

Key Words: Motivation, Purpose, Interactive.

## Introduction

TOEIC or Technical English or Discussion classes were offered different styles of study and progressive homework assignments over Zoom for one semester. The students studied for 90 minutes once a week with additional weekly homework assignments. It was hoped that the opportunity to compare different learning styles and progressive assignments would motivate proactive learning and independent study.

In a traditional In-Person class, active participation is encouraged through pair work or group work. Critical thinking is encouraged through discussion of controversial topics.

Students are encouraged to consider alternative solutions and different ways of looking at a situation. What would you do in this situation? Why or why not? Is there another way?

In Zoom lessons, the initial concern was that it would be difficult to engage students remotely in practical task-based exercises. Zoom lessons were uncomfortable and as the instructor could not see the faces of the students, their level of interest or understanding could not be assessed by physical cues. A completely different style of teaching was needed. A reassessment of interactive teaching was necessary.

One solution was to pose open questions to all students to which they could reply by Zoom chat. The answers could then be read aloud without identifying the writer. This was found to encourage students who were reticent to express an opinion and led to more complex answers. The students whose answers were read out and discussed, could feel validated and others were exposed to a variety of possible answers which encouraged a more interactive style of communication. As a bonus everyone's typing and computer skills improved. (Including mine). This style actually led to a connection with each student without the time constraints of walking around the room to ask each student individually. The messages were also proof that the students were participating in the class. At the beginning of each class students were also asked to summarize their homework in English, in a Zoom chat message. The completed homework assignments were collected at the end of term.

In class and as homework the students progressed from gap-filling to dictation to shadowing to skimming, scanning and note taking to writing summaries and describing why a particular topic interested them and then to problem solving and discussion of strategies for independent study.

## Sample chat questions and discussion of goals and objectives

Why do you study English? What is your purpose or goal? Motivation: What motivates you?  
What do you need to do to achieve your goal?

Do you study for Work or for a Hobby? At Present or in the Future?

If your Purpose is for a HOBBY, what kind of language do you need?

Language Chat level / Gestures                      Time frame - Months

Basic Daily Conversation / Cultural Understanding / Globish

Greetings / Self Introduction / Speech / Travel Hotel / Airline / Shopping /

Order goods online / Chat / Global Communication With other Nationalities

Online Gaming / Internet Search / Movies / Music

If your Purpose is for WORK, what kind of language do you need?

Language at a professional level

Study in detail for a specific Purpose                      Time Frame - Years

Work in an International Situation / Internship / Specialized Technical Language

Describe a Process or Activity Simply and Clearly in Detail at a Professional Level

Write Reports / Do Research / Give Presentations / Conduct Meetings / Manage Staff

Sharing Culture at a higher level / Speaking / E-mail / Business Letter

How to study to achieve the desired results.

How have you studied in the past? What Systems or Techniques have you used?

In school only / At a Language School / Private Tutor / On Line Course / Phone Application /

Talking to Friends / Travel Abroad ( Where / When / How Long / Results ) Phonics /

Grammar / Reading / Translation / Memorizing words / Presentation / Dictation / Shadowing /

Note Taking / watching movies / singing songs / Gap filling / Total Physical Response (TPR)

Reading books in the other language

What has worked for you?                      What is your present Level?

Do tests like TOEIC motivate or kill motivation for you?

How many years have you been studying a foreign language?

What languages have you studied?

How would you rate your fluency?

Do you depend on Translation Software? How accurate is it?

Many people cling to a learning style taught in junior High or High School even though for them it was not effective. If something doesn't work, try another approach. Different techniques can have different results depending on the individual. So systems must be varied to accommodate different learning styles.

What motivates you? Travel / Exams / Job prospects / removing your family from danger (refugees) / money / Movies / Music / Stock Market / Gaming / YouTube / TikTok / Books / Animation / Internet

### **Example of different study strategies step by step**

How to study English.

What motivates you? Choose materials or topics that you are interested in.

#### **GAP FILLING (Listening)**

Fill in missing words or numbers in a short passage or song or specification table.

Benefits:

Listen for specific information. Build confidence.

#### **DICTIONARY (Listening)**

Choose materials or topics that you are interested in.

Listen to real English at natural speed.

For example: a short news story or conversation

Listen to a short passage ~ 60 sec

Listen and write what you hear.

Listen as often as necessary.

Time yourself and note the number of times you listened. Correct your answer.

Do not cross out or erase your answer, Write the corrections above the mistake in red.

Make a WORD LIST of any new or unknown words: in English and in your own language.

Make a SOUND LIST of any sounds you cannot hear or distinguish within the words.

r/l -s -ed a/the v/b they / their

Write a SHORT SUMMARY of the passage in your own words.

