СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ МЕТОДЫ САМОСТОЯТЕЛЬНОГО ИЗУЧЕНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА

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Аннотация. В данной статье рассмотрены различные способы изучения английского языка с применением современных технологий без сопровождения преподавателя. Рассмотрены возможности, которые современный мир предлагает для освоения и совершенствования навыков владения английским языком. Путем исследования выявлены наиболее эффективные методы для его изучения. А также описана важность навыка владения языком для современного мира.

Ключевые слова: образование, английский язык, современные технологии, методы изучения, онлайн-обучение, самообразование

MODERN METHODS OF SELF-STUDY OF ENGLISH

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Abstract. This article discusses various approaches to self-study of English using modern technologies. The opportunities that the modern world offers for mastering and improving English language skills are considered. Through research, the most effective methods for studying it have been determined. Language skills in the modern world are also described.

Keywords: education, English language, modern technologies, learning methods, online learning, self-study

Introduction

The modern lifestyle makes more and more demands on people who want to keep up with the times. These include mobility, knowledge of computer technology, as well as knowledge of foreign languages. Learning foreign languages, and especially English, always provides more opportunities to realize yourself and build a successful career in the future. Today, in the context of globalization, English is the language of international communication. It is widely used in various spheres of life and is especially important in achieving success – which shows the inevitability of lifelong learning. The problem arises – after finishing school it is harder to study because of absence of guiding in learning foreign languages. Although it is not always possible to have a teacher or a tutor to mentor a student, modern technologies allow developing language skills without guiding which proves the relevance of the article.

Aim of the article is to investigate methods of improving English without teacher's mentoring using modern technologies.

Goals:
- To prove that it is more effective to learn English using not only traditional methods.
- To explore the various ways of learning English which allow studying without mentoring.
- To reveal the diversity of modern information technologies to motivate people to continue learning English.

Part 1. Developing lexical and grammar skills using mobile applications and websites

Today, the most effective and popular way of learning English is using various mobile applications. This method has a lot of advantages.

First, using a mobile application allows saving time. People need to download the application and spend a few minutes a day to improve English. It is possible to study in any place and at any time of day or night. Second, it is worth noting that learning English using mobile applications is available for almost everyone. You can start learning with free tests that will help determine your level of knowledge. Mobile applications often offer interesting, colorful exercises in the form of a game. Such games turn a boring studying into competition, which is motivating for adults. Different kinds of ratings persuade people to open the application daily.

The most popular and available applications for learning English:

Duolingo

Duolingo is an online service for learning a wide range of foreign languages, both using a web application and mobile clients. The main advantage of this application is the opportunity to learn a language from scratch. All tasks are grouped by difficulty levels; the process begins with identifying photographs and translating simple words. Tasks become more difficult within time. If the user does not master the material, it is impossible to reach the following level. The application combines teaching grammar and lexical skills, because the user learns words and how to use them in easy phrases.

The lessons contain tasks on speaking, listening, translation, reading, as well as a variety of tests for a comprehensive set of skills. If a person makes a mistake, the service returns him or her to it and point out the problem. Time tracking helps create a schedule, monitoring the time users spent learning the language. In addition, ratings stimulate to develop and do more exercises.

The main disadvantage of the application is that it does not explain grammar rules. Acquisition occurs automatically which does not work as well with adults as with children due to brain development.

Busuu

This application reminds Duolingo in all aspects except one – it has grammar material. Grammar is presented inductively. Students see examples of usage grammar structure, try to compose similar structure and after some sentences they get grammar theory.

Quizlet

The Quizlet online platform is built on the basis of digital flash cards where the teacher demonstrates various lexical units, expressions, phrases and sentences, and their Russian equivalents. Quizlet has not only modules with vocabulary units but also generates tests, spelling practice, and teamwork to solve a common problem in the form of interactive games. The disadvantage of the platform is lack of possibility to create sentences or phrases, students can only learn given words and chunks. There are some modes in the platform:

Flashcards mode. Users simply look at the cards by flipping them over. It is possible to shuffle the cards so that they go in random order; view cards from language A to language B and vice versa; the cards are perfectly pronounced, so there is no need to worry about transcription; words that are difficult to remember can be marked and then students can learn only them.

Learning. When a word appears and you need to type its translation.

Test. Automatically creates a test with four types of tasks from the words included in the unit. The tasks are the following: write a translation of a word, match the word and the meaning, make multiple choice, choose true/false.

Scatter is a simple game in which students have to find words, their meanings and match them together.

