



## How to learn English with my podcast

People keep asking how they can learn English with my podcast.

I have done episodes about this before, but this time, in this episode, my aim is just to answer that question properly and keep this as simple as possible.

I will give the best advice I can here, without wasting any time and without doing any rambling about other things.

If you like the rambling, don't worry, there will be more rambling on the podcast in other episodes coming soon.

My aim here is just to get the advice across to you as quickly and simply as possible.

How can you learn English?

# How to learn English with my podcast [959]

2

I understand that when you are faced with this task, it can seem a bit too big and difficult.

My first tip is just to start today, and don't worry about finding the perfect method. Just start practising, start using English to express yourself, find ways to work on areas of English which are difficult for you, and eventually you will find your own rhythm and method which works for you.

Be willing to try different things - different types of practice. Be prepared to be creative, but use English regularly and enjoy it.

A little bit of information about me, so you know who you are listening to.

I have been teaching English to adults from around the world for about 25 years and I have met thousands and thousands of learners of English - helped them, learned from them, seen what works and doesn't work.

I've been doing this podcast for about 16 years and have had lots of responses from listeners who have told me their stories.

I am from England and English is my first language. I live in France these days and I speak some French. If I actually took my own advice my French would be much better, but it is improving little by little.

In this episode I am going to talk about these aspects of English:

## The 4 skills

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

## Your ability to control these language systems

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
- Discourse management - the way you organise your ideas together to produce speaking and writing which is understandable.

## Listen to LEP every day (of course)

- First, this is a podcast and so, to improve your english with this, just listen to it.
- Listen to my episodes regularly.
- When a new episode comes out, listen to it.
- Listen to the entire thing.
- If you can't listen to it in one go, just pause and listen to more later, but do finish the episode.
- Listen to at least one episode a week.
- But, the more you listen, the better. So, if you listen for an hour a day, that's fantastic. Find more episodes in my archive at [teacherluke.co.uk/episodes](https://teacherluke.co.uk/episodes)
- Get a podcast app on your phone and subscribe to my podcast there (free) [teacherluke.co.uk/links](https://teacherluke.co.uk/links)
- Listen long term - just 1 episode isn't enough. Just 10 episodes isn't enough. You need to make listening a regular

## How to learn English with my podcast 🎧 [959]

4

part of your life for a long time. The effects happen gradually and with time.

- If you don't understand everything, don't worry about it. Keep listening and in time you will find that you understand more and more.
- But that's it - just listen and try to follow what I am saying.
- You can listen while you are doing something else, but the more you are focused and part of what I am saying, the better.
- The more emotionally or intellectually involved you are, the better.

So, that's it, just listen - listen regularly, listen long term, listen for longer periods of time.

I could go into the reasons why this is good for your English, but I am trying to be quick here, so I won't do that today.

Instead I will just say - trust me!

Listening a lot is great for your English. Most of the learners of English I have met in my career have not done enough listening. In fact, most of them didn't listen to anything really.

They just turned up to class and hoped that would be enough.

Don't be one of those people. Do plenty of listening - because, how else do you expect to learn how to understand and ultimately use this language if you don't really know what it sounds like when people speak it.

The 5 Ls - listening, listening, listening, listening, listening.

## Other, more direct methods

OK, let's say you want to apply yourself to this in a more direct way. Here are other ways you can work on your English.

I mentioned the 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing.

### Let's divide them into 2 categories:

- receptive skills (listening, reading)
- productive skills (speaking, writing)

## Practice

My main advice for working on all these things is practice.

The 5 Ps. Practice, practice, practice, practice, practice.

## Listening

For listening, I've talked about it. Listen a lot. But diversify the things you are listening to.

My podcast, yes - I try to keep it diverse - but also listen to other kinds of things, news reports, films & TV for dialogue, audiobooks, TED talks, documentaries - try to hear different types of English in different situations.

### Should I have subtitles on?

- Don't put subtitles in your first language.
- Subtitles in English are good, but not always.