For example: Flooding in the USA. / People against Corona Vaccines.

Benefits:

Improve listening skills.

Increase vocabulary.

Naturally improve spelling and grammar.

Real world conversations not textbook language.

Build confidence: reduce mistakes and reduce time taken.

#### **NOTE TAKING (Listening)**

Listen to a lecture or presentation ; For example a TED talk and take notes as you would in a lecture or meeting. Write key words or points in English or in your own language, note any unknown words to look up later.

Benefits:

The students are exposed to professional level presentations. They can then be aware of body

language, graphics etc.

This prepares them for lectures and meetings even if they are not familiar with the content. Through their notes which they can make in English or in their own language they can recall and remember the gist of the lecture. And write a simple summary in English later.

### **SHADOWING (Speaking)**

To improve pronunciation, rhythm and intonation.

Repeat short phrases after the audio ( Use real audio, Natural English, news etc. ) Do not try to read, trust your ears. This is a listening and speaking exercise. Listen and repeat as you would in a conversation.

Benefits:

Improved pronunciation and intonation.

Speech will sound more natural.

### **SKIMMING (Reading)**

Skim to get a general idea of the text.

Look at Bold Print or Headings, email addresses and subject lines. (Does this email concern me?)

Benefits:

The outline or subject of the message can be understood quickly.

### **SCANNING (Reading)**

Read questions / look for information scan for the answers.

Think of a timetable or schedule.

Benefits:

By using cues, names and numbers you can find where to look for information.

### **INTENSIVE READING (Reading)**

Reading for comprehension. (For example. Academic paper read whole paragraphs)

Practical Task based exercises.

Benefits:

Use this when you need to understand something completely or to relax.

A brief description of the various homework assignments for Zoom classes.

General English classes. Each week students were required to watch a Ted.com talk of their own choosing, summarize the talk and give reasons for their choice in English.

Discussion classes were assigned a short CNN news segment as Dictation and wrote summary in English.

TOEIC classes were assigned Dictation or Writing or Note Taking depending on the section of the test being reviewed.

Evaluation of assigned Homework and comments from 2<sup>nd</sup> year English Language Students.  
See below for samples of Ted.com talks selected by students and comments on some of the questions to which they could reply by Zoom chat.

Have you ever used English outside of the Classroom? 15/11/2021

Ted.com What do you think of this style of homework?

Is it effective or is it a waste of time? 8/11/2021

Why do you study English? 15/11/2021

What important or interesting thing did you learn?

What are the advantages of Zoom classes?

What are the disadvantages of Zoom classes?

Have you ever used English outside of the classroom?

How do you prefer to work in language classes? Alone with a partner or in a Group?

What skills do you think you will need in the future?

How do you study on your own?

What did you do when you could not understand something?

### **Comments on Homework Strategies (2<sup>nd</sup> year English Language Students) .**

Homework 9/27/2021 (Original text written by students)

Watch Ted.com Summarize. What presentation did you choose and why did you choose it?

Sample topics chosen by the students.

Depression / Emotions Health Cynicism Start up Work Place Biodiversity.

Sample in class questions.

What do you think of this homework? Is it interesting, too difficult, useful or a waste of time?

It makes me difficult

I think it is interesting To be honest, it's very difficult.

Interesting

It is difficult but I can learn a lot of things from TED

It gives me some tips for success and is interesting

I am interested in this homework because I could learn about the world

I think difficult

May be useful in time. But it was a little difficult because some words were academic

I think none. I am not interested in English

This homework is very interesting to me. Because I could learn English on the topic now.

My homework is interesting and useful.

I think this homework is good, because I can know various ideas for it

It is interesting with new discoveries

It is a good assignment, but I want a translation.

It is interesting, but it is a waste of time.

It was fun. It reminded me of my childhood.

With the Ted presentations I notice different presentation styles. Stance, gesture, graphics.

**11/10/2021 Homework Ted.com (Original text written by students)**

Copyright laws

Global food waste

Health

Emissions

Job loss to machines

Design / Creativity

How to talk like a native speaker

Space Station

Brain / Sleep

Economic Crisis / How do governments creat money out of thin air

Edgar Allan Poe

8 Secrets of Success

Psychology / facial expressions

Try something new for thirty days

**25/10/2021 Homework Ted.com (Original text written by students)**

Chocolate

Car fuel

Evolution's gift of play

Friendship

Tips for leaders the future of work

My escape from North Korea

Essential questions to ask your future

Poverty isn't a lack of character, it's a lack of cash

The untapped energy source that could power the world

Encounter

Your genes are not your fate

Work-life balance

I like McDonald's

Origins of the Olympics

**1/11/2021 Homework Ted.com (Original text written by students)**

Why don't we cover the desert with solar panels?

