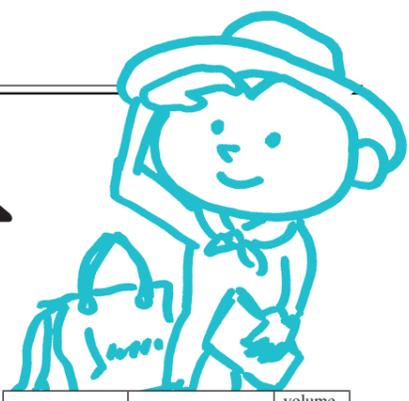


SALC通信



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S e l f - A c c e s s L e a r n i n g C e n t e r



Find something you
enjoy doing and do it
in English.
Make English your
own language.

How to study English during the break

Jana Rezkova (Junior Lecturer, Center for Language Education)

Congratulations to all students on finishing your exams and assignments! Now it's time to relax a little. However, that doesn't mean it's time to forget everything you have learned this semester. There are many things you can do during the summer to keep studying English even when classes are not on.

Some of you might be travelling abroad during the summer, or even going to an English speaking country as part of an immersion program, which is of course a fantastic opportunity to practise English. However, even if you are staying in Beppu this summer vacation, or going back to your hometown, you can still work on your English.

I would like to share my own language learning experience with you and give you some tips on how you can study English during the summer break and have fun with it!



Tip number 1: Use English!

The best way to learn English is to use it as much as possible. When you learn something in class, you might forget it soon after you leave the classroom. However, if you take your knowledge outside of the classroom, and use it in your daily life, you will remember it for a long time. For me, English was not just another subject I had to pass in order to graduate. English became my way of life. I read books in English, watched English programs on TV, joined immersion programs, wrote letters and emails to my friends, and spoke English with friends. It didn't seem like hard work, but more like a lot of fun.

To really learn English, you need to make it part of your life, and you can do this during the summer break too.

Tip number 2: Speak English!

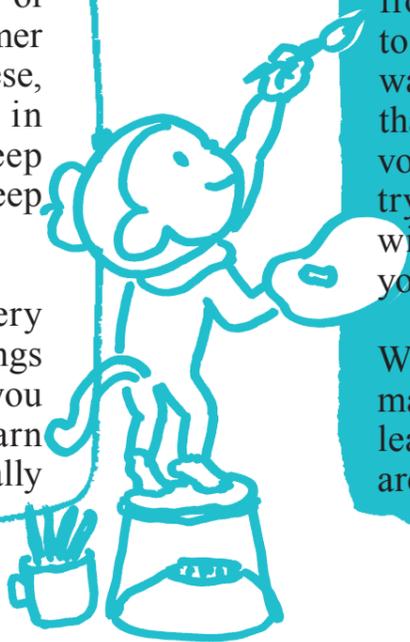
When I was a student, I enjoyed speaking English with my teachers and with other students I met in my English class. During one summer vacation, I joined a 3-week intensive English language course in England. I learned a lot from my classes and from my home-stay family, but my English improved mainly thanks to speaking to other international students. Interestingly, many of my classmates at that time were Japanese and we became very good friends. We kept in touch over many years and wrote letters and emails and eventually visited each other in our home countries. Later on I became friends with some international students in my hometown and spoke English with them. So I can say that I learned English from speaking to other foreign students, not only native speakers.

This summer, try speaking English with your friends. If you don't have anyone to practise with, you can record a 'voice diary' every day.

Tip number 4: Holiday writing

As for writing, you can write letters or emails to your friends during the summer break. Even if your friends are Japanese, why don't you write to each other in English? It could be a fun way to keep in touch during the summer and to keep using English at the same time.

You can also try to write a diary every day. Write down your thoughts, feelings and daily adventures in English. If you write your own thoughts, you will learn a lot of new vocabulary that you actually find useful.



Tip number 6: Listen to English songs and watch movies in English!

This is an easy and fun task. What kind of music do you like? If you listen to songs in English, why don't you look up the lyrics on the internet? You will improve your listening skills and vocabulary while enjoying some beautiful music. Watching movies in English is also a great way to keep your English active. You can try to watch movies in English with English subtitles first, and then try to watch the same movie without subtitles. Can you try that?

Tip number 3: Reading for fun

Maybe you think that the words 'reading' and 'fun' do not make any sense together. However, reading doesn't have to be boring. Find something you are interested in (magazines, cartoons, news articles, internet articles, stories or novels) and read it in English. Reading is a great way to improve your vocabulary and to keep your English active. If you think reading in English is too hard, don't worry - there are many easy reading materials at the SALC that will suit your level.

I remember the first time I read a simple book in English - it was Animal Farm by George Orwell - and it was a great feeling to actually read a whole book in English. You can do it too!

Tip number 5: Keep a vocabulary list

The other day I asked my mum: 'Do you remember how I learned English?' She told me I was always carrying around vocabulary lists and studying them on the bus, on the way to school, etc. I always kept the list updated with new vocabulary I learned and I went through it over and over again. Once I could say a word correctly five times in a row, I would delete it from the list and add a new one. This method seemed to work well for me, but you might have your own way of learning vocabulary. The important thing is that you have to be consistent and try to use the new vocabulary you learn. When you learn a new word, try to use it in speaking or writing to a friend. You will see that you can remember it much better once you use it in your daily life.

When learning a new language, you will encounter many new words you don't know. You don't need to learn everything straight away. Choose words that are useful for you.

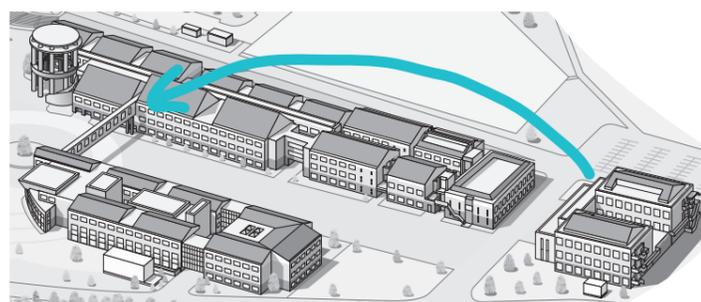
If you really want to learn English and improve, you have to keep using it. Most importantly, find something you enjoy doing and do it in English. Make English your own language. You don't need to live in an English speaking country or speak to native speakers to do that.

Have a great summer!

2012 年秋派遣交換留学 募集日程 (予定)

- 募集ガイダンス/海外学習フェア:2011年10月12日
- 申請期間:10月7日(金)~11月18日(金) 16:30まで
- 面接:12月5日(月)~12月9日(金)
- 派遣内定者発表:12月13日(火)

2011年秋セメスターより、 SALCが現言語ラウンジ(F棟1階)に移動します!



詳細については、キャンパスターミナルおよび次号のSALC通信(9月中旬に発行予定)をご覧ください。

From AY 2011 Fall Semester, the SALC will be located in the Language Lounge (1st Floor, F Building). Please refer to the Campus Terminal and the next issue of the SALC Newsletter (scheduled to be issued in mid-September) for details.