# How to learn English with my podcast 🎧 [959]

6

- So, listen/watch with subtitles sometimes, and sometimes without.
- Watching with subtitles helps you understand, helps you connect the spoken and written versions of English and helps you spot new vocabulary and grammar.
- Listening without subtitles helps you to develop genuine listening skills - there are no subtitles in the real world.

You can always think outside the box and be creative with your practice.

Watch something with subtitles, then watch it again without, and then watch it again but just listen to it (don't look at the screen, just close your eyes).

Doing unconventional things like this can definitely help, so don't be afraid to experiment.

## **Focus on what you enjoy in English**

Final tip - motivation is vital, so focus on what you enjoy.

Watch and listen to what you enjoy.

Don't force yourself.

Keep it fun and enjoyable, because if you're not enjoying it, you won't keep doing it and you will develop negative feelings towards English.

So, try different things until you find what you really like, and then just listen to it as much as you can!

## Reading

- For reading - it's the same advice as for listening.
- Do plenty of reading, but diversify what you read.
- So, read books - fiction and non-fiction, newspaper articles, articles about things you are interested in, blog posts, emails, anything and everything.
- Graded readers
- Read different kinds of texts - particularly fiction and non fiction, because you should be familiar with slightly different styles of English.
- Going back to the main point of this - *how to learn English with my podcast* - a lot of my episodes have transcripts. Read them - either before, during or after you listen to the podcast.
- Check the episode pages in the episode archive on my website - [teacherluke.co.uk/episodes](https://teacherluke.co.uk/episodes)

So, basically: The 5 Rs - reading, reading, reading, reading, reading.

## Should I write words down? Should I check them in a dictionary?

At this point you might be wondering about writing things down or checking them in a dictionary.

I'll come to that in a moment when I get to vocabulary and grammar.

Now the productive skills: speaking and writing.

## Speaking

## Listening helps your speaking

This episode is all about how to improve your English with this podcast.

Naturally this suits listening, because it is an audio podcast.

Listening a lot can help your speaking. It gives you a template to follow and makes you familiar with spoken English, which should make it easier to reproduce in your own speaking.

You start to become automatically familiar with pronunciation in English - how words are pronounced, but also how sentences are pronounced with normal features of English pronunciation, which is very different to how English looks when it is written on a page.

I mean, you become familiar with stress patterns, intonation patterns and weak forms of some words (how they get squashed and sound different) - so you learn the rhythm of English.

Also, connected speech - how words get joined together. You can pick this up from listening a lot. So, listening helps your speaking.

But you definitely need to do plenty of actual speaking in order to improve this skill properly.

So, how can you speak more?

## Speaking tips

Here are some tips - either on your own or with some kind of speaking partner.

## **On your own**

1. Shadowing
2. Speak out loud while listening and respond to any question I ask
3. Summarise what you have heard
4. Respond to what you have heard, adding your own opinions or experiences
5. Talk to yourself regularly - comment on what you are doing, think aloud

## **With AI**

1. Do all the things I mentioned above, but let AI listen to you and either respond to continue the conversation, or ask it to give you feedback on any area of your English. It's particularly good at correcting grammatical and vocabulary errors.
2. Do role plays with AI. Ask it to be a certain person in a certain situation and then do a role play. Ask for feedback.
3. Practise scenarios you will need. Job interviews, presentations at work, meetings, social chit chat and smalltalk. Get AI to focus on certain situations, and ask for feedback.
4. Use any questions or content I have provided as the basis of your conversations or discussions.

## **With speaking partners or teachers**

1. Basically, do all the things I mentioned, but with another person. It's just more natural, and less weird to do them with a human than on your own or with AI.
2. If you do those things with a teacher, get your teacher to give you feedback and guide you towards improving all aspects of your speaking.

That's all I have to say about speaking.

Of course, it's harder to work directly on your speaking with my podcast, but you can use it as a starting point and find ways to be inspired to do speaking practice.

You can find qualified teachers and speaking partners on italki. Check out [teacherluke.co.uk/talk](https://teacherluke.co.uk/talk)

## **Duolingo?**

Don't bother with Duolingo, I think it's not the best, in my opinion.

