

My English Learning Goals

Goals you set (for anything, not only language learning!) need to be SMART. What does this mean?

Well, they should be:

S – Specific. If a goal is too general, it will be difficult to achieve. Your goal should relate to one particular thing that you want to work on, and think about how you're going to do it.

M – Measurable. How will you know if you have achieved this goal? How will you measure your progress?

A – Achievable. Is your goal something you'll actually be able to achieve? Don't make it too difficult or time-consuming, as then you're likely to just give up.

R - Realistic. Your goal needs to be something that will actually be useful for you. If you never need to write emails in English, don't make that your goal! Choose something that will be helpful for you.

T – Time-based. You need to decide when you will review your goals, and when you will have achieved them by.

Look at these students' goals. Are they SMART? Why, or why not?

I want to watch films and TV shows in English.
Why? I don't really know... my teacher told me to.

Ivan, Russia

I want to be able to talk to a doctor in English...
So I'm going to learn 10 new pieces of medical vocabulary each week.

Marie, France

Harry Potter is my favourite book, so I want to read it in English.

Jens, Germany

I'm going to learn 100 new words every week.

Anna, Czech Republic

I want to go to university in England, so this weekend I'm going to look online and find out what I need to be able to do that.

Yuki, Japan

I'm going to speak English more in class.

Fawzia, Saudi Arabia

How could these students change their goals so that they're more SMART? Discuss with your partner.



Now, it's time for you to think about your own goals. Close your eyes (if you wish), and imagine that it's the end of 2017. Think about these questions.

- What are you able to do in English that you can't do at the moment?
- What are you using your English for? (for work? For fun? At home?)
- Who are you speaking/writing/listening to?
- How do you feel about being able to do this?

Open your eyes, and make some notes:

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Write the things you want to do in column A.

Then complete the rest of the columns. An example has been done for you.

| A. What do I want to do? | B. What do I need to do to achieve this? | C. How will I achieve this? | D. When will I review my goal? |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Write work emails in English. | Learn how to format an email in English. | Look on the internet. Ask my teacher if we can study this in a lesson. | End of this week. |
| | Learn more formal English vocabulary. | Highlight and make a list of the formal vocabulary we learn in class. Revise this vocabulary. | End of each week. |
| | Practice writing emails in English. | Send my teacher 3 practice emails in English. | End of the term. |
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Good luck achieving your goals!