

Language Learning Beyond the Classroom

Exploring out-of-class English language learning methods





What do we mean by language learning beyond the classroom?

- Outside of mainstream schools
- Outside of school hours
- Other terms e.g., after-school, autonomous, extracurricular, independent, informal, naturalistic, non-formal, out-of-class, out-of-school, self-directed, self-instructed, and unintentional language learning (Reinders et al., 2022)



Why focus on language learning beyond the classroom

- Limitations of traditional classroom
 - Fixed schedules
 - Limited personalisation
 - Restricted pace of learning
 - Challenges of catering for learner diversity





Why focus on language learning beyond the classroom

- Much language learning takes place outside of formal education.
- It is a common phenomenon among language learners, and is **part and parcel in language development** (Cole & Vanderplank, 2016; Dressman & Sadler, 2020).
- Promote learner autonomy & self-regulated learning



How to motivate learners to learn beyond the classroom

- Raise awareness: teachers, students, parents
- Making the activities fun and engaging
- Promote the use of English for authentic communication
- Making learning relevant to their wants and needs (intrinsic vs extrinsic)



Any examples of language learning beyond the classroom?

- E-books
- Al-powered tools or digital/online games
- YouTube/Podcast
- Supplementary tutoring
- Social media, study tours, mobile apps, and many more...

Welcome to Oxford Owl

Discover expert advice, educational resources and free eBooks to support children's learning at primary school and at home, from Oxford University Press.





Oxford Owl for Home

Free resources to support learning at home

- Advice and support for parents
- Educational activities and games
- Free eBook library for 3- to 11-year-olds

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For school











For home













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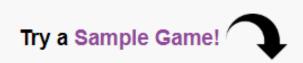
Step

Teaching Resources

Videos / FAQs

We're on a Mission to Expand Knowledge of Vocabulary Words and Reading Comprehension.

Chance



Create a List

Type four words in the spaces

			belo						
ò	å	å	å	å	å	å	å	å	å
1	L								
2									
3									
4									
				Con	tinue				

Step	an activity from the list below
	Cualitus
	Spelling when
	Word Sentence Next
	All this street, you till save hore you clid.
	Writing
- 1	Sentence Writing Practice
	week ■()) — □
	There are seven days in a week.
	9::
	Phonics
	ship





Learning English through Al-powered tools

e.g., Chat-GPT



how do different learners of English as a second language in Hong Kong at different learning stages learn English outside of school?



GPT-4 (Poe)



Different learners at different stages in Hong Kong leverage various methods to learn English outside of school. The choice of methods often depends on the learner's age, proficiency level, personal interest, and available resources. Here are examples for early learners, intermediate learners, and advanced learners:

Early Learners

Farly learners are often children in primary school or even pre-school Δt









Early learners are often children in primary school or even pre-school. At this stage, English learning is typically more playful and visual:

- Children's TV shows and songs: Shows like "Peppa Pig" or "Sesame Street," and songs from "Super Simple Songs" on YouTube, provide a fun, engaging way to learn basic vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Educational Apps: Apps like "ABCmouse," "Duolingo Kids," and "Rosetta Stone Kids" offer interactive games and activities to learn English.
- 3. E-Books and Storybooks: Parents or tutors might read English storybooks or use interactive e-books, such as those offered by platforms like "Oxford Owl" or "Epic," to develop their listening skills and vocabulary.











Intermediate Learners

Intermediate learners are usually secondary school students who already have a basic command of English and are looking to further improve their skills:

- Online Tutoring: One-on-one online tutoring can provide personalized lessons catering to the learner's specific needs. Platforms like "Chegg" or "Tutor.com" are examples.
- Language Learning Apps: Apps like "Duolingo" or "Babbel" can help students practice grammar and vocabulary at their own pace.
- 3. **YouTube Channels:** Channels like "English with Lucy" or "EngVid" offer free lessons on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and more.











Advanced Learners

Advanced learners might be high school students preparing for university, adults looking to improve business English, or individuals preparing for English proficiency tests:

- Online Courses: Websites like "Coursera," "Udemy," or "FutureLearn" offer courses on academic English, business English, IELTS preparation, and more.
- News and Literature: Reading English newspapers, magazines, or books helps advanced learners to expand their vocabulary and understanding of complex syntax. The South China Morning Post, for instance, is a popular English newspaper in Hong Kong.
- Language Exchange: Language exchange meetups or platforms like "Tandem" or "HelloTalk" allow learners to practice conversational English with native speakers.
- 4. Podcasts and Audiobooks: Listening to English podcasts and audiobooks can improve listening comprehension skills and pronunciation. For example, "BBC Learning English" or "VOA Learning English" offer podcasts suitable for English learners.











Learning English through Al-powered tools

How to effective use Al-powered tools to learn English?

- Talk to Chat-GPT (or Siri?)
- Check grammar of essays (Grammarly vs Microsoft Word vs ChatGPT)
 - Important to ask for explanation and feedback

Check the grammar for the following essay. Explain any mistakes I have made:

Shoud Homework Be Abolish?

...

In today's world, homework is a part and parcel of the education process. Most every students in Hong Kong are receiving a lots of homework from they schools. Some people belief that homework is a good practice, helping student to revise what they learning in school. But, there are also a group of people who strongly argue that homework should be abolish because it put too much pressure on the students. As a Secondary Three student, I have a mixed feeling about this. However, after thinking carefully, I am leaning towards the idea that homework should not be abolish and it is a necessary part for student's learning.



GPT-4 Poe













- "they schools" should be "their schools".
- The present simple tense "receive" is more suitable here than the present continuous "are receiving" to describe a general situation.
- 2. "Some people belief that homework is a good practice, helping student to revise what they learning in school." - It should be "Some people believe that homework is a good practice, helping students to revise what they have learned in school."
 - "belief" should be "believe". "Believe" is the verb form, whereas "belief" is a noun.
 - "student" should be "students" for plural agreement.
 - "they learning" should be "they have learned". The present perfect tense is used here to describe something that happened at an unspecified time before now.









- 3. "there are also a group of people who strongly argue that homework should be abolish because it put too much pressure on the students."- It should be "there is also a group of people who strongly argue that homework should be abolished because it puts too much pressure on the students."
 - "there are" should be "there is" because "group" is singular.
 - "abolish" should be "abolished" to correctly form the passive voice.
 - "put" should be "puts" to agree with the singular subject, "it".
- 4. "I have a mixed feeling about this." It should be "I have mixed feelings about this."
 - "Mixed feelings" is the correct idiom to describe having both positive and negative feelings about something.





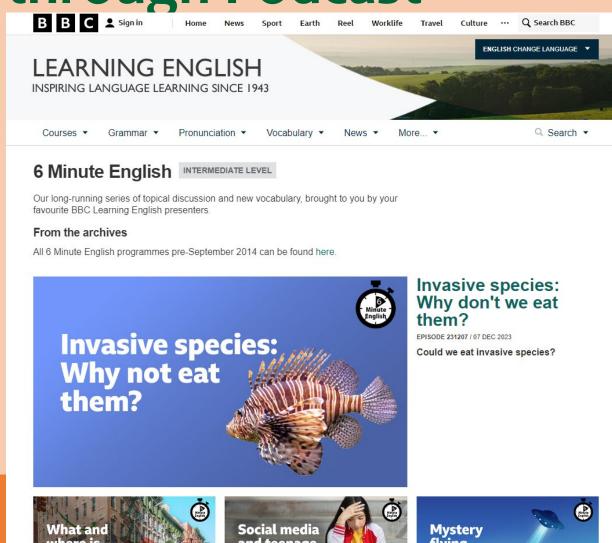






Learning English through Podcast

- BBC 6 Minute English
- Radio programmes e.g.,
 RTHK's <u>English in News</u>









ABOUT

WHATSON

LET'S QUOTE A QUOTE

ONE-MINUTER

ARCHIVE

PODCAST



Learning English through YouTube

- Short videos
- English teaching videos
- Videos from English-speaking YouTubers
- Authentic examples for pronunciation: https://youglish.com/





The more academic/exam-oriented side of English learning outside of school



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Academic Use of English



English is one of the major mediums of instruction in different senior secondary subjects and university courses. The academic use of English is promoted to heighten students' awareness of English commonly used in academic texts they read and write in other subjects, so as to facilitate their current and further studies.

A variety of learning and teaching resources are developed to support schools in incorporating elements of the academic



Learning English in Supplementary Tutoring

- Classroom-based (cram schools, small groups)
- home-based (private, online)
- Fee-free tutoring e.g., Principal Chan Free Tutorial World



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丰頁

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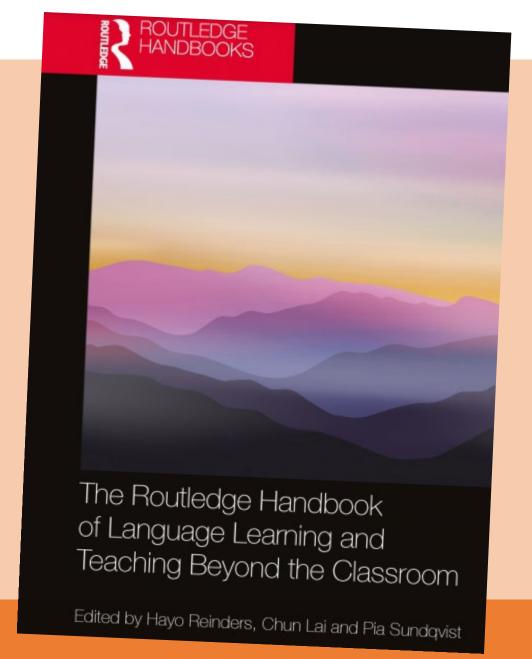
Learning English in Supplementary Tutoring

- Tutor-dependent vs learner-centred?
- How to promote self-regulated learning in a tutorcentered tutorial setting and an exam-oriented education system?
 - Learner agency: make informed decision of participating in tutoring or not; select suitable materials for their own needs



Many other means...

Reinders et al. (2022) The Routledge handbook of language learning and teaching beyond the classroom.





Conclusion and takeaways

- The crucial role of out-of-class language learning in enhancing proficiency
- Empowering learners: Student-centred learning, learner agency, fostering a love for English



Conclusion and takeaways

- Call to action: Embrace technology and support diverse learning methods
- Educators to explore and incorporate various outof-class learning tools in their curriculum



Thank you!

Dr Kevin Yung

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