You should instead try to practise actually speaking to other people, communicating in real time, with your mouth, and getting feedback on it, rather than constructing sentences out of context on an app. I say the same for other similar apps - I am not just singling out Duolingo there, although that green owl is particularly annoying, especially the way it tries to guilt trip you if you're not practising your English on it.

Anyway, apps like Duolingo are good to an extent (because anything is better than nothing) but you need real English practice.

## **Cambridge Exam tasks**

For more inspiration for your speaking, consider using Cambridge exam speaking tasks as the basis of your practice.

This should ensure that you are working on a variety of speaking skills. Get your teacher to help you. Preparing for a Cambridge exam with a good course can help you work on all your skills actually.

I would recommend a course with a real teacher.

## Writing

For writing, it's actually the same thing as with speaking. Do plenty of practice writing different types of text.

At the very least you should try to write on a very regular basis.

Simply the act of writing in English regularly is tremendously important, and for this it doesn't matter so much what you are writing.

It's just important to express yourself in English and practise constructing different sentences, and paragraphs in English.

So, write a diary in English. Every day write a few lines about what you did, what you thought and how you felt.

It's very very important to produce a lot of English - so write, write, write. Find your voice. It's like speaking.

And it's like all the other things - practice, a lot.

But as well as writing a diary to develop your voice and “written fluency” let's call it. You also need to be able write different texts in different styles, like these:

- Formal and informal emails
- Reports at work
- Proposals at work
- Stories
- Articles
- Essays

What kinds of things do you write in your first language? What's the most common thing you write?

Emails probably, maybe the other things I mentioned. So, practise writing them.

You might need to get creative to think of things, or:

- Use Cambridge exam tasks again - do the writing tasks.
- Ask AI to give you writing tasks and then ask it to give you feedback.

## Using Cambridge Exam tasks

By the way, for Cambridge exams - you can find sample papers with sample tasks, answers and model answers on the Cambridge English website here:

For B2 level (FCE)

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/first/preparation/>

# How to learn English with my podcast 🎧 [959]

13

For C1 level (CAE)

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/advanced/preparation/>

For all levels (IELTS)

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/ielts/preparation/>

For all those tests, use the speaking and writing tasks as the basis of some practice.

## Use AI

Again, AI can help you a lot with your writing. Ask it to give you different writing tasks and ask it to correct you and give you feedback.

When your work has been corrected, do it again.

You can input cambridge exam tasks (writing and speaking) into AI and ask it to test you on it.

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So those are the 4 skills - basically, practise a lot and get feedback and keep going!

Regular real world practice is important, so, if possible, make friends with people in English and just spend time in your life in English and make English part of your life.

Don't be shy - give it a try and don't be afraid to start now!

## Language Systems

Now let's talk about those language systems:

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
- Discourse management

I am trying to be super fast and efficient here. I could go into insane levels of detail on these things, but I will just try to give my best tips and keep them short and sweet.

## Grammar

Knowing grammar is definitely important, so study it!

It can be boring, but try to make it interesting for yourself by noticing examples in the English you are listening to and reading.

Also, remember that grammar isn't the most important thing.

Making a connection and being communicative - those things are more important.

So, don't worry too much if you make mistakes. Just make sure you learn from them.

Going back to the original question in the title of this episode -  
*How can you learn English with this podcast?*

Well, to learn grammar specifically with this podcast, do these things:

1. Listen to the episodes I have done about different aspects of grammar.

A lot of my episodes are about grammar. So, find these episodes, listen to them and do any exercises which I present on the episode pages on my website (you can always find links in the episode descriptions).

## Episodes about grammar (or featuring grammar teaching)

- [2. Easter / Interview with my Dad / Language Focus: Adverbials](#)
- [5. Joaquin Phoenix](#) [TA] A conversation with my friend Howard about the actor Joaquin Phoenix, and a language focus on using modal verbs for speculation.
- [19. Passive Verb Forms](#)
- [29. Mystery Story / Narrative Tenses](#)
- [44. Telling Anecdotes](#)
- [176. Grammar: Verb Tense Review](#) A complete review of all the main verb tenses (past, present and future) in English.
- [224. Pronunciation: Verb Tenses & Connected Speech](#) Learn how native speakers really pronounce sentences in different tenses.
- [239. Prepositions: Verb Collocations](#)
- [263. Past, Present & Future](#) A chance to really understand the verb tenses in English, with lots of context.

