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## **INTRIGUING BOULEVARDS OF SELF-LEARNING OF ENGLISH**

English has become the international language of education and business. More people around the world than ever before are learning English. The mission of all the teachers of English is to promote learning of English and in turn support professional development of people worldwide. The second language teachers help learners of all age in pursuing their dreams of higher education or getting a good job in English-speaking environments worldwide. In many countries, English is a second language and preparing the learners for a successful mastery of it is not a simple process. It is well known that a new second language is fostered well by providing opportunities to learn it at an early age along with emphasizing the development of one's native language. So, more and more countries are introducing English-language instruction earlier in school. But irrespective of when a child instigates learning English, the paramount approach is to give it a pleasant learning with well-crafted engaging materials, proficient teachers and an opportunity to cultivate everyday conversational ability applying the four skills — listening, speaking, reading and writing.

There are many different modes of teaching at universities and colleges, such as lectures, seminars, tutorials, studio work, workshops, laboratory classes and fieldwork. Some classes may be interactive involving a lot of activities, and others may involve only listening depending on the class content that matters. The young learners often pass a critical judgment regarding the mode of teaching. They feel that most of the teaching methodologies are outdated and monotonous. The chalk and talk methods and projections of visual material on the walls do not excite them anymore

as they consider the ideas taught in the class to be uninteresting and listening inside the walls from morning to the evening to be terrifying. This may be because of the reason that the learners have an access to the learning materials at the tip of their fingers using electronic gadgets. E-books and journals accessed through the internet provide abundant resources for their knowledge enrichment better than the teachers who are no more the only source of information as it was in the olden days. So, the teachers are in a position to shift from the traditional teaching methodology to a new pedagogy to outfit the expectations of these technocratic youth.

Instead of blaming the teachers and the methodologies, the students can involve themselves in active, independent and effective mode of learning. The learners have their own responsibility in educating themselves. Till this day, examining how one can be active and independent in studying is a question of predicament. However, self-learning is essential and possible in this current educational scenario. It is possible to learn a widespread new language independently because a lot of study material is available in the form of low-cost printed materials and internet sources. Self-studying English is possible in India because the Indian government has accepted English as the second language and most of the state governments provide English knowledge to their school students as one of the subjects in the regular curriculum. So, the Indian students are in a very comfortable position to initiate self-learning as the basic knowledge of English is inculcated in them by the schools.

The best solution to get mastery over any language is to have an access to a massive input of it just as it was done while learning the native language. While using the native language, no one thinks about the grammar or the words he/she uses. Correct sentences just get derived without conscious and strenuous efforts. The brain uses sentences that have already been stored in the mind. So, there is no interruption in the stream of thought in the native language. By the same token, if students have the hunger to use a foreign language- English, they have to learn the language in the method they learned the native language - by a massive input. This kind of learning is possible while learning the native language of the place. As English is the non-native language in India, and it is not used everywhere, there is less opportunity to get massive input. So, English competency should be enhanced by the students of English through massive inputs using all the language skills like listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Grammar-translation methods and memorization of rules have been the regular practice for learning English for years in all the educational institutions. Nowadays they are probably useful to

a certain degree. Students study English for many years and know all the rules of grammar and sentence structures. But then again, still scuffle to communicate suitably and make a conversation in English. They hesitate to use English with confidence in the presence of others with the fear of committing mistakes. The hindrance in using the second language has to be eased by spending a significant amount of time focusing on the functional use of language, and learning in context through interaction with other people. After getting basic formal learning of English for years in educational institutions, this kind of language practices should not be searched again under the complete monitoring of teachers and tutorial classes. The best solution to acquire English is to encompass self-learning. The paper discusses on the various avenues of self-learning of English

Although self-studying English is not easy, it is definitely possible to do. With hard work and determination, the learners can overcome the challenges in mastering English. The initial step to learn is to build steadfast inspiration and confidence. The learners must always keep themselves self-motivated and encouraged. Setting a prospective goal in mind will keep the learners on the track of learning English. In the expedition of self-study, periodical recollection of objective has to be done and has to be reviewed so that the step to acquire the learning of language doesn't lead to a no-win situation. During the learning process of English, the learners should support themselves and remind themselves why they want to learn English. At the same time, it is appropriate to analyze and find the most comfortable method that the learners can adopt as well as adhere to and something that they enjoy. If they want to do self-study insouciantly, they must get their friends to join in English learning journey and explore funny ways to learn English. However, the passion for English should always grow without diminishing.

