughts about repeating as a strategy to learn English outside of the classroom. If you wish to have more writing practice, consider using this as a pre-writing activity, which you can then turn into a longer composition as writing practice!

1. Do you find repeating activities boring? If not, great! Keep doing them. If so, what will you do to make them more interesting? Have you tried to incorporate your interests, such as music, sports, or art? Have you tried asking someone else for advice? Will you continue to do repeating activities even though they sometimes bore you?
2. Do you agree that repeating is one of the keys to learning English? Do you have any experiences that made you feel this way? What happened? If you disagree, what do you feel are the real keys to learning English? Do you know anyone with whom you can have a debate about this?