- [406. Grammar \(Past Continuous Tense\) / UK Media Bias / Brazil Football Tragedy](#)
- [450. Comments & Questions](#) Going through questions from the comment section with some grammar, some vocab, some reactions to recent episodes and some bits relating to how you can continue to push your English with this podcast.
- [518. Grammar Questions \(Part 1\) Present Perfect Continuous / Future Continuous / Language of Newspaper Headlines](#) – Answering grammar questions from listeners, with details about verb tenses (including present continuous vs present perfect continuous & future continuous vs going to) and the language of newspaper headlines. Includes references to The Queen, The Legend of Zelda and a lot of pizza.
- [795. DOPPELGANGER \(Learn English with a Short Story\)](#)

There are others but I can't remember them right now.

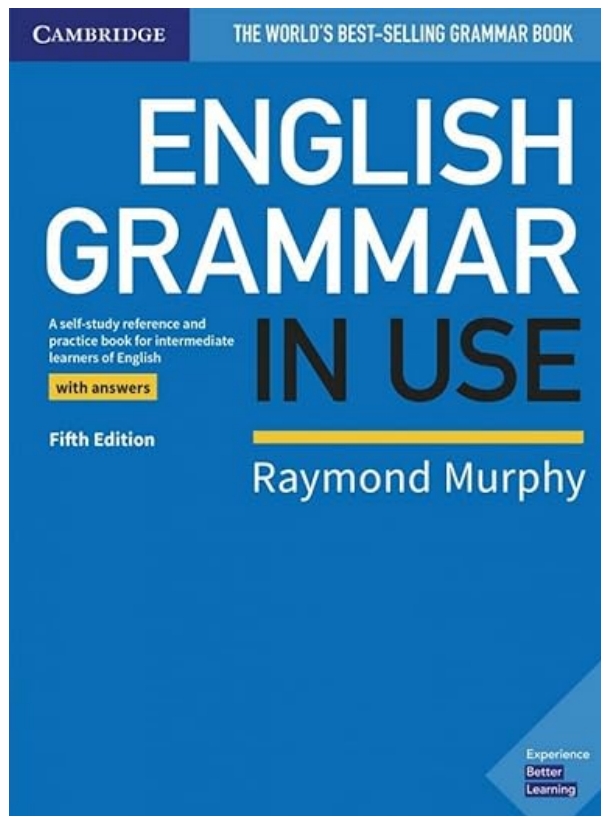
Also, sign up to LEP Premium and listen to the episodes I have done there, including ones about articles, present perfect tense, modal verbs and more. [teacherluke.co.uk/premium](https://teacherluke.co.uk/premium) I always focus specifically on teaching you English in those episodes.

## Other ways to practise grammar

For other ways to work on your grammar, try doing some good old fashioned grammar practice.

First, try to work out where your weaknesses are in grammar.

A good start would be to do the Study Guide at the back of English Grammar in Use by Raymond Murphy (one of the biggest selling books of all time along side Harry Potter and The Bible).



At the back there is a test which is designed to help you identify which areas of grammar you need to practise.

It works well as a diagnostic test, to show you your weak spots in English grammar.

If you don't have the book you can probably download it as a PDF these days.

I wouldn't want you to do anything illegal though of course, so if you don't want to illegally download the PDF of English Grammar in Use by Raymond Murphy, definitely don't do a Google search for "English Grammar in Use PDF".

I did that and I found loads of free PDF downloads - remember, the Study Guide is at the back of the book. Do that, and then work on the grammar points you don't know.

### **Also - get plenty of input**

Of course listening and reading are important because input is a vital way to develop your sense of what is correct or incorrect in English.

**Notice grammar** when you are reading or listening.

**Be mindful** and ask yourself things like “Why is this particular form being used here?” and accept certain things as being normal, and make a conscious effort to make your English the same, even if it doesn't feel completely natural.

**Keep a notebook** of grammatical structures you have noticed - even if this is just good sentences, or structures which seem to be good or new to you. Record grammar in this way. It's a great way to remember and absorb real world English.