Self-learning allows the learners to learn English based on their own capabilities. They can study English at their own pace without having to be monitored by the instructors or their lessons or disheartened by comparing themselves with the accomplishments of their classmates. They will not develop apprehension towards English by such comparisons. They get to train at an easy pace, which makes it a more well-organized learning experience for them. Ultimately, they become less dependent on others to learn English. Since they are studying alone, there is self-motivation for them to prove that you can learn English on their own. The learners stop studying English and start using English every day in their day to day communication. They will communicate with other people in English with confidence and pride. Self-learning accompanied with dedication will

not take more than a few months. If there is consistent motivation and steadfast learning, success can be reached.

There are many possible methods to improve English and self-learning. It is good to discuss the ways and means of self-learning in English. As everyone knows, vocabulary is the basic need for all language learning. The learners must focus on acquiring new words in English because words are the basic tool of expression. If they lack words related to the concept they like to express, they will not be able to express the idea they conceive. So, the learners have to keep learning new words in English. They can customize a weekly goal of learning 15-25 new words in a week or talking in pure English in one conversation with any person and receive critical appreciation. This will make them stay motivated. Vocabulary list in mind is the treasure house that provides words for conveying the ideas without any barrier as words are the basic components of a sentence. It is wise to have a little book where new English words are noted down. Reviewing the words during free time helps in establishing the words in the mind. Rather than learning a word on its own, it is always good to learn it in context and with its correct usage. A word can be repeated in a paragraph many times and used elaborately. For example, if the word “benevolent” has to be learnt, it has to be used at least three or four times again and again. Writing a few sentence about ourselves using this word “benevolent” helps to turn away from forgetting the word. This will help in understanding the word in context clearly. This kind of learning is the true way to customize the word. Different forms of the same word should be learnt and used in various contexts. It’s better to avoid writing a translation of the word in native language next to the vocabulary, because if it is only in English the students will identify it better and absorb it quicker.

The first language skill acquired by any new learners should have been listening just as they learned their mother tongue. They can learn the second language using a lot of input through audio lessons. The students can sharpen their listening in English from the pronounced speeches of eminent orators so that they get familiar with the tone and modulations necessary for public speaking which in turn help them in their presentation. English speaking radio is the best source of listening. The BBC has an outstanding channels which is all speaking rather than music. BBC Radio has regular morning chat and programmes which covers up-to-date issues. Watching television news programmes in English from any channel whenever possible is something mandatory for the learners of English. The news is always read very clearly, and it is easy to understand what the news reader is talking about because pictures and video always accompany

news reading. If necessary, record the programmes for watching it later. Watching interviews and reviews will help the learners become familiar with conversational English and how one should communicate with other people.

In the process of self-learning, the learners must provide themselves ample opportunity to listen to good English lyrics. Listening to lyrics in English over and over again until they know the song very well enable a good understanding of English. The music can be of any genre in which the words are clear and allow improvement of diction and pronunciation. Listening to music or great speech by orators is not a hectic or impossible task nowadays because the students have handy hi-fi electronic devices. Watching movies and focusing on the words and phrases used help in the better understanding of English. If the students have the interest in movies, they can watch interviews of their favorite actors and actresses in English. They need not bother if the video is topical or not, what is important is the listening and learning from real English content. Watching English movies and TV shows help to develop how the listeners speak and comprehend the language. Through movies, the learners will be able to hear a lot of people talking to each other using the most current forms of English. This will help them learn commonly used slang terms, English idioms and phrases, and broaden their English vocabulary. If the learners cannot understand what the actors are speaking, they can use the clickable subtitles to improve vocabulary, listening, pronunciation and fluency. One of the best ways of self-study is to use interactive flashcards, vocabulary lists and repeat parts of videos that are difficult to follow. Once they are more familiar with the words, the subtitles can be removed and English comprehension can be tested. The Internet Movie Script Database (IMSDb) has a worthy list of movie scripts and so, the learner's work is to simply search for any movie there and read along with the words when they watch the movies and repeat the words of the characters till they understand. This is a good training for English comprehension and communication.

