

The Fans

Lesson Plan – Question 4: What's the best way to learn English?

Level A2 / B1

Aims To raise awareness about how students learn English and to give advice.

Language

Skills & functions a) To listen for specific information
b) To give advice – talking about the best way to do things.

Vocabulary Vocabulary linked to education (study, homework, practise etc.)

Grammar: *Imperative* form for giving advice

Focus Giving advice; Learning the English language.

Materials you will need:

- a) DVD or webpage ready to show Question 11: What's the best way to learn English?
- b) Copies of students' worksheets for Activities 1 – 5.

Stages & timing:

- a) Before you watch: Lead in (5 mins) Activity 1 (5-10 minutes)
- b) While you Watch: Activity 2 (5 minutes).
- c) Watch Again: Activity 3 (10 minutes)
- d) Post-watching: Activity 4 Grammar (5 minutes), Activity 5 Speaking (15minutes).
- e) Stimulus Question: (5-10 minutes).

Before you watch

Lead In (5 mins)

Ask students what kind of things they did in English this week, if anything. What *could* they have done in English, if they had to?. Then, tell students to look at worksheet Activity 1. Tell students to work alone and rank the best ways to learn English in their opinion. 1 = best way 6 = least favourite way. It may be useful to say that there is not a correct answer and that it is their opinion.

Students then compare their answers.

Feedback: Ask the whole class, which they think is the best way.(Idea: a fun way to feedback can be to read out the options and students stand up if they think that is the best way too.)

Activity 1: Ways to learn English (5-10 mins)

Look at the ways to learn English below. Which do you think is the best way to learn English? Rank them from best (1) to worst (6) in your opinion.

- *Socialising/ communicating with native speakers of English* _____
- *Socialising/communicating with non-native speakers of English* _____
- *Living abroad (in an English speaking country)* _____
- *2 hours per day studying grammar* _____
- *Getting a good dictionary and read newspapers* _____
- *A combination of study and speaking* _____

Now compare with your partner. Have you got the same or different? Try to explain your answers e.g. *I think living abroad is the best way because...*

Ask the students if they know any other good ways to learn English. Write their ideas on the board.

While you Watch**Activity 2 (5 mins)**

Tell the students they are going to watch a video of the fans called 'What's the best way to learn English?'. Tell them that each fan is giving advice about learning English. Students look at worksheet Activity 2. Students watch the video and write down in the box any advice that they hear from the fans.









Feedback: ask the class what they heard. Ask the students 'Were any of the ideas mentioned in the pre-watching stage mentioned in the video?'

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Watch again - Activity 3: Who said what? (10 mins)

Tell students to look at Activity 3 on worksheets and read through the list of advice in the table. Explain any unknown vocabulary. Can students remember who said what? Tell students to watch the video again. As they watch, students write the letter of the advice next to the name. If necessary, students watch a third time.

Can you remember who said which piece of advice? Listen and match.

a. Socialise with foreigners	<input type="text"/>	1.  Albert
b. Just living in the country and meeting new people from the country	<input type="text"/>	2.  Jaime
c. Try to speak with the native people	<input type="text"/>	3.  Valentini
d. Go abroad	<input type="text"/>	4.  Albert
e. Go to a natural environment to learn the pronunciation	<input type="text"/>	5.  Asier
f. First learn the rules that will help you to speak	<input type="text"/>	6.  Minji
g. You need to find yourself a good teacher.	<input type="text"/>	7.  Juan Carlos
h. Two hours studying in an academy and the rest of the day watching television, reading books or trying to speak with people.	<input type="text"/>	8.  Mansour

Answer Key: 6 a (Minji), 7 b (Juan Carlos), 8 c (Mansour), 2 d (Jaime), 4 e (Albert),
Example 1 f (Albert), 3 g (Valentini), 5 h (Asier)

Activity 4: Grammar focus (5mins)

Tell students to look at Activity 4. Read the questions with the students and ask them to work with their partner and discuss the questions. Then feedback. (Alternatively the teacher could do this as a whole class activity, and go through the task together.)

