

# Intro A Set for success?

**Activity type:** Writing/Speaking – Questionnaire – Individuals and pairs/groups

**Aim:** To raise awareness of learning strategies and encourage learners to reflect on their approach to their studies

**Language:** Classroom language – Use at any point during the *Intro*.

**Preparation:** Make one copy of the questionnaire for each learner and give each learner a clean sheet of paper for his/her 'learning contract'.

**Time:** 30–45 minutes

- 1 Give learners the questionnaire to complete individually. Learners then compare their answers in pairs or groups.
- 2 Lead a class discussion to come up with a list of best practices for learning. Each learner chooses five of the best practices and writes them down the left-hand side of his/her clean sheet of paper. Along the top, learners write the dates of the weeks or months of the English course. This forms a learning contract between each learner and you. Both parties sign it. Learners have to tick on a weekly or monthly basis which strategies they have used during that week/month.

## Extension

Check the students' contracts each week or month, as appropriate, and allow time for learners to explain to you and the class what they have done, and why.

# Intro A Set for success? 1

**1 How many different reasons can you think of for why people need English (not only ones that are important for you)? List them here:**

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**2 How do you organise your vocabulary notebook? Circle the answer that best applies to you.**

- a I don't really organise it. I just write down words from the lesson in the order I hear them.
- b I don't have one. I note down new vocabulary on sheets of paper.
- c I have different sections, and think about where to put new words.
- d I write words in alphabetical order.
- e Other method (describe here):

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**3 Which of the following do you need to focus on? Tick the boxes.**

- Common word partnerships (collocations), e.g. common expressions which go with *do / get / make*
- Topic areas (with useful words and phrases for e.g. work, travel)
- My 'favourite' mistakes (the mistakes you make most)
- Multiword verbs
- Useful expressions
- Idioms
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4 What information do you note down for new vocabulary?**

- Common collocations
- Pronunciation
- Other words in its 'word family'
- Definition
- Example sentence
- Translation
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Do you have the following? Tick the appropriate boxes.**

- A bilingual dictionary (English → your language)
- An English-only dictionary
- A dictionary on CD-ROM

# Intro A Set for success? 2

6 How often do you do the following? Tick the appropriate boxes.

	Often	Sometimes	Never
• speak English outside the classroom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• watch English-language films/TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• listen to English songs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• visit English-language websites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• chat online / write emails in English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• use English for work/study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• ask people questions about English you have seen/heard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• read English language books/magazines/newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• talk to yourself in English(!)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List here any other things you do outside the classroom to help you to learn.

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7 Write down three things you could do to improve your English.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_