

## **Fun Ways in Learning English**

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### **Abstract**

To some, learning English appears to be complicated. In the academic contexts, students still get difficulties in learning English. Teachers as educators should be creative in choosing the best method to teach the language. Learning strategies that are less fun or arguably boring do not improve students' English skills, instead will only make students feel bored and lazy to learn. The most important thing is that students enjoy every learning process as something fun. It can help the students feel comfortable during the learning process. Fun learning activities will have an impact on improving students' English abilities naturally. It helps students to reduce pressure during learning. Therefore, the ways of learning must be designed and adapted to the needs of students. This paper is non-research based. It means that the paper is about author's perspective of how to learn English in fun ways. This article enlists several fun ways in learning English. So, the students can find their enjoyment in learning English.

**Keywords:** Fun, Learning English, Strategies, Method

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Learning English is one of the ways to hold the world. Nowadays, English is not an ordinary language, it is more than a language. English is an international language. People use English to communicate with people in different countries. It can connect you to people around the world. In the other hand, learning English can help you reach your success. It can increase the opportunity to get job easily. In addition to that, learning English also can improve students' life skills. Research has shown that having an

understanding of English as a foreign language also helps your native language development. It has been found that students can develop better vocabularies and an improved level of literacy all through studying a foreign language (Mahu, 2012).

To some people learning English is a monster. It seems to be something scary. In Indonesia, English serves as a foreign language. Because of that, students are not familiar with the English words. They still get problems in learning English. Different

students can have different problems and difficulties in learning English. Many factors affect the unachieved learning objectives, one of which is the wrong learning strategy. Language Learning Strategy (LLS) plays an important role in a learning process. According to Sartika (2019) there is a strong comparison of strategy learning used between the successful and unsuccessful learners. In conducting teaching-learning process, the power of teachers and students must be equal (Tanjung, 2018). Therefore, it is interesting to know what strategies that successful and unsuccessful learners use in learning English so that it gives some information to the teacher, especially to help students learn better. Learning strategies that are less fun or arguably boring will not improve students' English skills to be better, instead make students feel bored and lazy to learn.

Teachers should change the learning activity into fun ways. Educators should consider potential and creative teaching options to overcome students' learning challenges such as their lack of interest in and attention to the subject (Avila, 2016). However, the most important thing is that students enjoy every learning process as something fun. It can help the students feel comfortable during the learning process. Fun

learning activities will have an impact on improving students' English abilities naturally. Avila (2016) also states it is important for teachers to give students a sense of what to expect in the course while making the class fun, entertaining, and beneficial for the learners. Students will unconsciously feel that they are not learning but they are entertaining themselves. This really helps students to reduce pressure during learning. Therefore, the ways of learning must be designed and adapted to the needs of students.

## **METHOD**

This article is non-research based. It means that the paper is about author's perspective of how to learn English in fun ways. It explains the detail information about the ways in learning English without any pressure. It also explains about an English learner's experience of learning English through fun ways. The critical elaboration was based on selected relevant material in the literature, instead of empirical research data. This paper will give the readers a wide understanding of learning English especially in great ways.

## **DISCUSSION**

Learning English is not easy. Teachers should use the best method to teach the language. One of the ways to take students'

attention in learning is using fun ways. When teachers use activities that make the learning fun, students will give all their attention in the learning process. There are many ways to learn English. Students tend to like fun learning. They can start it from something interesting. Having fun while learning can build students' interest in learning English. Here are some ways proposed worth reading.

### **Mingling with foreigners**

Mingling with foreigner is a good way to improve students' speaking ability. Students can go to tourist resort where many foreign visitors are often seen (e.g. the Prambanan Temple) and have a talk with them. Students may start with greeting and asking about nationality/country of origin, weather, and name. The foreigners will very welcome to answers their question. Because of that, students must use the polite words while asking.