Reading is as imperative as listening for self-learning in English. In Indian scenario, reading is feasible at all occasions rather than the other language skills and it helps in improving listening, speaking and writing skills too. It helps to improve all parts of the English language – vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and writing. The constant repetition of words and patterns in reading helps the students learn and remember vocabulary and grammar structures. The more the learners read, the more exposure to English sentence structure, new vocabulary, and formal and casual speech patterns they get. They will soon start using new words and phrases in their speaking

and writing. Reading is the preeminent method to learn and remember the proper spelling of words. As students develop proficiency in grasping what they read, they will get affinity to the language and in course of time, English no longer remains an alien language but becomes the language of their mind and soul. Naturally, the students will develop language intuition to judge good or bad sentence construction. This helps them wade through every task with confidence and emerge as conquerors.

The timorous learners can begin speaking in English with a prior exercise of reading English aloud because such training helps them in getting used to their own voice in English. Even if they make mistakes, reading aloud will help them to speak English more easily. It helps them become familiar with the rhythm of English. To read aloud, they can use a book or newspaper or anything with English on it and read out the words with modulations rather than reading them mutely. Even if all the words are not understood, it will still provide the mouth and brain the right preparation in speaking English words. After such training, the learners will find that they can use sentences more easily and quickly when they speak English. Reading aloud is useful because it makes them voice out words which are not of their choice. In self-learning, students are expected to figure out a lot on their own. They can buy graded readers in English and read and understand English stories and books at their own English level.

Reading e-books, articles, and online magazines help in improving English. This means the learners have a whole lot of sources to choose from when and where to learn English. The important reason for ESL students to develop their reading skills is that there is a strong correlation between reading and academic success in higher education where the medium of learning is English. In other words, a student who is a good reader of English text is more likely to do well and pass exams than a student who is a weak reader. Students who read English books for enjoyment every day perform better in all tests than those who don't, because they develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of the text. Good readers in English can easily understand the individual sentences and the organizational structure of a writing.

The inputs through reading and listening sharpen the mind and train the learners to think in English too. Non-native English speakers always have to translate English in their minds, which causes the delay in their response. However, if the mind is trained to think in English, it will be easier to understand and speak the language. This process can be a conscious activity in the launch.

The students can tune their mind to English willingly for a few minutes in the beginning of this practice during self-learning. They have to find an appropriate place, time and an apt concept for their contemplation. They have to deliberately contemplate over any concept in English although they have a sense of estrangement to the language. They should not allow the mother tongue to sneak into their mind language because this is a kind of impediment hampers cultivating their fluency in English. Even if they think in their native tongue, they have to rebuild the sentence construction in English.

During self-learning, the students can think in English with confidence as they are their own audience and no one else can listen to them. As there is lack of the external viewers who may censure them when mistakes are made, the learners will have a rewarding and realistic experience of thinking in English. They are the masters and tutors in their own domain of English practice sessions and continue with assenting and praiseworthy compliments to themselves at the constructive stations and remedial ventures when they go wrong. The students must take care that their undesirable condition should not obstruct their thoughts in English. Whatever be the frequency of mistakes and corrective action, the students must keep thinking in English. Whenever they need explanation, they have to refer to good dictionaries and grammar books. Such activities will boost up the confidence of the non- native speakers.

Speaking English wherever and whenever possible is essential in self-learning. Before starting any conversation in English, it is essential to look up all the vocabulary related to the particular situation. This practice keeps a person prearranged and well equipped. If the learners meet anyone who speaks English, they should speak only in English although the other person knows the native language. In an English-speaking country, there is a possibility of acquiring English quickly. Even in the native place of the learner where English is not found everywhere, it is better to speak English to persons who know English without being nervous. Requesting friends to speak in English makes it a more motivating task as this gives a lot of opportunities to express in English. The learners can communicate freely in English with friends anytime and get guidelines to improve communication. Practicing and speaking English shouldn't end at home or with friends. The unknown people can be the target of testing our English knowledge because it is not necessary to impress them on all occasions.

