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WHY IS ENGLISH DIFFICULT TO LEARN FOR UKRAINIANS

At first glance it seems that opportunities for learning English are enormous. But a lot of Ukrainians believe English to be a very difficult language to learn. First of all it is considered that English has complicated grammatical rules. Although many people complain about the English system of tenses, it is just necessary to understand what the grammatical constructions are supposed to express (without trying to directly translate everything into our mother tongue); for example, the phrase “I have been doing something” conveys the idea of doing something continually for a period of time in the past (and usually also continuing the action in the present). Once you understand the concept, it is much easier to apply it to any verb than in most other languages, simply because verb conjugation is much simpler [1].

English has no genders and only three different articles (the, a, an). The form of articles doesn't change according to the function of the noun in a sentence as it is in German language, for example.

Though it has been admitted that English has the world's craziest spelling system. In order to really know English spelling, you have to memorize the spelling of every word. Besides, English has a very rich set of sounds. It has the ability to string consonants and vowels together almost arbitrarily. Foreigners must learn to identify certain sounds which they consider distinct [2].

In terms of vocabulary, English is like a patchwork. There are often different words to express the same idea. If you do something using your hands, you don't do it “handily”, you do it “manually”, and the “green” electricity you may be using doesn't come from “sunny plants” but from “solar plants” [1].

Because of its diverse, promiscuous etymological origins, English has lots of synonyms which, just from a dictionary definition, seem very similar if not identical in meaning. For example, you can *watch* a movie or *see* a movie, but you can only *watch* TV, never *see* it. You can't *view* either of them, even though when you watch either of them, you become a *viewer* (and never a *watcher*, much less a *seer*!) The same word can even fall into multiple categories. “Trust” is a noun, but also a verb. “Quiet” is both a noun and an adjective [2].

So what is it that makes English so hard for foreigners to learn? The answer is: the combination of its vocabulary, orthography, and pronunciation. Most languages have a regulatory body which issues spelling reforms as the pronunciation of the language develops (which happens much faster than one might have expected). On the other hand, English spelling is “regulated” by influential dictionaries [1].

We offer several methods of learning English that can help to make the problem of difficult language easier and turn it into a hobby:

- 1) Find the lyrics to your favorite songs in English, translate, learn and sing with the performer.
- 2) Spend a vacation in a country where they speak English: combine useful language practice with a pleasant holiday.
- 3) Try to think in English, comment on expiry, events, news.
- 4) Study the culture, it will be helpful if you want to go to a country where they speak English.
- 5) Read, watch movies on key moments in history, prominent figures of art, science, the development of fashion and so on.
- 6) Use the Internet while learning English – it provides a remarkable opportunity and learning may even become a hobby.

Of course we have mentioned not all the cases, which really make English difficult to learn. There are much more reasons to suppose English a difficult language. Though, if you really want to learn it – just try and you will succeed.

LITERATURE

1. Marian J. Is English a hard language / J. Marian [Electronic resource]. – The way of access: <http://jakubmarian.com/is-english-a-hard-language/>
2. 10 Reasons why English is a hard language [Electronic resource]. – The way of access: <http://www.xamuel.com/10-reasons-why-english-is-hard-language/>