**Practise producing** your own sentences. Don't be satisfied with grammar until you can do it yourself. Make this a part of your learning - it's not done until you can do it yourself. Always personalise whatever aspect of English you are using and try to make new sentences about yourself or your opinions, using the new structure you're working on.

**Just focus on one small point at a time.** Don't worry about overdoing it. Just make little incremental steps bit by bit. It's more effective that way.

**Get feedback** from someone, ideally a teacher. Get corrections and encouraging feedback. Use that as the basis for more practice and more trial & error work.

**Watch out for the mistakes** you often make and try to iron them out consciously until it becomes second nature. Don't be too hard on yourself, and do keep using English.

**Be patient!**

Remember it's about what you can do, not just what you know.

So, I will make that point again - you're not finished until you can use the grammar yourself in your own conversations/writing.

## Vocabulary

I have done entire episodes before about vocabulary, particularly one episode called "How to Really Learn Vocabulary and not just stare at word lists" which you could listen to, but here is a summary of the main points I made during that episode.

<https://teacherluke.co.uk/2024/09/02/898-how-to-learn-vocabulary-and-not-just-stare-at-word-lists-workshop/>

### Key Principles in the episode

- **Read and listen a lot:** Constant exposure is essential.
- **Notice new words in context:** Pay attention while reading/listening; don't just memorise isolated items.

- **Record words effectively:** Don't just write translations—include definitions, collocations, examples, pronunciation, grammar notes, synonyms, antonyms, register, etc.

## Common Mistakes

- Relying only on direct translations.
- Writing isolated word lists without context.
- Not including grammar, usage, or pronunciation details.
- Never testing yourself or trying to use the words .

## Remembering Words

- **Meaningful context:** Learn words inside real sentences.
- **Spaced repetition:** Review words at increasing intervals (apps like Anki, Quizlet) .
- **Active recall:** Test yourself—force your brain to produce the word.
- **Mnemonics & associations:** Use vivid images, personal or emotional connections.
- **Controlled & free practice:** First get the form right, then try using it spontaneously.
- **Speak out loud:** Don't just study silently .

## Useful Tools

- **Dictionaries:** Longman, Oxford, etc.
- **Flashcard apps:** Anki, Quizlet (with spaced repetition).
- **AI tools:** ChatGPT for examples, questions, corrections.
- **YouGlish:** To hear authentic usage in different accents.
- **Lukeenglish.com**

- **Word lists:** Oxford 3000/5000, Longman Communication 3000 .

## Summary of my advice

1. Expose yourself to a lot of English (reading/listening).
2. Notice, collect, and study vocabulary in detail.
3. Practise recalling words actively (flashcards, gap-fills, speaking).
4. Use vivid, personal strategies to fix words in memory.
5. Apply new vocabulary in speaking and writing.
6. Stay positive—adapt methods to your own style .

Sign up to LEP Premium to get this all packaged and put on a plate for you! [teacherluke.co.uk/premium](https://teacherluke.co.uk/premium)

## Luke from the future

Interrupting here and extending the length of the episode slightly.

I have just realised that I didn't answer the question of "Should I check words in a dictionary when I discover them while reading? Should I write those words down?"

## Should you check words in a dictionary while reading?

Not always immediately. If you stop for every unknown word, you'll lose the flow of the text and get frustrated.

Guess first. Try to understand from context. Often, you can get the meaning just from how it's used.

Check selectively. Look words up in dictionaries (such as Cambridge and Oxford's online dictionaries) if they are:

- Important for the overall meaning
- Repeated several times
- Words you feel will be useful in your own speaking/writing

Of course there is nothing wrong with just checking words because you are curious, but be selective about what you note down.

## 2. Should you write words down?

Yes, but with a purpose. Writing them helps memory, but don't just make endless lists.

Instead you should:

- Write the sentence you saw the word in (context is key).
- Add your own example sentence at some point.
- Note pronunciation and word family if relevant (e.g. *decide* → *decision*, *decisive*).

Review your notes regularly and try to use the new words in speech or writing.

