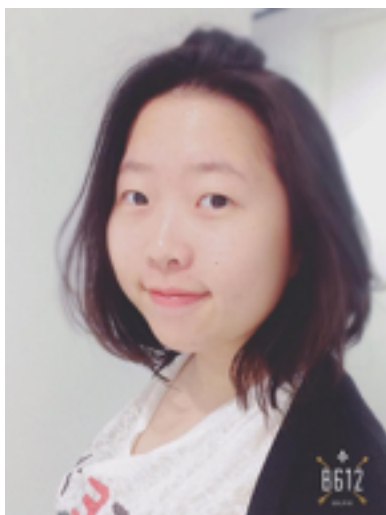

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Three Lifestyle Changes that Will Improve Your English

By: Lilianne Liu



So I remember the good old times before the environment had forced me to start using an unfamiliar language on a daily basis. I tell people that I'm an American-born Taiwanese, but the truth of the matter is that I didn't really "grow up" in the States.

English is my second language, and I remember when I couldn't even pronounce the word "giraffe" during an English ability assessment test in Singapore. So over the years the struggle to quickly improve my second language ability has inspired me to engage in some of the most impactful lifestyle changes, and I would like to share them with you guys.

If you are looking to improve your language game, there are some things that had worked for me, and maybe they'll help you too!

Part One---**Reading!** Find an author whose works, such as novels (preferably serial ones) can truly hold your attention to their contents.

A person who is fluent in a certain language may not necessarily be able to answer your questions about grammar and the sentence structure of that language, but why is it that he/she can still use the language without any problem? He/She will probably tell you, "I just know it." Now this may sound like an unsatisfactory answer, but really, if you think about it, do you even consider things like the right form of verbs when you speak your mother-tongue? The answer in most cases is likely "no", and that's because you have a built-in "sense" for that language.

Lilianne's recommendation

1. The princess diaries

: Meg Cabot

2. The Hunger game

: Suzanne Collins

3. Percy Jackson series

: Rick Riordan



Reading novels is a great way to train your brain into getting that “sense” of natural English. Through well-written English, you will slowly but steadily get used to the right form of sentence structure and commonly used phrases.

However, be careful when you choose **what books to read!** Don't pick a series of books because they are popular, pick them because the language usage suits your current level and the content truly interests you. I started off with Meg Cabot's “The Princess Diaries,” and not “Harry Potter,” because although “Harry Potter” was very famous and popular back then as well, my English level was not enough to handle and understand its beauty at that time.

“The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.”

—MARK TWAIN

If you pick something too difficult and end up not understanding most of the words in a page, then chances are that you won't be touching those books again for a second round of confused torture. You will know **you've found the right books** when you can't stop thinking about what will happen next and can't wait to turn the pages to find out for yourself.



To be continued...