



# CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Volume: 04 Issue: 06 | Jun 2023 ISSN: 2660-5317  
<https://cajotas.centralasianstudies.org>

## Extracurricular Activities for ESP

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*Received 4<sup>th</sup> Apr 2023, Accepted 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Online 6<sup>th</sup> Jun 2023*

**Abstract:** *The aim of this paper is to find out what are the extracurricular activities for ESP classes, outside the classroom.*

**Keywords:** *ESP, activity, method, technology, language.*

### INTRODUCTION

There are many reasons to learn a foreign language; from working abroad to discovering your roots, through intellectual curiosity, romance, travel or simple wish to know something more. But finding time to study a language can be quite a challenge. On the other hand it's surprising how many spare moments we have during a typical day, and they can really add up to a useful amount of study time. No, not study time; let's call it extracurricular activities, which can help us to improve our knowledge and skills of foreign language in more efficient and certainly more amusing way.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Learning foreign language takes time and commitment, what sometimes represents a serious obstacle. That's when the reasons for learning language take place; some are practical, some aspirational, some intellectual and others sentimental, but whatever your reason is, having a clear idea of why you are learning a language can help to motivate you in your studies.

Here are some reasons why people decide to complement their collection of knowledge with expertise in foreign languages:

#### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

If your partner, relatives or friends speak a different language, the communication can be limited to only a few words you know, so learning a language they speak can give you the opportunity to really know what they are talking about and give you a chance to take place in a relaxed conversation. It can also help you to understand better their culture and way of thinking.

#### WORK

Nowadays the world tends to unite in order to increase the collaboration between countries; consequently your work might involve regular contact with speakers of foreign languages.

When you lack of knowledge in this domain, there are three things that can happen to you:

- If you are unemployed, you have less possibilities to find a job.
- If you already have a job, your boss might demand you to take some language course, so you will be able to complete the task.
- If you are not prepared to take some classes you might even get fired.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Many people choose to learn English as their foreign language. Some take part in English classes, other learn it in school, where English is an obligatory subject; and there are also those who don't really attend any classes but still they seem to improve in their knowledge of English. How come?

As any other thing, also English can be learned through organized programs or through experiences and other extracurricular activities. But best it would be to combine these to possibilities, because the more exposure you have to English, the faster you will learn it, and a few hours of classes a week is not very much.

### A. *EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES*

There are many things we can do to increase the amount of English we hear, read and speak during the day.

Here are some things worth trying them out:

#### ✓ **LISTEN TO THE RADIO**

But not just any radio. Nowadays with all the computer technique and the WorldWideWeb it's easy to access for example the NPR (National Public Radio) and for those who prefer listening to British accent also BBC radio; these are only two of many that are available. Try finding out the one that has program you are interested in.

#### **Advantages**

- Its good for your pronunciation.
- You get used to accents.
- You hear the native speakers.

#### **Disadvantages**

- You might not be interested in the content of show.
- For the beginners the host might be talking to fast.

#### ✓ **ENGLISH TV, ENGLISH MOVIES and CARTOONS**

CNN, CNBC, TNT, MGM... but believe it or not also Slovenian programs (POP TV, Slovenia 1 and 2, Kanal A...) are pretty useful because they show movies in the original with subtitles. Or we can go to the cinema or watch DVD's. But there is one thing we forget about. It's no good for improving English if the subtitles are ON. Next time get the courage and watch the movie without the subtitles, if that is possible.

#### **Advantages**

- We all love watching movies; this is like a free-time activity, because we find them interesting.
- Children like watching cartoons, even if they don't understand everything; they are more into pictures. But in time they start to connect the content with speech (words).
- We can watch movies or cartoons for a long time without getting bored.

**Disadvantages**

- If we watch movies with subtitles it can happen that the subtitles are wrong or inappropriate; that often happens when the context is very scientific.
- It is very irresponsible to let the child watch movie without supervision, because they can get influenced by inappropriate content or words.
- Sometimes it would be healthier to take a walk or do some other activity outside.

