

By ReadOasis.com

5 Big Mistakes English Learners Make



What are 5 big Mistakes English Learners Make?



Focusing too much on grammar.



Doing too much boring test prep.



Not learning the top words first.



Not spending enough time on task.



Not getting enough meaningful, interesting, and story-full input.



Mistake #1 — Focusing too much on grammar

Mistake: Many learners spend most of their time on grammar study. They may fail to learn English naturally.

Solution: You can learn grammar naturally as you understand and communicate meaningful messages.

Grammar is important, but learners and teachers spend way too much time on grammar. You learned your first language without studying grammar. And you can learn English without focusing on grammar too much.

If you over focus on grammar, you lack balance. Language expert Paul Nation says learners should do four things: (1) get meaningful input, (2) produce meaningful output, (3) grow fluency, and (4) study rules for grammar, sounds, and words.

This means you can focus on grammar less than 25% of the time. Remember, you can "pick up" grammar naturally – by reading and listening to messages and stories. You can improve grammar as you practice fluency and communicate with people.





Mistake #2 — Doing only boring test prep

Mistake: Many learners work only with test prep books. They may fail to grow their total English skills.

Solution: You can score higher on tests if you grow your English powers with meaningful communication.

Go to the language learning section of a bookstore. You will see mostly TOEFL or TOEIC test prep books. These books will teach you how to prepare for a test. But you need more than a test prep book. You need to grow your "total English."

What can you do? For one, you can read and listen to stories at your level. Research shows that big readers score high on big tests. Big readers have big word power. Big readers learn grammar naturally. Big readers get a feel for English.

If you need to prep for a test, a test prep book can help. But test a prep book is boring. You'll get tired of it. And experts say you need to study 90-120 hours between each big test. You need balance. You need to make it interesting. So, focus on meaningful (story-full) input and output as you prep for tests.



Mistake #3 — Not learning the top words first

Mistake: Learners study rare words too soon. They waste time and fail to master the most important words first.

Solution: Make sure you learn the top 2,000 words first. Then you won't have gaps in your word power.

Imagine a student named Rio. She has gaps in basic word knowledge, but she studies words like: "acrimony, vagabond, and skittish." If Rio reads 3,000,000 words (365 hours of reading), she will meet "skittish" only 5 times. It's a rare word.

Rio needs rare words, but she needs them later! She still doesn't know many of the most common words. She needs the top words first. They come from the top 2,000 words of English. They cover 80% - 88% of ALL English texts.

When you learn the top words first, you save time and energy. Why? You spend time learning words that you meet all the time! At the end of this book, you can learn some clear ways to study the top words first. So, keep reading!



Mistake #4 — Not spending enough time

Mistake: Learners think going to English classes is enough. They may fail to get enough time to really learn.