So, to recap:

- Read for meaning first.
- Try to guess new words when you meet them.
- Check only important/interesting words.
- Write them down with context and examples.

- Use them actively so they become part of your vocabulary.
- Don't let new vocabulary stop your reading flow or stop your overall enjoyment of what you are reading. Don't forget the simple value of extensive reading.

## Pronunciation

Again - listen a lot. Have I said that enough?

It's vital to get plenty of exposure to spoken English, and to become accustomed to hearing the sounds, rhythms and features of English.

### Copy what you hear

Do listen and repeat practice and shadowing.

I could get more specific about that, but really it's just a case of repeating what you hear and trying to copy it.

### Study the English phonemes

Learn the phonemic script.

Practise transcribing things into phonemes (and then check an online dictionary) and also transcribing from phonemes into normal spelling.

Transcribe sentences into phonemic script.

Use the phonemic script typewriter to help

<https://www.e-lang.co.uk/mackichan/call/pron/type.html>

### More useful tools

## 1. **ipachart.com – Interactive IPA Chart**

Click on any IPA symbol to hear its pronunciation and explore what it means visually. [ipachart.com](https://ipachart.com)

## 2. **ipachart.app**

A focus on English-specific phonemes: click symbols to listen, view sample words, and get pronunciation tips. Offers a user-friendly layout for vowels, diphthongs, and consonants. [IPA Chart](https://ipachart.app)

## 3. **Pronunciation Studio's English IPA Chart**

Includes audio, mouth-position visuals, and explanations of the 44 phonemes of English, plus distinctions between phonemic and phonetic transcription. [Pronunciation Studio](https://www.pronunciationstudio.com)

## 4. **English with Lucy – Phonemic Chart**

A British English (Received Pronunciation) chart with clickable symbols, example words, and audio for each sound—great for context-based learning. [English With Lucy](https://www.withlucy.com)

## 5. **Cambridge's Online Phonemic Chart**

A free, interactive IPA chart that works without Flash—ideal for classroom use and learner access. [rylandenglish.com](https://www.cambridge.org/9780521875623/online-phonemic-chart)

## Pronunciation Playback from IPA Text

### 6. **IPA-to-Speech Tools**

- a. *Itinerarium's phoneme synthesis tool* reads IPA phonetically. [English Language & Usage Stack](https://www.itinerarium.com/phoneme-synthesis)

## [Exchange](#)

- b. *Slatona IPA Reader* allows input of IPA (or X-SAMPA) and plays pronunciation in various accents (e.g., “Worcestershire” in British or American English). [English Language & Usage Stack Exchange](#)

## Comprehensive Learning Resources

### 9. International Phonetic Association’s Resources

Includes clickable charts with audio/video examples, articulatory videos, ear-training, and transcription tools—ideal for deep dives into phonetics. [internationalphoneticassociation.org](http://internationalphoneticassociation.org)

### 10. Pronunciation Studio—IPA Learning Resources

Offers lessons, quizzes, and interactive boards to explore IPA, minimal pairs, phonemic vs. phonetic transcription, and more. [Pronunciation Studio](#)

Again, my premium sub always features episodes designed to make it easy for you to repeat lines after me, to focus on all aspects of English pronunciation.

## Discourse management

This basically relates to how you organise the things you say and write, in order to make them more clear and logical.

Remember that everything you write and say needs to be nicely packaged for the person you are communicating with.

## Key Features of Good Discourse Management

### 1. Range & Development of Ideas

- Extending answers beyond “yes/no”.
- Giving explanations, reasons, examples, opinions.

### 2. Organisation

- Logical sequencing: beginning → middle → end.
- Clear topic sentences, transitions, conclusions.

### 3. Cohesion & Coherence

- Using linking words and phrases (*however, on the other hand, as a result*).
- Referring back to earlier points (*as I said before, going back to my main idea*).

### 4. Appropriacy

- Choosing the right style/register for the situation (formal vs informal).

### 5. Fluency in Interaction

- In speaking: responding smoothly, taking turns naturally, keeping the conversation going.