✓ **ENGLISH SONGS**

You can learn quite a lot from lyrics, but the problem is that we usually pay more attention to the melody. Try sometimes to hear what the song is.

**Advantages**

- You get familiar with the pronunciation.
- Listening to the music can be very relaxing.

**Disadvantages**

- A lot of hit songs have really stupid lyrics.

✓ **ENGLISH BOOKS**

Why not to read the book in it's origin. It's so much that gets lost in the translation and we don't even know it and the books come in every level; from books for beginners to books for advanced speakers [1].

**Advantages**

- You get in touch with the tenses that are not in use in spoken English.
- It's easier to learn a new word in its context; sometimes you even can figure out the meaning.
- It's good for the vocabulary.

**Disadvantages**

- Some people don't like reading books; this is usually also a big problem with children.
- Even though you understand everything, the pronunciation might be wrong.

✓ **ENGLISH PAPERS AND MAGAZINES**

There are dozens of English language periodicals and magazines available. On the scholastic.com there are different magazines (such as Art, Current, News...) that publish articles written by native speakers. Or National Geographic for example; why not to read the English version.

**Advantages**

- In the magazines are usually topics we find interesting.
- Reading magazines is not so stressful as reading books might be, because the articles are not so complicated [2].

**Disadvantages**

- The language used it's not so sophisticated.
- You don't know where to buy magazines in foreign language.

## ✓ THE INTERNET

Probably the best source of English articles on every topic. For news and short news videos, check out CNN ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)) or ([www.literacynet.org/cnnsf](http://www.literacynet.org/cnnsf)), where you can find stories with comprehension questions and vocabulary exercises.

There are also sites for language learners. Check out [www.onestopenglish.com](http://www.onestopenglish.com) for activities and links to many self-learning English sites.

You can also listen to radio shows, famous speeches, short stories and audio books. Try out the History Channel website ([www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)) or one of the open source audio book archives ([www.audiobooksforfree.com](http://www.audiobooksforfree.com)).

You could also join a chat-room, if that is your sort of thing, go surfing in search of any topic that interests you or play online games.

### Advantages

- Internet refreshes almost every day, so there are new information available each day.
- Almost everything is available for free [3].

### Disadvantages

- Especially for children there are lots of inappropriate websites.
- We must be critical, because not all information are true and verified.
- Especially children can start to neglect the outside world, like school.

But these are not the only ways to learn English outside the classroom. Some learners decide to take part in

## ✓ ENGLISH LEARNING CAMPS

There are English learning camps here in Slovenia, but you can also travel abroad. This is a great experience also because you meet new people and make new friends [4].

Language learning camps offer the variety of activities in combination with language course. This can be a good idea for interesting, active and also educational vacations.

### Disadvantages

- It is very expensive.

For those who are more patient and self disciplined there are language classes available on

## ✓ DVDs

DVDs help you learn how to write, how to talk (pronounce words). They usually also contain games that help us to expand the vocabulary.

### Advantages

- Learning language step by step.
- You don't need any help, because the program is leading you through course.
- It is less expensive than language camps.

## Disadvantages

➤ You need to be self-disciplined.

### 1) *Music*

Music plays a significant part in the life of many teenagers and growing ups. For many young people it is important not only to listen to the tune and the rhythm, but also to be able to understand the lyrics of a song.

This can be a great motivating factor for young people to improve their knowledge of the English language and to enlarge their vocabulary.

Can the use of popular songs in the ESL (English second language) classroom promote the learning and the motivation in second language acquisition in junior high school or high school classes?

It is the researchers assumption that there is a correlation between listening to the lyrics of popular music (in English) - and vocabulary, pronunciation and sentence structure knowledge in English.

## CONCLUSION

There are many different activities that a person can do to improve their knowledge of language. Some are even so common and everyday that we don't percept them as extracurricular activities anymore. After writing this seminar paper, I will pay more attention to what I do for my English, because it's better to maintain the knowledge, than to learn something all over again.

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