



BLOOMSBURY INTERNATIONAL

How to be a Good Student



1. Make a study plan

If you study only when you feel like it, you will never study. Making a study plan for the week or month, making sure you schedule in specific skills will help you to keep on task.



2. Set SMART targets

S.M.A.R.T. targets are targets which are: **Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant** and **Time-based**.

(For example:)	Not SMART ✗ I want to...	SMART ✓ I want to...
Specific	... improve my English.	... learn everyday expressions for conversation.
Measurable	... build up my vocabulary.	... learn 10 new phrasal verbs.
Attainable	... do all the English tenses in my 2 week course.	... learn how to use the present perfect in my 2 week course.
Relevant	... pass IELTS so I want to practise presentations.	... pass IELTS so I want to practise speaking for 2 minutes.
Time-Based	... be able to learn Advanced grammar.	... be able to use the third conditional by next Friday.

Don't just say that you want to "speak better English" or that you want to "get a 6.5 in your IELTS exam", but **mention a specific part of the English language that you want to improve** something that you can measure so that you know when you've achieved that target, something realistic and attainable, something relevant or useful your you as an individual and then set a time in which you want to achieve it.

3. Don't worry about making mistakes



When we are learning a language, we always make mistakes. You should definitely ***not be afraid of making mistakes in the classroom*** because the lesson is a “safe space” where you can make mistakes which will then be corrected by the teacher.

However, ***you should also not be afraid to make mistakes outside of the classroom either***. Most people, even native speakers of English don't have perfect English, so you should focus more on communication and conversation rather than.

4. Take every opportunity to practise your reading and listening

Read books and articles on a topic of study, or interest. Whether this is in connection with a course, or just at your own leisure, encouraging yourself to read is a highly effective way to increase understanding of new



concepts. Take a trip to the library, or invest in some classics on a topic to provide the best reading materials to self-study. Watch educational videos to keep yourself actively engaged in a concept

There are many tutorial videos that are intended for teaching people new skills, or educational shows aimed at complementing what students learn in school.

Whether you are trying to learn another language, or figuring out how to conduct a science experiment, you can greatly benefit from the audio and visual walk-through.

5. Take every opportunity to practise your speaking



Many students come to the UK and end up only speaking to their teacher and to their classmates. The teacher often speaks more slowly and “grades their language” (adapts their English to the level of the class), and obviously classmates make similar mistakes to those you make.

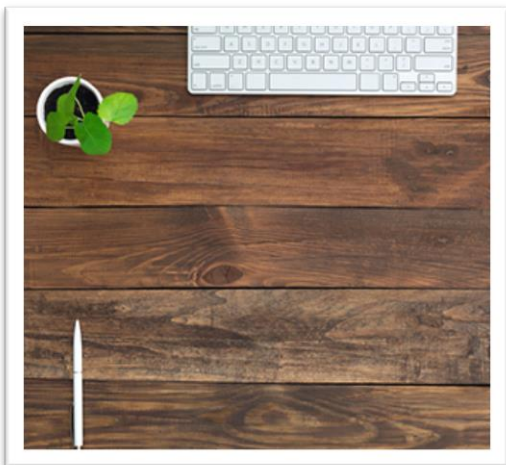
The only way to really use your English in real-life situations is to go out and meet new people.

Meetup.com had a group called “Mammoth Language Exchange” where you can meet new people and practice your English (and you may meet native English speakers who want to learn your language too).

Obviously, when meeting strangers, you should make sure you go with a friend and that somebody knows where you are going.

If meeting strangers isn't your thing, try to have conversations with your home-stay family or roommates about what you've learned at school.

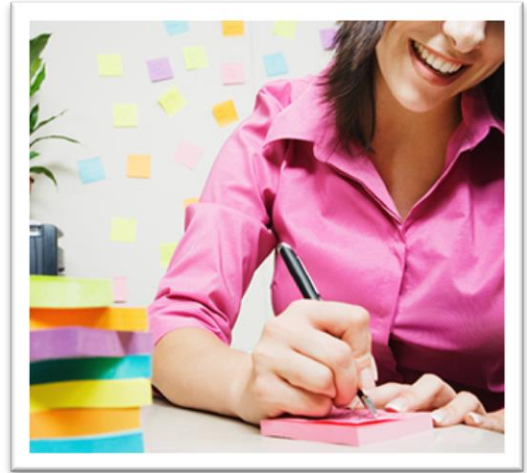
6. Have a dedicated study area



A study area is vital to study effectively. You could have an office at home, a desk in your bedroom or you could use the Student Resource Centre at Bloomsbury International. Your study area should have a tidy work space with no clutter or distractions, and should be well-lit.

7. Learn how to take effective notes

Invest in highlighters, coloured pens and sticky notes because they are useful tools to take notes. If you keep notes while you are learning, it will enable you to keep the information in your brain for longer, and it will help you build valuable organisational skills.



This blog post has some excellent ideas for effective note-taking: [James Kenned](#)