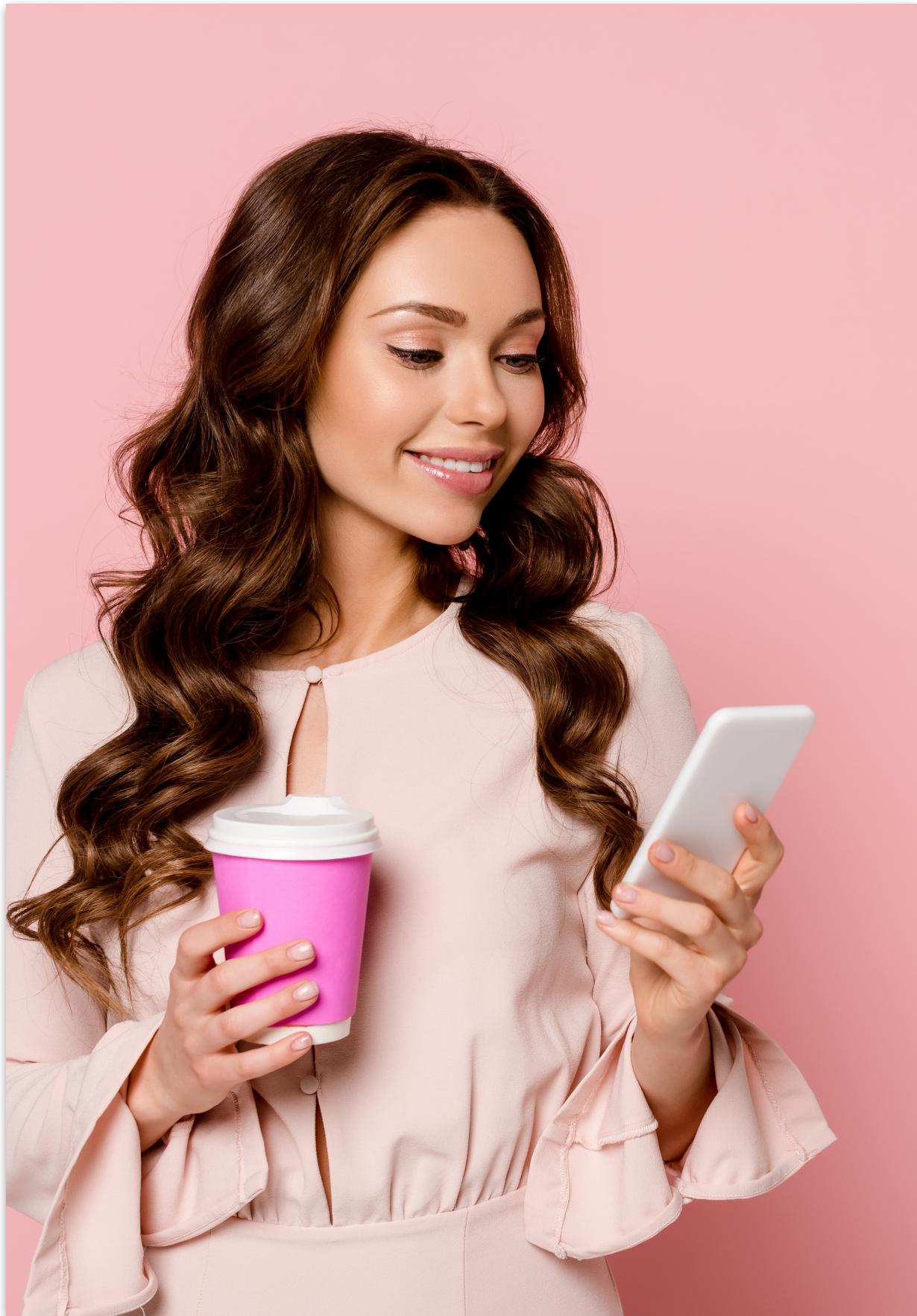
Solution: To master English, make a daily plan for time on task — the more time you spend, the better you get.

Language classes can help you a lot, but they do not give you enough time to really master English. And many English classes don't focus enough on communication. You need more time outside class. You need more time working with meaningful and story-full input and output.

Of course, you live or study in an English-speaking country. This works best! It gives you the most "time on task." But if you can't live in an English-speaking country, what should you do?

You can make English-speaking friends. You can listen to your favorite music in English. You can watch movies in English. You can spend time with online conversation partners or coaches. And best of all, you can do big, easy reading with graded stories. We'll talk about big reading again later.





Mistake #5 — Not getting enough interesting input

Mistake: Learners do old style study and fail to enjoy meaningful, interesting, and story-full messages.

Solution: You can learn English the best way by getting "big data" with meaningful and interesting stories.

Remember, you did not master your first language by study. You mastered your first language through communication. You heard and read millions of meaningful messages. You shared millions of meaningful messages.

How can you hear and read more messages in English? And what is the most powerful kind of message? You can get lots of English messages by big reading. Big reading works with stories. And stories are the best way to put language in your brain.

Big reading works because you read at just the right level. This means you don't need a dictionary. And when you master a level, you move up. So, you keep learning. At ReadOasis, you can read and listen to thousands of stories. You can enjoy learning English the natural way. You can avoid the 5 big mistakes!

ReadOasis helps you avoid the 5 big mistakes

English learners often try boring or hard language study. And they still don't master English communication. But experts say we learn best with stories. With ReadOasis, you can enjoy lots of interesting stories that help you improve your life and really master English. Start today!

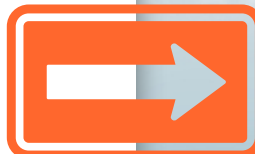
1 - Sign Up. Choose your course. Start enjoying stories today. Learn the natural way.

2 - Enjoy Stories Daily. Read stories at your level for 15 minutes a day. Master a level and move up!

3 - Get Results. Reach your word count goal. Get confidence and satisfaction with success.

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