

## Experimenting with English: Ways of using English outside the classroom

### Reading:

What?	When?	Comments
<p><b>Read a text <i>without</i> using a dictionary <i>at all</i>.</b>  <i>(Try to find a text that is easy enough for you to do this comfortably...)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is good to read texts, which you find easy enough to read without using a dictionary – this helps you consolidate language you already know.</li> <li>• Another way to make it easier is to read something that you have already read in Italian.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Read different types of texts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• Magazine</li> <li>• Poem</li> <li>• Short story</li> <li>• Novel</li> <li>• Non-fiction e.g. autobiography</li> </ul> <p>Make a note of the similarities and differences you find in the structure, content and language.</p>		
<p><b>Make a dish using a recipe written in English:</b>            If you like cooking, this is a good way to test if you can follow instructions! Try this site:  <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/</a> If you make something in this way, why not post a picture of it on Google Classroom and show your classmates?</p>		

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<p><b>Make a mind-map of what you read:</b> Take a chapter, choose one or two key themes, or characters, and put them in circles in the middle of your page. Link new vocabulary to these.</p>		
<p><b>Tell your classmates about what you are reading:</b> You can do this on Google Classroom as well as during the in-class discussions.</p>		
<p><b>Share some of the new vocabulary you learn through reading on Google Classroom:</b> Choose a few of your new words or expressions and explain to your classmates what they mean.</p>		
<p><b>Follow an English newspaper/broadcasting company page on Facebook.</b> Try <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BBCMagazine?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/BBCMagazine?fref=ts</a> or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TheIndependentOnline?fref=ts">https://www.facebook.com/TheIndependentOnline?fref=ts</a> Aim to click on a link to an article and have a read every day – or as near every day as you can manage! You could also look for English pages relating to your interests and follow those.</p>		
<p><b>Read again with your ‘language head’ on:</b> Read a short text, or short extract from a longer text, for understanding and then read it again, focusing on a single part of language e.g. prepositions. What do you notice?</p>		
<p><b>(Your ideas)</b></p>		

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### Listening:

What?	When?	Comments
<p><b>Listen to a radio station:</b> This works best if you do it regularly. Set yourself a target, e.g. at least three times a week for one month. There is a list of potential radio stations here: <a href="http://www.listenlive.eu/uk.html">http://www.listenlive.eu/uk.html</a></p>		
<p><b>Use <a href="http://www.lyricstraining.com">www.lyricstraining.com</a> :</b> Here, you can listen and check how well you know your favourite songs, by filling in the gaps in the song lyrics.</p>		
<p><b>Listen to a podcast regularly</b> There are many sites where you can listen to pocasts. Try <a href="http://learningenglish.voanews.com/podcast/0.html">http://learningenglish.voanews.com/podcast/0.html</a> or <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice">http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice</a> .) To learn more about podcasts and for help in using them: <a href="http://independentenglish.wordpress.com/2012/02/14/podcasts/">http://independentenglish.wordpress.com/2012/02/14/podcasts/</a></p>		
<p><b>Listen to an audiobook:</b> Try this website <a href="http://www.booksshouldbefree.com/">http://www.booksshouldbefree.com/</a> or use the audio cd from your graded reader. Listen and read the printed text at the same time. Pay attention to pronunciation (different sounds, word stress, rhythm, intonation/musicality).</p>		
<p><b>Do a dictation:</b> Dictations are a great way to improve your listening. You could try a website such as <a href="http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/dictations">www.breakingnewsenglish.com/dictations</a></p>		
<p><b>Use the “speller” mode on <a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a></b> Here, you can see if you can aurally recognize the words you are learning.</p>		

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<p><b>Make a listening activity for your classmates:</b> Find a short clip in English, that interests you, on <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> and make some questions to go with it. Post the link and questions on Google Classroom for your classmates to watch/listen and answer.</p>		
<p><b>(Your ideas)</b></p>		

### Writing:

What?	When?	Thoughts?
<p><b>Start a discussion:</b> Find an interesting magazine/newspaper article, read it, post a link to it on Google Classroom and discuss it with your classmates. Try to use the vocabulary and structures that you are studying in class.</p>		
<p><b>Write a recipe:</b> What is your favourite dish? Write a recipe for it and share it on Google Classroom. Try and cook your friends' recipes! Tell them what you think of their recipes; find out what they think about yours...</p>		
<p><b>Try <a href="http://www.oneword.com">www.oneword.com</a></b> You only need 60 seconds for this! The website gives you a word (a different word each day) and 60 seconds to write what comes into your head when you see it. If you register, you can also see what other people have written, share what you write and write comments.</p>		
<p><b>Start a blog in English:</b> (Try <a href="http://www.wordpress.com">www.wordpress.com</a> ) This is a very good way to develop your written fluency. It may be hard at first but persevere (and write regularly!) and</p>		

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<p>you will reap the results! Why not read and comment on your classmates' blogs too?</p>		
<p><b>Make an English Twitter account.</b>          Try out some of the ideas on <a href="http://independentenglish.wordpress.com/2013/05/20/twitter-for-english-language-learners/">http://independentenglish.wordpress.com/2013/05/20/twitter-for-english-language-learners/</a> - this link also tells you *how* to set up your account.          Example idea: Use #twinglish: #twinglish is a hashtag especially for English-language learners, where learners from around the world share what they are doing and practise their English at the same time. Others are #engpls and #eigo.</p>		
<p><b>Use</b> <a href="http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/">http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/</a> :          Here, you can find a native speaker who wants to learn Italian, to be your penpal. You would write to each other in a mixture of English and your language, so that you both benefit.</p>		
<p><b>Be a commenter:</b> Read an English newspaper article online and share your opinion regarding the content by adding a comment to the comments thread at the end.</p>		
<p><b>(Your ideas)</b></p>		

### Speaking:

<p><b>Record yourself speaking!</b>          It is easy using this site:  <a href="http://vocaroo.com/">http://vocaroo.com/</a>          Play it back. What good language can you hear? What mistakes? Share your</p>		
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<p>recording and your analysis on Google Classroom – do your classmates agree? Listen to your classmates’ recordings and see if you agree with their analysis. Can you make any more suggestions to help them improve?</p>		
<p><b>Put voice recordings on your blog:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try doing this regularly (at least three times a week) for one month.</li> <li>• Visit your classmates’ blogs and listen to their recordings. What interesting language did they use?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Extend your Conversation Club sessions:</b> Tell us what you talked about at conversation club and what you found interesting, by writing/recording a post on <i>Google Classroom</i> or on your blog.</p>		
<p><b>Use</b> <a href="http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/">http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/</a> Here you can find a native speaker who wants to learn your language, for a language exchange. You will speak some of the time in your language and some in English, so you both benefit.</p>		
<p><b>Start a conversation on Google Classroom:</b> Talk about <i>anything</i> you like. Try and use some of the vocabulary and structures that you have been looking at</p>		

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in class. See how clearly you can express yourself.		
<b>(Your ideas)</b>		
<b>Grammar and Vocabulary</b>		
<b>Quizlet:</b> Use <a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a> to review vocabulary by making flashcards and playing games with them. You can also make and complete tests. Use it as a vocabulary notebook – add any new words or phrases that you learn.		
<b>British Council LearnEnglish:</b> <a href="http://www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org">www.learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</a> Use this website to access a variety of activities to help you improve grammar and vocabulary, but also develop your listening/writing/reading/speaking skills.		
<b>(Your ideas)</b>		