What causes migraines?

A skateboard with a boost.  
Why working from home is good for business.  
How equal do we want the world to be?  
Let's not tell people the goal.  
How to live passionately – no matter your age. Tried taking main points  
A small country with big ideas to get rid of fossil fuels  
Are we afraid to stand out?  
8 secrets of Success  
Sleeping with Science Tried taking main points

**8//11/2021 Homework TED.com (Original text written by students) Sample TED topics**

How the world's tallest skyscraper was built  
The creative power of your intuition  
A walk through the stages of sleep  
How to keep rivers and streams flowing  
The haunting truth of ghost stories  
Most ghost stories reveal a deep longing  
How boredom can lead to your most brilliant ideas  
I like sleeping more than anything  
Ted's secret to great public speaking  
12 year old iPhone app developer  
How to build your confidence  
Why you don't need 8 glasses of water a day

**8//11/2021 Homework Comments (Original text written by students) Sample class questions / answers**

What do you think of this style of homework? Is it effective if you choose a title that interests you, do you try to listen more? Is it a waste of time? Let me hear your honest opinion.

This homework is hard, but I think it is very useful for improving my skills.  
TED.com is effective for me to improve listening skills and get some hints of our life.  
I think it is good because we can choose contents in view of our level.  
This homework makes an opportunity to watch ted.com, so I think this homework is good.  
I think it is a very good challenge. I had a good opportunity to come into contact with English.  
I think this works because it gives you a lot of topic freedom and is good for listening.  
I definitely think ted.com is an important thing  
It's so helpful for me because we can get and learn three things which are how to talk to audience, speak English, a lot of tips from it. And more it's a fantastic opportunity to learn native English.  
This homework improves listening skill. I can get cutting-edge knowledge.  
I never see more than my homework. However, I am happy that my homework will increase my knowledge.

**15/11/2021 Homework Ted.com (Original text written by students) Sample topics**

How much sleep do you really need?

Why you should talk to strangers.

8 lessons on building a company people enjoy working for.

How the hyperlink changed everything.

Why books are here to stay.

Growing up under the one child policy.

How to have a good conversation.

Where will you be able to live in twenty years?

How we could eat real meat without harming animals.

Your money and your mind.

How long should your naps be?

**15/11/2021 Homework Comments (Original text written by students) Sample in class questions / answers**

Have you ever used English outside of school? Where? What happened?

I have never used it.

I sometimes talk to my friend in English. We usually use line which is a communication application, or face to face.

No, I haven't.

I have used English in an airport.

I used when I go abroad

Yes, I have, when I gave directions to foreign tourists.

I was asked the way in English at the station.

Why do you study English now?

I don't know

This is because globalization is progressing and there are more opportunities to use English

To read a thesis in English.

To have a conversation with international students and I hope I could work abroad

Why do we study English now?

For Units

To increase the TOEIC score

I wanna talk to people over the world. And I think learning is just fun.

I can't graduate without doing it.

Because I want to read English documents smoothly.

I wanna get higher TOEIC score.

My goal of TOEIC is 850.



**22/11/2021 Homework Ted.com (Original text written by students) Sample TED topics**

Common sense full of addiction mistakes.  
How I built a jet suit.  
Why the pencil is perfect.  
What causes cavities?  
Why pasta comes in all shapes and sizes.  
The power and passion of perseverance  
Your self driving taxi is almost here  
How to stop languishing and start finding flow  
How the hyperlink changed everything  
How daylight-saving time affects our bodies and minds  
How daylight-saving time affects our bodies and minds and world  
3 rules for better work-life balance

**22/11/2021 Homework Comments (Original text written by students) In class questions**

Tell me about Zoom class. What are the good and bad points of Zoom classes?

I think it is good because we can choose how we take an English class.  
The good point is that you don't have time to go to school. The bad point is that your eyes get tired.  
Being able to take classes at home.  
Good: we can join this class every location Bad: we must change my Zoom name  
Good point is I can find English words I don't know on the internet.  
Good point ; can get it anywhere you have the internet  
Good point is I can tell my idea to a teacher with chat messages  
It is difficult to communicate each other on Zoom

**22/11/2021 Homework TED.com (Original text written by students) Sample TED topics**

Why don't we cover the desert with solar panels?  
The case for stubborn optimism on climate  
What is so special about the human brain?  
How the world's longest underwater tunnel was built.  
The psychology of self-motivation  
The surprising health benefits of dreaming  
How we're using drones to deliver blood and save lives.  
Football physics: The impossible free kick  
8 secrets of success  
A lesson in turning adversaries into allies

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What do you think of this style of homework? Is it effective if you choose a title that interests you, do you try to listen more? Is it a waste of time? Let me hear your honest opinion.