Communicating in English with foreigners may raise a sense pride, imagining to be seen by the local people for doing something very rare (Suwartono, 2018). Rehearsing questions and answers beforehand can also be done. This helps students to improve confidence to speak with foreigners. Students learn a lot from this direct contact-activity, especially about the culture. A study by Sumbayak (2013), for

example, shows that students could learn about culture from the real experiences of other people.

### **Listening to slow songs**

Listening to songs is the easiest way to learn English. Using slow songs to learn English is easier to understand. Suwartono (2019) states that songs provide examples of authentic, memorable and rhythmic language. They can be motivating for students keen to repeatedly listen to and imitate their musical heroes. Students can prioritize the clarity of lyric (instead of the sound of musical instruments). According to Lestary and Seriadi (2019) songs are one of the most enchanting and culturally rich resources that can easily be used in language classrooms. Students can learn a lot by listening to slow song, especially about grammar and pronunciation aspects from songs. Besides that, rhythm, tone, rhyme, and word choice are entertaining. Students will not feel bored to learn English every time through listening to slow songs. In the other sides, listening to slow song can be the best way to calm the minds of students.

### **Listening to/watching favourite channels**

Technology plays a huge impact in teaching and learning process. Technology is involved in increasing the education quality. According to Arianti, et. al, (2018)

technology cannot be separated from teaching learning process because it can be found surround us easily. Technology can be a media for teacher to teach various kinds of subjects, one of them is English. Listening to/watching favourite channels may be the ways for students to learn English in fun way.

### ***Watching TV programs***

Watching TV programs can be a good choice to learn English in fun ways, because students have a tendency to watch TV every day. They can spend their time about 5 hours per day to watch TV. It is because TV provide a more diverse range of programs than their electronic entertainment tools. Safranji (2015) states the use of movies is an effective way of improving listening abilities of foreign language learners, also resulting in getting better insight into English culture. Students may watch many programs such as movie, news, and entertainment. Many TV channels from all over the globe can even be accessed on the internet. Furthermore, Webb (2015) also recognizes the importance of television, which is a good example of a valuable source of authentic materials, by claiming that “the greatest value of television for language learning might be its potential to provide large amounts of L2 spoken input, which can contribute to the development of vocabulary knowledge and listening

comprehension, as well as other aspects of L2 learning”. Metruk (2019) emphasizes that watching TV is more strongly linked to entertainment rather than to education. Watching TV programs may give a wide knowledge to the students and improve students’ listening ability.

### ***Watching video on YouTube***

Another choice is watching videos on YouTube. Nowadays, YouTube has been ‘a daily consumption’ for people around the globe, especially teenagers (Jati, 2019). Videos on YouTube have a good visualization and animation. According to Almurashi (2016) Using YouTube videos to teach English classes as supplementary material will provide learners with good understanding and knowledge of their lectures. In addition, it is likely to make the learning process more fun and meaningful. Furthermore, Almurashi (2016) also emphasizes that it gives students the opportunity to memorize their lessons more easily. It also gives an interest for students to watch and enjoy the whole video. There are many educational videos that can be watched by the students to help them learn English easily. Students may download and save the videos to make them easier to watch the material anytime.

### ***Listening to radio***

Although nowadays radio is not the most popular entertaining media, but radio still has a high position to be chosen as the fun way for learning English. Munadi (2013) argues that the characteristic of audio media is based on the ability of the media to stimulate the sense of hearing. Its main characteristic is that the message is delivered through audio media conveyed in additive symbols, both verbal and nonverbal. Radio encourages the listener's imagination through words and sounds (Budyana, 2018). Students can listen to radio in the bedroom every morning or at night before sleeping.

#### **Chatting, Emailing, and Messaging?**

Trying to have a real interaction can improve students' English speaking ability. According to Belinda (2018) one of the way people can acquire their second language is by observing and using it in their natural environment. Media communication such as Facebook, Yahoo Mail, and Yahoo Messenger can be used to be a tool to communicate using English. Students also can find people from all around the world as a partner in communication. Sometimes, they don't have any confidence to speak directly in front of people. By chatting or e-mailing students have enough time to prepare text to write for response. It is less burden and less nervousness. Students should always use

English even when they are doing this written mode activity with Indonesian pen friends. The internet is now easy to access, cell phones can take some of the roles. Students will learn from each other. Their linguistics insights (mainly vocabulary) and writing ability along with spontaneity will develop steadily.

