

Name: _____

Language Learning Myths

Read each statement below. Then decide if you think the statement is True or False.

1. You have to see a word 10-15 times before you can recall it easily. T / F

2. The best way to learn English is to never speak your native language. T / F

3. If I work hard enough, I will can lose my accent in English. T / F

4. It's more helpful to study a little bit every day than study for a long time
2-3 times a week. T / F

5. The best way to learn to speak is to memorize vocabulary words and
grammar rules. T / F

6. When you learn something new, you may have difficulty with something
you already learned, temporarily. Learning isn't always a straight line of
progress. T / F

7. Have a clear goal for studying language. T / F

8. Try to learn only classical or formal English. Watching movies or listening
to pop music will cause you to learn bad English. T / F

9. You must be sure to correct every mistake you make. T / F

Language Learning Myths Answer Key

- 1. You have to see a word 10-15 times before you can recall it easily.** **T**
Learning words is a long process. You have to be able to recognize it, recall its meaning, and know how to use it yourself to truly learn a word. That takes a lot of repetition.
- 2. The best way to learn English is to never speak your native language.** **F**
Using your native language to translate vocabulary or understand grammar can be helpful. Also, trying to speak English all day long for every need can be frustrating.
- 3. If I work hard enough, I will can lose my accent in English.** **F**
At a certain age, probably before 12 years old, the way we speak is solidified in our brain. The good news is that accent has less to do with speaking clearly than prosody—your rhythm, intonation and inflection. And you can learn all of those.
- 4. It's more helpful to study a little bit every day than study for a long time 2-3 times a week.** **T**
As with most things, practicing every day helps our brains remember better.
- 5. The best way to learn to speak is to memorize vocabulary words and grammar rules.** **F**
While drilling and memorizing can be helpful, fluency comes from speaking without paying too much attention to grammar.
- 6. When you learn something new, you may have difficulty with something you already learned, temporarily.** **T**
Progress is rarely straight. As you get better in one area, you may temporarily see setbacks in another area. However, your language level should be getting better.
- 7. Have a clear goal for studying language.** **T**
Setting a clear goal helps you focus on what you want to learn. It also provides motivation to keep studying.
- 8. Try to learn only classical or formal English. Watching movies or listening to pop music will cause you to learn bad English.** **F**
While you may need to learn standard formal English, you can still pick up vocabulary and grammar from many sources. And using English for something fun is very motivating, even if that fun thing is a pop song.
- 9. You must be sure to correct every mistake you make.** **F**
Mistakes can fossilize but focusing on all your mistakes can be very demotivating and a waste of time and energy. Focus on important mistakes such as those that impede meaning or those that you make frequently or those that are important for the task you are doing at the time.