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**Conclusion.**

Although, in Zoom classes the initial concern was that it would be difficult to engage students remotely in practical task-based exercises. A completely different style of teaching was attempted. A reassessment of interactive teaching was necessary. After reading the comments from the students, it is felt that there is a need to challenge students with real world problems that interest them to stimulate discussion. The students were motivated by the opportunity of learning something through English and the instant feedback and exposure to different points of view, which was possible in the Zoom class.

Different ways to study were suggested by the students, for example movies or YouTube or online chats. Even though the classes and assignments were more demanding than usual, the students were motivated and active participants.

Many students expressed a desire to continue to incorporate remote learning into the curriculum.

## Example of different study strategies step by step (Japanese Version)

各勉強法のステップ毎解説

### 基本的な英語の勉強方法について。

モチベーションを上げるには自分が興味のある教材やトピックを選ぶ事。

### ギャップフィリング (リスニング)

方法：

短い文章や歌、仕様表などの中から複数箇所の単語や数字を抜いたものを用意し、聴いて埋める。

メリット：

具体的な情報を聞き取ることができるようになり、自信がつく。

### ディクテーション (リスニング)

方法：

1. 興味のある教材やトピックを選び、実際の英語をナチュラルスピードで聞く。
2. なるべく短いニュースや会話などの短い文章を聴き (60秒以内が好ましい)、聴いたことを一行ずつあけて書く。このとき何度でも必要な回数聴き直し書く。
3. 所要時間を計り、何回聞き直したか平均的な回数も記録する。
4. その後答え合わせをする。この時、間違いの上の空けておいた隙間に赤字で訂正箇所を書く。
5. 新しい単語や知らない単語があれば、英語と母国語で単語リストを作る。
6. 聞き取れなかった音や、単語の中で聞き分けられない音のリストを作る。  
例：“R”と“L”, “V”と“B”, “they”と“their”の違い、単語末尾の“-s”, “-ed”、単語前の“a” / “the”など
7. 文章の短い要約を自分の言葉で英語で書く。
8. 例：米国で洪水が発生した。 / コロナ・ワクチンに反対する人々。

メリット：

リスニングスキルの向上とボキャブラリーの増加、スペルや文法が自然に上達する。

教科書的な会話ではなく、現実の世界での会話に慣れることができる。

自身のミスを理解して減らし、所用時間の短縮を記録から実感でき、自信がつく。

### ノートへの書き取り (リスニング)

方法：

講演やプレゼンテーション (例えばTEDトーク) を聴き、ノートを取る。

講義や会議で、重要な単語やポイントを英語または母国語で書き留める。また知らない単語をメモすることで後で調べることができる。最後にまとめて講義の要点と簡単な英文要約を書きます。

メリット：

プロレベルのプレゼンテーションに触れることができる。また身のこなし (ボディランゲージ) や映像、画像の使い方等について副次的に気付くことができる。これにより講義や会議の内容の不明瞭な部分も補足することができるようになる。

さらに英語または母国語で作成されたノートを見て、内容を振り返り、記憶することができます。

### シャドウイング (スピーキング)

方法：

本物の音声、ナチュラルイングリッシュ、ニュースなどを音声の後に続いて短いフレーズを繰り返し真似して話す。

これはリスニングとスピーキングの練習ですので、自分の耳を信じて聴いて、繰り返す。

メリット：

発音とリズム、イントネーションが改善され、話し方がより自然になる。

### スキミング (リーディング)

方法：

文章の大まかな内容を把握するために読み飛ばす。実際のメールなどを使う。

太字や見出し、メールアドレスや件名などキーポイントや概要に繋がる部分に注目する。

メリット：

文章の概要や件名などの意味を素早く理解する事ができるようになる。

### スキヤニング (リーディング)

方法：

問題を読み、答えを探すためにスキャンする。

説明文や時間割、スケジュールなど多くの情報の中から問いに関する情報を抜き出す。

メリット：

名前や数字などの固有の情報を手がかりに、どこにどんな情報があるのか探す技術が身に付く。

### インテンシブリーディング (リーディング)

方法：

読解のための読書として全文を読む。タスクベースの実践的な演習。一般的な読書に近い。

メリット：

学術論文や歴史書、小説などの文章での説明がメインとなる媒体での理解度を高める。

何かを完全に理解したいときや、リラックスにも活用できる。