

English Study Guide for Beginners

The Art of Conversation



May 2020

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Your English Study Guide

Beginner Conversational English

This study guide was made to help beginners improve their spoken English skills. It has four parts: grammar, vocabulary, everyday English, and pronunciation. I shared my own examples in each part, but I have also shared more resources that you can study by yourself. Be sure to look at them all!

There is a LOT of information in this study guide. Do not try to read through it all at once. Look at one part at a time, and make sure you fully understand it before moving to the next part. If you have any questions about any of the information in this study guide, please ask me!

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”

--Frank Smith

GRAMMAR

Section 1: Parts of Speech

There are 8 parts of speech in English, but we are only going to look at 4 of them, which you can see in the chart below. These are important for creating sentences.

Part of Speech	Definition
Noun	A person, place, thing, or idea
Pronoun	A word that replaces the name of a noun
Verb	A word that describes an action or experience
Conjunction	A word that combines words, phrases, or sentences

Section 2: Nouns

Nouns are people, places, things, or ideas. Here are some examples of nouns:

Type of Noun	Examples
People	Mr. Smith, the girl, the artist, President Lincoln
Places	The Eiffel Tower, school, Sam's house, London
Things	A pencil, tables, money, clouds
Ideas	Happiness, beauty, racism, fear

Singular and Plural

When we talk about one noun, we are talking about *singular* nouns. When we talk about more than one noun, we are talking about *plural* nouns. Most singular nouns become plural by adding -s at the end of a word (for example: 1 cat → 4 cats, 1 teacher → 10 teachers), but there is more than one rule for making a noun plural. Take a look:

Rule	Examples
If a noun ends in <i>s</i> , <i>ch</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>x</i> , or <i>z</i> , add -es at the end of the word	1 bus → 2 buses; 1 watch → 2 watches; 1 wish → 2 wishes; 1 box → 2 boxes; 1 quiz → 2 quizzes
If a noun ends in <i>f</i> or <i>fe</i> , remove the <i>f/fe</i> and add -ves at the end of the word	1 knife → 2 knives; 1 wolf → 2 wolves

PRONUNCIATION

Section 1: The Alphabet

It is important to know how each of the letters in the English alphabet sound, especially because some of them have more than one sound. For example, the “a” in “cat” sounds different from the “a” in “cake.” Letters might also change in sound when they are put together with other letters. I use this chart with students and think it is very helpful in order to learn all of the letter sounds as well as the sound of common letter pairings:

The 70 Phonograms

a at, navy last	c can cent	d lid	f if	g bag gem	o odd open do	s bus as	qu quit	b rib	e end me
h him	i sit si lent	j jam	k ink	l log	m ham	n win	p map	r rat	t bat
u up, mu sic put	v van	w wet	x box	y yet, ba by, my	z zoo	sh dish	ee see	th thin this	ow how low
ou round, can to loupe you, cous in	oo boot foot	ch much, school, chef	ar far	ay day	ai paint	oy boy	oi point	er her	ir first
ur nurse	wor works	ear early	ng rang	ea eat, head, break	aw law	au haunt	or fork	ck neck	wh when
ed landed, loved, wrecked	ew grew new	ui fruit nuisance	oa boat	gu guess	ph phone	ough though, through rough, cough thought drought	oe toe	ey they, key, val ley	igh sigh
kn knot	gn gnome sign	wr wrap	ie thief, pie pup pies	dge bridge	ei recieve, veil, for feit	eigh weigh	ti nation	si session vision	ci facial

Watch this video to hear what these phonograms sound like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ3aiQx4rvw>.

Section 2: Contractions

Contractions are when we take two words and put them together into one with the use of an apostrophe ('). Native speakers use these very often, so if you want to sound like a native speaker, here is a tip to help you!

Pronoun + Verb	Contraction
I + am	I'm

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