

Starter unit

Language learning • Grammar and vocabulary review • Skills review

- 1 **SPEAK** Answer the survey questions. Then write two more questions about learning English. Swap with another pair and discuss.



- 1 Which aspects of English language learning do you find most interesting/difficult?
- 2 How do you envisage using English in the future?
- 3 How important do you think it is to aim for perfect English pronunciation?
- 4 What opportunities do you have to listen to native English speakers?
- 5 How do you usually deal with feedback you receive on your English?

- 2 How does each of the alternative forms in sentences 1–10 below change the meaning? Add an extra sentence for each alternative to make the context clear.

- 1 I stopped to *check* / *checking* my messages.
I stopped to check my messages. There weren't any, but I did get a couple of Facebook notifications.
I stopped checking my messages. I just couldn't deal with that level of stimulation.
- 2 The teacher *taught* / *has taught* / *has been teaching* us how to differentiate between the use of simple and continuous tenses.
- 3 If I hadn't watched the film last night, I *wouldn't* / *have been* / *wouldn't be* so tired.
- 4 I wish I *studied* / *had studied* Spanish too.
- 5 We stayed at the *first hotel* / *first hotel* which had a sea view.
- 6 Great! I'm *going to see* / *I'll see* you there at six thirty.
- 7 The writer is thought to *live* / *to have lived* in southern Italy.
- 8 I *checked my essay* / *had my essay checked* before handing it in.
- 9 I *didn't need to hand in* / *needn't have handed in* my homework this morning.
- 10 She complained that she *was being* / *had been* ignored in the decision-making process.

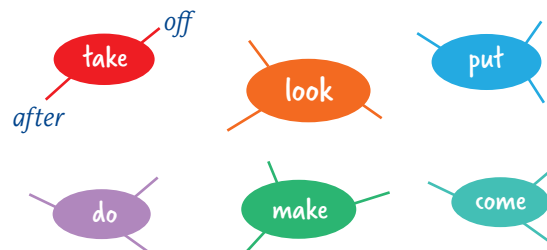
- 3 **SPEAK** Complete the sentences in your own words. Compare with a partner.

- 1 This time next week, I
- 2 During the last holidays, I used
- 3 Earlier today, I got a message from someone who
- 4 A friend of mine recently told me that
- 5 If I had the opportunity, I
- 6 Yesterday evening, I was watching

- 4 **SPEAK** Act out the conversations below.

- 1 You are going to a party. Ask if it's all right to bring a friend.
- 2 You need to take some time off work. Ask your boss.
- 3 Give your opinion on a recent controversial news item.
- 4 You agree or disagree with a friend's opinion on the news item in point 3 above.
- 5 You recently had a negative experience at a leisure centre. Complain to the manager.
- 6 You didn't manage to complete an assignment on time. Apologise to your teacher.

- 5 **SPEAK** Add prepositions to the mind maps to make phrasal verbs. Write an example sentence to show the meaning for each phrasal verb.



- 6 Read the blog post and find examples of features 1–7 below.

I took part in the first round of an inter-school quiz yesterday. Quizzing is a passion of mine, and my college team was top of the league last term – but yesterday was a bitter disappointment – the worst result for our college team for ages. It all came down to the last question, which was about an English linguist, and his name was on the tip of my tongue, but could I remember it? Unfortunately – nope! We're out of the competition 😞

Olga S.

- 1 an idiom
- 2 a collocation
- 3 a relative clause
- 4 a comment adverb
- 5 a superlative adjective
- 6 a phrasal verb
- 7 a gerund

7 SPEAK Read the two emails and discuss the differences in style.

Hi Kat,
I've just seen an advert for volunteers for a new research project on language learning. Looks fascinating and I might just apply! It's all to do with different learning styles. As you know, I speak both Polish and English pretty well because my mum's English and my dad's Polish, and I've always been interested in the way my brain deals with the two languages (as well as learning French at school!) The advert says it's happening at our local medical centre – the Waterside – and I'll need to spend about six hours there on Saturday 5th June and another three hours on Sunday 6th. Fancy applying too? Could be fun. I'm sending the link just in case. Whatever – I'll see you at college tomorrow and we can chat.
Ben x

Send

Dear Mr Barnes,
I am writing with reference to the advertisement you recently posted on my college website asking for volunteers for a research project on language learning that will be taking place over the weekend of the 5th and 6th June at the Waterside Medical Centre. I would like to apply. I am bilingual in Polish and English and have also studied French at school. I find the topic extremely interesting, and I am free the weekend in question. If you could send me the link to complete an application form, I will fill it in immediately. I look forward to participating in the project.

Yours sincerely,
Benjamin Holmes

Send

8 SPEAK Rate the aspects of learning English below from 1 (not at all important) to 5 (extremely important). You can add your own ideas. Give reasons for your answers. Then compare your answers.



So, what's important and why?

1 opportunities for free discussion



2 opportunities for structured discussion / role-play



3 learning new idioms and colloquial phrases



4 using prepositions and phrasal verbs



5 learning and practising new grammatical structures



6 revising and recycling grammatical structures



7 expanding your vocabulary



8 authentic reading and listening tasks



9 exam practice tasks



10 learning new and interesting information



9 SPEAK Work in small groups. Discuss the question below.

What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of learning a language on your own and in a group?