Therefore, this platform is good in combination with reading and listening. Students find a new word in the text, write it down in Quizlet and learn it to have it in passive vocabulary.

Part 2. Developing basic skills: listening and reading

Developing 4 basic skills without a teacher may arise a problem in contrast to grammar and lexical skills. They are almost impossible to check automatically, they need more time and upper level. In spite of this, it is still possible to improve both receptive and productive skills via modern technologies. We are going to concentrate on listening and reading in the article.

Developing listening using podcast, movies and cartoons

One of the discoveries in recent years in teaching has been podcasting. Podcasting is not only one of the newest multimedia content, but also the process of creating and distributing audio or video files in the form of radio and television broadcasts on the Internet. It is an audio or video recording that was downloaded on special sites or services. Podcasting improves listening skills, which allow students to develop four types of speech activity: understanding of oral text, understanding of written text (if it has subtitles), written speech and oral speech because it enriches vocabulary.

Watching movies, listening to music and other forms of enjoyable learning can be useful ways to raise level of English. Podcasts have a lot of advantages.

It is possible to listen to podcasts anywhere. A tablet, a smartphone, or any other portable device allows listening to podcasts while going somewhere, jogging or doing housework. It goes without saying, that listening to podcasts will help learn various word-combinations that native speakers use in their conversations. Podcasts offer not only an opportunity to be entertained, but also to learn something new and expand the knowledge of the world.

6 minute English from BBC

It is not difficult to find 6 minutes to listen to native speakers once or twice a week or every day. They are ideal for those who cannot devote much time to English: students can listen to the program while brushing teeth or preparing breakfast. The speakers discuss history, politics, literature and everyday life in simple terms. Transcripts in English and a dictionary of phrases are available for all the episodes to help better understand the topic. The presenters speak British understandable English without accents, which makes them easier to understand them.

Luke's English Podcast

People all over the world learn English with the help of this podcast. It has been running since 2009 and more than 740 episodes are available now. Luke tells listeners about the peculiarities of grammar, discusses school education with guests and explains untranslatable jokes in English.

Podcast or videos on YouTube

In combination with AI, using this platform makes learning English easier and more modern. Russian Yandex now can help to translate some inapprehensible episodes of the video. In addition, a student can make summary of the video in a written form or orally and compare it with what Yandex AI offered for the video.

Movies

Watching movies is a great way of learning the English language. The English used in movies is very natural. It is also very close to what one can hear from native English speakers. This will help improve spoken English. Besides, listening to the dialogues will help perfect English pronunciation.

Watching films in English provides a break from usual class setting or word-per-word learning. Aside from being a creative way to be exposed to the language, it teaches the learner various aspects of language learning – from hearing the proper pronunciation of words, observing word usage in context, and coherence of storytelling. Unlike real-world conversations, movies can also be watched repeatedly to fully grasp word usage until you are confident enough to string those words and phrases into actual conversations.

Movies show English learners the appropriate emotions when specific phrases are used in a conversation. This is a valuable and practical skill that is hard to get in books alone. Films give a variety of word usage lessons because they display various emotions in various characters. These types of dialogues are important and cannot be learned in books alone.

Another bonus in upgrading your English vocabulary through movies is that students can bucket learnings into themes. This will help to segregate which new words are for which occasions or situations, making it easier to use them when situations arise.

Aside from this, some movies also feature characters from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This variety will help with different accents, pronunciations, and word usage from various English speakers with diverse backgrounds. That is why watching movies, especially those newly released ones, is essential in learning informal phrases. Not only do movies use a fair amount of slang to liven up the characters, but students can also ensure that only the newest ones make it to the film's cut.

To make video more interactive students can use some websites where short episodes of movies are placed with tasks: gap filling, drag and drop, answer the questions etc. It is checked and corrected automatically, which is good for self-study. In addition, the episodes are not as long as movies, that is why the person does not lose the motivation to finish the video. One of the most popular sites is iSLCOLLECTIVE. A person can choose a topic, level, grammar topic of the video.

Learning English Through Cartoons.

Cartoons are just as great for learning English as other shows or movies, because there is so much one can learn from this content. Some are mostly for children, like Disney movies. In addition, some cartoons cater to an adult audience, so students may even come across intense themes or an inappropriate joke or two while you are using them to learn English.

Here are main advantages of learning English through the cartoons:

– Voice actors on cartoons enunciate clearly. That means they pronounce their words well so that everyone can understand them.

– