

IDEAS AND TIPS FOR KEEPING A LANGUAGE JOURNAL

- Watch a TED Talk
- Find a short blog post or article on a topic that interests you
- Watch a movie clip or a few minutes from a television show
- Find a podcast on a subject that interests you
- Observe a conversation nearby or reflect on a conversation you had today.
 - What interesting words or phrases did you note? What was unclear or confusing to you? Did you have trouble knowing how to respond?
- Choose a Word of the Day from learnersdictionary.com
 - Look at the definitions, particularly if the word has more than one meaning. Observe how it is used in a sentence, and then practice writing your own sentence.
- Read and summarize a short news article
- Write a how-to paragraph on an everyday activity (such as ironing a shirt)
 - include step-by-step detailed instructions to identify gaps in your vocabulary
- Listen to a song while reading along with the lyrics
 - What is the song about? What is unclear to you?

If you are doing a reading activity or a listening activity that has a transcript you can review,

- make a note of a few new vocabulary words, phrasal verbs, or expressions that you encountered. If there are a lot, just choose a few that you want to remember. Try to use them in your own sentences.
- If you have trouble with a particular tense or grammar point, find examples of them in the text. Ask yourself why that form was used. Try to find patterns.
- If there is audio, choose a small section and practice speaking along with the speaker to match pronunciation and rhythm, etc.

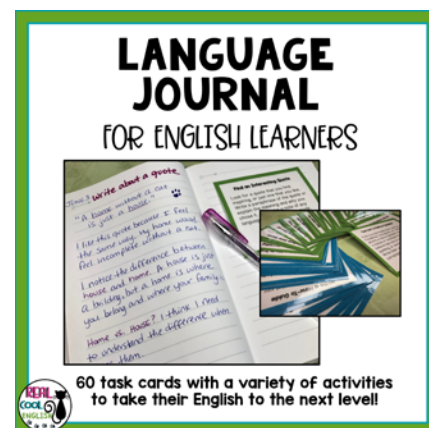
For all of these activities, remember to practice using your observation skills to help you learn something about the language. In addition to writing any necessary responses, spend a few minutes reflecting on your experience: your impressions, anything that you noticed, what was interesting to you, what you want to remember, what questions you have after completing the activity, etc. You can also take time to reflect on your learning in general for the day. Try to write down three things that you learned today. This kind of reflection gives you a sense of accomplishment and is also a great way to ensure that what you have learned will stay with you!

Thank you for downloading these ideas and tips for Keeping a Language Journal I hope your students will find it helpful for their language journey!

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To get your own Vocabulary Journal task cards with many more journal activity ideas that include specific examples, instructor notes and web links, click here:



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