

## Ideas for Learner Self-Direct Learning

1. Listen to English conversation podcasts. Summarize the content of the podcast and identify/define ten new vocabulary words that you heard.
  - Suggested websites: <http://www.esl-lab.com/>
  - <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>
2. Go to <http://freerice.com/> and under “Subjects”, select either the “English Grammar” or “English Vocabulary” links to practice your grammar or vocabulary. For each correct answer, 10 grains of rice will be donated to the *United Nations World Food Program* to help fight world hunger.
3. Translate recipes, cultural stories or fairytales, speeches, and other works from your native language to English.
4. Write a restaurant, museum, book, film, hotel, or music album review. For each review, describe your experience and rate the object you are reviewing on a scale from 1-10. Some examples of what to include in reviews are listed below:
  - Restaurant: describe the dishes you sampled and comment on the pros and cons of the restaurant. For example, a positive aspect may be that the customer service was excellent, and a negative quality could be that the restaurant was difficult to find and was not in a good location.
  - Book: write a brief plot summary of the book and describe your favorite scene from the book. Also, choose an audience that you would recommend the book to; for instance, young boys who are interested in baseball.
5. Read a news article every day and summarize the content. Also, pay attention to specific grammatical components that you have learned. Keep these recordings in a journal or news diary.
6. Choose an English song and follow along with the lyrics as you listen. In addition to improving listening and reading skills, the learner will gain cultural knowledge as he or she will become exposed to a variety of American musical genres.
7. Watch films and television shows with English subtitles. Following a soap opera is recommended, as is watching the same film repeatedly. For television shows, keep track of major developments for each character as the series progresses and for films, write down the major plot points as they occur.

8. Conduct independent research projects on any topic (for example: violence, environmental awareness, smoking, war, political conflicts, cultural differences between the United States and one's native country, how everyday items such as cell phones work, etc). Students can keep this research in a journal and if desired, they can advocate for one side of an issue against their tutors.
9. Read an English children's book series such as *Junie B. Jones*, *Cam Jansen*, *Magic Tree House*, Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, etc. Summarize each book and record any new information about the main character(s).
10. Read online blogs by other ESL students, such as the one found on this website and post a comment: <http://denisesesl.blogspot.com/>, <http://www.listen-to-english.com/index.php?cat=podcasts>