## How to Improve Discourse Management

### 1. Extend Your Answers

- Avoid short, minimal replies.
- Always add **reasons, examples, details**.
- Example:

✗ *"I like travelling."*

✓ *"I like travelling, especially to big cities, because I enjoy exploring new cultures and meeting people. For example, last year I went to Berlin and..."*

### 2. Use Linking Devices

- Practise connectors: *first of all, as well as that, on the other hand, for instance, in conclusion*.
- Try to include at least 2–3 connectors in every extended answer.

### 3. Organise Your Talk

- Think in "chunks":
  - **Introduction** → *what's the topic?*
  - **Body** → *develop 2–3 clear points*
  - **Conclusion** → *round off with a final thought*

Even in a short answer (30–60 seconds), this structure works.

### 4. Practise Storytelling

- Telling anecdotes helps with sequencing and cohesion.
- Use time markers (*first, then, after that, finally*).

- Add details that bring the story alive.

## 5. Record Yourself

- Choose a question (IELTS/Cambridge speaking style).
- Record your answer for 1–2 minutes.
- Listen back: Did you extend your ideas? Did you use linking words? Was it organised?

## 6. Learn Discourse Markers for Interaction

- In discussions, use phrases to manage turns:
  - *That's a good point, but I'd add...*
  - *What do you think about...?*
  - *I see what you mean, however...*

## 7. Read & Listen to Good Models

- Notice how podcasts, TED talks, or interviews are structured.
- Pay attention to how speakers move from one idea to the next.

## In Short

Discourse management = managing your ideas clearly, logically, and appropriately in longer stretches of language.

To improve: extend answers, use linking words, practise organising your ideas, and train with recordings and models.

Listen to the episode I did with communication expert Matt Abrahams **879. Think Fast, Talk Smart: Communication Techniques for Spontaneous Speaking with Matt Abrahams**

# How to learn English with my podcast 🎧 [959]

29

It is full of top tips for developing your discourse management in your speaking.

## The End

So that brings us to the end of this episode in which I have, honestly, tried to give you a detailed, yet efficient answer to the question of “How can I improve my English with your podcast?”

Admittedly, quite a lot of my advice doesn't actually involve the podcast, but I still think that listening to my show regularly is a really good basis and from there you can do all sorts of other practice to make sure your English develops properly.

## Summary

Here's a quick summary of the advice I have given in this episode.

**Listen:** Make it a habit. Listen regularly, long-term, and listen to diverse sources. Sometimes with subtitles, sometimes without. Focus on what you enjoy so you'll keep doing it.

**Read:** Read widely (fiction, non-fiction, articles, transcripts). Exposure to different styles grows vocabulary, grammar awareness, and discourse sense.

**Speak:** Use what you hear as a model. Shadow, summarise, and respond out loud. Practise with AI, teachers, or partners. Focus on

real communication and get feedback.

**Write:** Write regularly (diary, emails, essays, stories). Experiment with different styles. Use exam tasks or AI prompts for practice and correction.

**Grammar:** Notice it in context, practise producing it yourself, and use diagnostic tests to find weak spots. Learn from mistakes but don't obsess — communication comes first.

**Vocabulary:** Notice words in context, record them with details (examples, collocations, pronunciation), review with spaced repetition, and *use* them actively in speaking/writing.

**Pronunciation:** Listen and copy. Practise stress, intonation, connected speech. Learn the phonemic script and use online tools to train your ear.

**Discourse management:** Extend your answers, organise ideas clearly, use linking words, and practise storytelling. Notice how good speakers structure their talk.

**Mindset:** Motivation and enjoyment are vital. Keep it fun, be patient, practise a lot, seek feedback, and make English part of your life.

## I want your advice too

There are many ways to learn English and you have to choose what really works for you. I would love to get your comments on this

## How to learn English with my podcast [959]

**31**

episode. Please tell us, in as much detail as possible, which specific things have helped you to improve your English?

Can you suggest one method, habit, resource or tip that has helped you improve your English, across any of these areas:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Pronunciation
- Discourse management or communicative competence

Your comments may be enormously useful for other listeners, and I am very curious to read what you have to say as well.

But now, that is the end of this episode!

Thank you for listening and have a great afternoon, evening, morning or night!

Bye, bye, bye, bye, bye!