Answer Key:

Which sentences use?

- a) The Imperative + *noun* a, d, e, f
- b) The Imperative + *ing* b, h

Activity 5: Speaking Give some advice!**Lead in** (5mins)

On the board write the phrases 'What's the best way to learn how to dance?'
Encourage them to use imperatives.

Elicit some advice from the students e.g. *Find a dancing school, Try practising at home first, be relaxed, find a partner who can already dance, going out to a party etc.*

Pair work (10mins)

Tell students they are going to practise giving each other some advice.

Tell students to work in pairs and decide who is student A and who is student B. Tell students to look at Activity 5 on worksheet (student A looks at part A and Student B looks at part B). Tell students to read the instructions. Give students 5 minutes to prepare some advice (it may be useful for them to write down some of their ideas).

Students then ask and answer their questions.

Student A:

Your partner will ask you about the following situations. Think about how you will answer.
Give them some good advice!

What's the best way to...?

*Cook (...food of your
choice)?*

Get a good job?

Pass an exam?

*Travel to a city/town
in your country?*

Ask your partner about the following:

What's the best way to...?
become famous?
write a book?
learn how to drive?
make new friends?

Student B:

Your partner will ask you about the following situations. Think about how you will answer. Give them some good advice!

What's the best way to...?

Become famous?

Write a book?

Learn how to drive?

Make new friends?

Ask your partner about the following:

What's the best way to...?
cook (...food of your choice)?
get a good job?
pass an exam?
travel to the next capital of your country?

Feedback: Ask students 'Did you get any useful advice?'

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Stimulus Question (5-10 mins)

Put students in pair/groups of 3 and get them to discuss the following question:

Who do you usually ask for advice? Why?

When was the last time you asked somebody for advice? What was it about? Was the advice good? Why/ Why not?

As a whole class, discuss their ideas.

Transcript

Martin	I think the best, the best way to learn a language is just, jump straight into it and interact with people that speak that language and try to communicate with them. They will probably correct you, some time and another but they'll do it in a friendly way
Minji	Socialise with foreigners. . not going out with the same nationality of friends or sitting at the desk and studying hard or looking up the dictionary. Its not really good and it can be boring but socialising with other nationality friends it can be really fun.
Asier	I think it will be a mix, I think, between study and practice. For example two hours studying in an academy and the rest of the day watching television, reading books or trying to speak with people.
Mohamed	Study in the school and make friends and go out with friends. I think learn English needs more practice with English people.
Jaime	Go abroad. Absolutely. You go to England and speak with the people introducing you into the culture. It's the best way I think.
Albert	First to learn the rules that will help you to speak in a .. to build a proper speaking scheme. And then to go to a natural environment to learn the pronunciation and make it like natural for you.
Mansour	I think with the practice, with the reading and with the try to speak with the native people, with the more practice with them I think it's a good way to learn English.
Farid	In my opinion socialising is the best way. Finding, making some friends. Spending your free time. Even if you could find some jobs, some jobs involved with people, different people. Socialising in general is the best way to improve our language.
Shafai	Try to spend, for my self, spend my time as much as I can with English people.
Amnah	You should associate with other people, English people, to gain your vocabulary or extend it.
Juan Carlos	Just living in the country and meeting new people from the country.
Beatriz	I think speaking all the time that's why I think it's so important, well at least for me, to come here because I'm always speaking English. I need to speak English because well, I think it is a common language so I think it's the best way to learn we have. We always have the necessity.
Valentini	It's a combination of: hard work - you need to find yourself a good teacher ; put lots of time aside to do homework; write, write, write things down; read newspapers; if you've got any unknown words, that's not a problem – not everybody knows everything; get a good dictionary; write and talk the way you can understand it. And then if you get the opportunity to travel or live in the country as I have, then that should definitely help.