

How's your English coming along?

Working on improving your English? The following questions will help you review the progress you've made so far.

Consider your current performance in a specific area and compare it to the situation a few months ago or at the beginning of the year.

If you still find an aspect challenging, try to identify why. I've given a few reasons to start you off, but it could be something completely different, of course.

Taking time to reflect on your progress in the different areas will also help you to set priorities and put you on course for reaching the next level.

Use the smiley scale for your answers:

😊😊	😊	😞	😞😞
absolutely	yes	not really	not at all

YOUR PROGRESS

Do you understand more in group situations (meetings, workshops)?

E.g. Can you follow presentations and discussions more easily?

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Do you understand more in 1:1 conversations?

E.g. Do you need to ask for clarification less often?

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If you have problems understanding others, try to identify why.

- They use a lot of unfamiliar vocabulary.
- They speak too quickly for me.
- I have difficulty managing a conversation (e.g. asking others to explain in different words or slow down)
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Can you understand written texts (emails, articles, reports, ...) more easily and quickly?

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If you have problems understanding the contents of written texts, why is this?

- I'm still not familiar with a lot of the vocabulary.
- I often feel overwhelmed by longer texts.
- It takes me too long to process the information and come up with a suitable response.
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Do others understand you better when you speak? E.g. Do they now often understand you the first time?

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If you feel that others have difficulty understanding you, think about what the reasons might be.

- My vocabulary is limited and I can't express my ideas in different words.
- I think my pronunciation is difficult to understand.
- I think my grammar is weak.
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Do the recipients now usually understand your emails correctly? E.g. Do your mails get the results you were aiming for?

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If you have the impression that others find your mails difficult to understand, consider the most likely reasons.

- My vocabulary is limited and I can't express myself precisely.
- I'm never sure whether I've hit the right note.
- I find it difficult to write a clear, structured mail in English.
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Do you now feel more confident about your English?

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If English is still a source of stress for you, think about why.

- I often feel out of my depth in English.
- I'm embarrassed that I can't express myself as well in English as in German.
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THE TIME YOU SPENT LEARNING

In general, did you enjoy it? E.g. Was it something you looked forward to?

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If working on your English wasn't something you enjoyed, consider why not.

- I put myself under too much pressure and set unrealistic goals.
- I did read articles, watch DVDs, etc. but I was bored by the contents.
- It was rather monotonous and just another thing I had to do.
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Did you spend as much time as you planned?

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If you didn't stick to your original plan, try to identify the reasons.

- I completely overestimated the amount of time I had available.
- I often found it difficult to motivate myself to get started.
- I often forgot to do what I had planned to do.
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YOUR LANGUAGE LEARNING PRIORITIES

Now set your next priorities. (Remember to think about *how* as well *what*.)

1.
2.
3.