There are the language exchange communities where the beginners can communicate with other self-study students like them. Using some of the websites, the students can meet native English speakers who are prepared to exchange conversations with beginners of English and help them out. In due course, the learners will find that they do not have to translate things in their head, yet involve in a real conversation. This helps the speakers to explain what is needed, and also helps in understanding the reply. They can express their thoughts much more easily due to constant practice. While learning English, they should not worry about mistakes committed by them - fluency is the significant thing in these exercises. If they have to correct the mistakes, then they have to record while they are speaking and listen again later to hear where they were wrong. Nowadays, this action is possible due to the due to the availability of mobile phones with camera and voice recording facility. The learners can make use of these simple devices in a better way.

Speaking in English utilizing all the opportunity is the part of self-learning process. The concept of speaking, makes the learners feel more nervous even before they start speaking. Just putting off the nervousness and speaking is very essential. While a person is speaking, all the listeners will be focusing mainly on the content of delivery and not the sentence structure. Moreover, no one knows everything – so there is no need to apologize for speaking English with a few mistake. English is the second language and the learners are still in the stage of learning. So, creating a low self-esteem as English is not spoken perfectly is a huge block in the learning of English. Everything consumes time. The more the learners speaks and practice English skills, the more they will improve. No one can learn how to speak English in a few months. The paramount thing is that the learners are trying, and so most people will appreciate that. So they have to keep themselves relaxed, and start talking in English. Learning in a classroom environment may create anxiety because they have to ask questions, understand the teacher's brain, and share ideas with classmates. Self-learning involves activity from the part of the learners and so they have to implement the English language into their daily life, and communicate with people in English at every chance they get.

Writing skill in English is mandatory for all professionals as written documents are the treasure house of information. Writing and testing individual's own writing puts all learning together—how much they know about English grammar, vocabulary and overall understanding. Writing and rewriting of the draft is essential to make a composition error free. After writing, the

learners are advised to check their own work for any error. The experts can be requested to review the work and give feedback on the writing. Online grammar checker and programs to locate mistakes and errors are to be utilized to fix the errors. Involving in chatting with friends online is a fun way to self-study English without even conscious of learning it. It's different from talking to a teacher, or studying in class, or even using English at work because the learners are free from language apprehension. However chatting can be done and the language becomes easy. Chatting can be done using hike, Facebook Messenger, through Twitter tweets or even through Skype voice calls. Chatting is an amazing way to learn English because the learners are putting into practice what they have learned in a casual, stress-free way. Through keyboard chatting, they can get to check for grammar errors before they hit that "enter" button. With online voice calls, they can practice conversational English. Students should develop the skills and mind set for self-learning through the process of solving problems in the worksheets and gaining the experience of advancing beyond their curriculum.

More recently, the web has made accessible an enormous amount of e-resources in English. The internet is a treasure trove of English e-books, articles and magazines. It is easy to find a resource with a topic that you're really interested in. Online dictionaries have reduced the need for laborious glossing. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, encourage youngsters to stay connected with language by providing an interface of cross culture communication. The tutorials, web downloads, online-quizzes, forums have bridged the gap that formerly existed between the learner and the library and so the students have umpteen reading materials at the tip of their fingers. Not only computer but also devices like tabs, and mobiles have revolutionized the growth of English in EFL countries. No specialized IT skills are needed in the comfortable teaching and learning environment. The tools are familiar to the students also.

During the past two decades, the exercise of spoken language skills has received increasing attention among educators because the prospective career of the student depends on the spoken English. A computer gives individual attention to each and every student and responds immediately to answers for the questions related to the self-learning tests in English. The student can get immediate feedback as soon as he completes his learning and tests. Teaching listening involves perception of sounds, stress, intonation patterns, accents, attitudes and so on. All the pronunciation modules and the subsequent trainings benefit the students. This software module

allows students to experience interactive multimedia programs contributed by the native speaker. The language lab software analyzes their pronunciation and associates a waveform representation of the native speaker's pronunciation with a waveform of their pronunciation. Students' speech evaluation is possible through the digital recorder modules in language learning software. The automatically generated proficiency score can then be used as a basis for providing other modes of corrective feedback and allotting suitable lessons for the improvement of the pronunciation.

