

Language learning opinions (Learner Training/ Functional Language- Opinions/ Meetings)

Read through the following ideas for studying English and mark each one with a tick for good ideas and a cross for bad ideas (don't think about it too much, just go on your first impressions)

Listening to English tapes when you are asleep

Having English radio on in the background while you are doing your housework

Playing English language learning games on your Nintendo DS

Saying or thinking what you are doing in English as you carry out daily tasks ('I am unscrewing the ketchup bottle cap' etc.)

Watching English language films with English subtitles

Watching Japanese films with English subtitles

Watching English films with Japanese subtitles

Watching the same film or TV episode over and over again

Reading graded readers (= easy readers)

Reading classic books in the original (e.g. Shakespeare or Charles Dickens)

Reading English children's books

Watching English children's films or TV programmes

Keeping a list of language to learn, e.g. a vocab list

Going through your vocab list several times every day

Labeling things in your house or office, e.g. with post-its

Keeping a diary in English

Online chat

Listening to the radio news in English

Reading an English language newspaper

Writing fiction in English, e.g. short stories

Listening to English music

Reading the lyrics of English songs, e.g. from a CD jacket or on the internet

Singing in English, e.g. karaoke

English language exercise videos

Listening to audio books

Learning a famous speech or poem in English by heart

Putting yourself into a state of deep relaxation before doing listening exercises

Getting tipsy (= a little drunk) before speaking English

Using a dictionary while you are watching a movie

Learning and using the phonemic script

Recording your own voice

Working your way through the dictionary

Learning as many words as you can of one category, e.g. animal words

Doing exercises in self-study grammar books and vocab books

Starting English lessons very young, e.g. when you are two

Reading a grammar book

Surfing the net in English

Taking holidays abroad

Drawing pictures of the words you want to learn

Reading children's books in English

Having a foreign boyfriend or girlfriend

Arranging a conversation exchange

English language exams

Translating

Writing the words you want to learn in katakana

Modelling your accent on one particular actor, e.g. trying to speak like Robert De Niro

Using an English-English dictionary

Occasionally talking to or e-mailing your Japanese friends in English

Finding a pen friend

Starting conversations with foreign people you see on the train.

Going to an English pub and starting conversations with the barmen and other customers.

Optional Task

Now read through the list again and label all the ideas for learning languages above by how good you think they are with a number representing your opinion as below:

- 14 This is an absolutely fabulous idea. It's one of the most intelligent things I've ever heard.
- 13 This is an excellent idea. It's almost guaranteed to work.
- 12 This is a great idea.
- 11 This seems like a really good idea.
- 10 I would say this is a good idea.
- 8 This could be quite a good idea.
- 8 This is not a bad idea. It could work.
- 7 This is an acceptable idea. It might be worth thinking about.
- 6 This is quite a bad idea. I doubt whether this would be any use.
- 5 This is a bad idea. I don't see how it could possibly work.
- 4 This is a very bad idea. There is no chance it could work.
- 3 This is a terrible idea. You shouldn't even consider doing this.
- 2 This is a really awful idea. It would be pretty stupid to do this.
- 1 This is a totally atrocious idea. It would be worse than doing nothing.

Using the **opinion language** below, give your opinion about one of the language learning methods above.

See if the other students can guess which one you are talking about.

Frankly,...

In my opinion,...

If you ask me,...

Generally speaking,...

As far as I know,...

The way I see it is...

As far as I'm concerned,...

If you want my opinion,...

I (personally) believe that...

Not everyone will agree with me, but...

(This might be a bit controversial but) I would say (that)...

Without a doubt...

I'm convinced that...

I'm absolutely certain that...

I'm positive that...

With some reservations, I'd probably say that...

If the other students can't guess after one sentence, you can **add more information**

Another thing is that,...

I would also say that...

Perhaps I should also mention that...

In addition,...

Not only that, but...

What's more,...