

Does homework work?

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Outline

- Reasons for and against homework
- What to set? – Some guiding principles
- Qualities of effective homework
- Feedback
- Some useful ideas and websites

Reasons for homework

- It's expected
- To consolidate language introduced in class
- To practice reading, listening, writing and, if possible, speaking skills
- To reinforce and increase general understanding of language
- Preparation for the next class
- To develop good study habits and skills
- To have contact with English outside the class
- To act as a bridge between the classroom and the outside world
- Assessment
- Other

Reasons against giving homework

FOR	AGAINST
<p>1 Class time isn't enough and learners need extra practice.</p>	<p>1 People need a life.</p>
<p>2 Homework helps learners remember the things they've learned in class.</p>	<p>2 Let's face it, you don't really know what you're doing.</p>
<p>3 Homework can help learners make more progress in their language acquisition.</p>	<p>3 Homework doesn't lead to better performance.</p>
<p>4 Homework can allow learners to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.</p>	<p>4 They don't really need it.</p>
	<p>Source: Adam Simpson</p>

Awareness (van Lier)

- knowledge of language
- sensitivity to language as it is used in social settings
- a critical perspective of language

Autonomy (van Lier)

“The impetus for learning has to come from the classroom. It should give the students the curiosity and the sort of puzzlement to work with the language in their heads and to notice the language outside the classroom. ... A lot of mental work has to go on outside the lesson. Therefore, it is of crucial importance to use the lesson as motivation, to motivate the students to be busy with language when they are not in the classroom.”

Authenticity

- “People come to the classroom because it is a classroom ... it ought to have its own pedagogical naturalness ... it should be respected in itself ... and therefore its authenticity should not be compared to authenticity in other places.” (van Lier)
- Learner authenticity is achieved by the NNS reader or listener responding appropriately to the text (Widdowson)

Effective homework

- useful
- relevant
- contextualised
- personalised
- motivating

2.1 Setting up homework

Homework questionnaire 1

- 1 What types of homework does your teacher normally ask you to do?
- 2 Do you usually do your homework? If not, why not?
- 3 What do you do outside the classroom to help you learn English, for example, keep a vocabulary book, read magazines?
- 4 List tasks that you would really enjoy doing for homework, for example, watching MTV or watching the news in English.

2.1 Setting up homework-2

Homework questionnaire 2

How I learn

- 1 How do you learn new vocabulary words in English?
- 2 How do you remember new grammar structures?
- 3 How do you learn the correct way to say a word?
- 4 What do you find really helps you to learn English?
- 5 If you had to take an English test tomorrow, how would you study?

What I want to do

- 6 What do you like to do in your free time?
- 7 What do you like to do in English, for example, speak to people, watch movies or listen to songs in English?

2.1 Setting up homework-2

8 Do you like surfing the Internet?

9 Do you like listening to the news in English?

10 Do you enjoy reading? If so, what?

11 Do you enjoy writing in your free time? Do you write a lot of emails or keep a diary?

Finish this sentence:

- If I were a teacher, I would ask the students to ...
- What's the most boring thing for you about studying? What do you hate about being a student?

Feedback

- constructive
- praise

- teacher-student
- student(s) – student(s)

Websites HOMEWORK

- **BBC Learning English**
- English at Work – (animated cartoon with speech bubbles) Tip Top Trading
- 6 Minute English – (dialogues with an expert opinion thrown in and some vocab work) Hundreds of topics: Being Inactive, Lying to Children, Michelle Obama etc.

- **British Council**
- Word on the Street – (video + tasks) Ashlie and Stephen + lots of different topics
- Britain is Great – (video + tasks) Good range of topics
- Big City, Small World – (listening with tasks) Centred around a café in London.

- **Cambridge English**
- Virtually Anywhere (listening + tasks) – highly recommended!!

Readers & TED Talks

- **Readers:**
- Fire on the Mountain (A2)
- Sherlock Holmes – Silver Blaze (B1)

- **TED Talks – some examples**
- Aziza Chaouni – How I brought a river and my city back to life
- Robert Hammond – Building a park in the sky
- Ameera Harouda – Why I put myself in danger to tell the stories of Gaza
- Cynthia Ma Shwe Sin Win – Not Good with Names
- Lara Setrakian – 3 ways to fix a broken news industry

Series etc.

Series

- https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2019/01/16/articulo/1547661366_055734.html?id_externo_promo=enviar_email
- <http://ororo.tv/es>

Youtube

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVN1gwhpeyE> American and British accents
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-16374283> Wedding ring carrot story
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVo_wkxH9dU 1957 BBC Spaghetti Harvest (April Fool's Day)

Netflix – new app allows subtitles in two languages

TV – watch in original version with Spanish subtitles

Film English <http://film-english.com/>

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This presentation will be uploaded to the TESOL-SPAIN
website

THANK YOU!!

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