The students can record their own voice and play back the recordings, interact with each other and the teacher. They practice voice based activities like speech drill exercises through model imitation, voice recording, voice graph and variable speed playback to neutralize accent & acquire fluency. Using this, students feel like they are interacting with a live native speaker and they can increase their comprehension, vocabulary and speaking skills. The teachers also can record their own voice notes that students can hear later. Virtual meetings also offer an easy way to bring remote lecturers into a class. In the internet, students get a plenty of learning materials that give them confidence to speak. It provides them with audios and videos that serve as models for their speech in the real time situation.

During self-study, the learners might miss the mistakes and errors they are making. English self-study has to get to double check if they are on the right track. For self-study learners, an easy way to test themselves is to do free online English quizzes. These quizzes will test their grammar, sentence construction, comprehension and a whole lot more. These quizzes are to be completed weekly or monthly to make sure they are on the right track. Language exchange websites are available online. English learners want to talk to fellow English learners, and the good news is that there are numerous websites that specifically focus on language exchanges. Many websites provide online English vocabulary and pronunciation games with other people. English can be learnt from popular talk shows, catchy videos and funny commercials. There are many IT tools that can help in learning and working more effectively, whether it's using a reference manager to collate and organize your references, or setting up a formatted word document for your dissertation. Knowing what is available and how to use it can be help save you time and study more effectively. Testing grammar with online English quizzes is possible nowadays.

The preeminent way to take control of learning is to customize feedback. Feedback may be the proper assessments or it could just be a discussion with a teacher or an expert concerning

the performances of the learner and how English could be improved. English learning websites are designed for appraising the performance of the students and they too give teachers comprehensive performance feedback to design their teaching, serving them pinpoint where help is needed most to build students' skills, and guide conversations with parents. They also enhance teaching and learning by giving information about students' abilities in relation to a widely accepted international standard. To support students, English Language Teachers can provide self-study learning materials on writing assignments, good grammar, and preparing for exams.

The unavoidability of obtaining and practicing English has formed apprehensive attitude towards the erudition of the language. The pressure on students to attain reverberation in English consequences in anxiety that is explicit to the second language classroom. The second language learning anxiety is an outcome of the personal believes of the learner, the teacher and at large the society. The anxiety emerges from the learners' imprint of their own capability to acquire and use English. The learners assume English to be complicated and this supposition results in building a outlandish fear and multifaceted dilemma where even the intellectual learners could not continue with the stress of competing with the confident users. These inner lacunas were accountable for hampering the sound footing of English in the native soil. Communication anxiety felt towards teachers and peers thwarts the students using English. This expectation to get affirmative remarks creates an anxiety that serves as a huddle in speaking or writing English. They are afraid of being observed and commented on. The learners should get rid of fear and focus on self-learning and adopt various approaches to self-studying English.

Learning a new language can be very difficult, but you can make it easier for constant practice and creating healthy learning situation to master the English. Language is made up of so many elaborate expressions of culture, that it is impossible for books and courses and class room activities to disguise them satisfactorily. The best way to learn English is to involve in self-learning and Master the language. Only a person who enjoys doing all sort of things can be successful in any work. If the learners want to learn how to use English well, that have to be that persons who enjoy learning English. It is better to get integrated with the language, and learn it sincerely. They should stop thinking about how people might respond, and what they will say. Having a negative attitude doesn't help improve your learning, it makes it worse. Creating barriers will hinder progress in self-learning. Thanks to self-learning, soon the learners will stop thinking of boring classes, difficult grammar rules or lengthy homework – instead they will be thinking about a

humorous English TV shows, their desired or interesting conversations with different people in English. Self-learning of English will help to make the learning process a smooth one and make learning English a fun.

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