#### **E-Games**

Nowadays, many students are addicted in playing games, especially e-games. They tend to spend most of their time to play games. Because of that, e-games should be the choice for students to learn English in fun way. A study about The Effect of Digital Video Games on Efl Students' Language Learning Motivation by Ebrahimzadeh and Alavi (2017) shows that motivational engagement experienced through DVGs will transfer to educational settings meaning that using a DVG in the classroom positively affects student motivation. E-games are interactive and get the students involved. Learning English through playing e-games will not make students feel bored during the learning, instead students will enjoy learning while playing e-games. It is easy to access games. Some games are available on CDs, cell phones, and computers. In the other hand, the internet is powerful to support games online.

### **Amateur Writer**

Writing is one of the language skills that have to be mastered by students. Trying to write something is useful to improve students' English writing skill. It can help students to build their grammar and vocabulary mastery. Without practicing, it is impossible for students to improve their writing ability. Students may start writing a kind of summary, critical review, tips or other most probably needed information. Students can prepare colour papers or loose sheets of binder to write on. Handing it over to students' English teacher or better learner friends for editing before submitting it to the management of school's Wall Magazine. According to Kartawijaya (2018), these practices are supposed to stimulate the student's skill in writing and expressing thoughts in a good passage. Students and the "editors" will get some pride when their cooperation is fruitful. Their short articles are published and read by other.

### **Voice of Learners**

It is a story based on the true experience of successful English learner, Astria Alvany Dewi. She started to know English when she was in the primary school. It started when she was watching karaoke video. Her father played an English song and the song was Yesterday from The Beatles. She realized

that how it is pronounced and how it is written were not the same. Her mother bought her first dictionary. It consists of the name of fruits and vegetables with pictures. She began to search for more words by listening to other songs, watching movies, and reading some quotes from books. She also had very complete dictionary from her grandfather. She once joined English course. But, she always skipped the class because she thought that the learning process was not interested enough. Then she decided to stop the course.

In learning the language, she did not learn English from reading. Only out 20% of 100%, she learned English from reading. It was reading some quotes from books and memes. She tended to learn English from movies, songs, and other interesting ways. When she was in senior high school until college, she used social media to learn English. She chatted with her foreign friends from US, Philippines, Texas, Scotland and other countries. It really helped to build her confidence, improved vocabulary mastery, and of course learned about slang words. There was an advice from her for English learners that English is no longer language nowadays. It is a need and a life style. You can find English everywhere around you.

There so many doors that you can open with a key and the key is English.

Based on the story Dewi told, she actually used to learn English through fun ways. The fun ways are watching movies, listening to songs, having a chat through social media with foreigners, and sometimes reading quotes from books. So, Learning English through something interesting really helps her to build her English easily.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that learning English is now a need. Fun learning English really helps students to enjoy in learning the language. It also helps students to avoid boredom in learning the language. There are some ways to learn English fun. First is milling with foreigners. By asking the foreigners/tourists will build students' confidence in speaking. Second is watching TV programs. By watching TV programs, students get a new knowledge and improve listening ability.

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Third is watching video on YouTube. It gives students the chance to memorize their favourite video material easily. Fourth is listening to radio. It encourages the students' imagination through words and sounds. Fifth is chatting/emailing/messaging using English. It can be the way to improve students' vocabulary and confidence. Students can also having a chat with their foreign friends. Sixth is playing e-games. It is the interactive way to get the students involved. Games provide fun for students who play them. Without realizing it, theyhave learned English through the games they play. For the amateur writer, students may try to write something useful to improve students' English such as summary, critical review, tips or other most probably needed information. It will build students' grammar and vocabulary mastery. Those ways are not only improving students' interest in learning English but also helping students to learn English naturally.

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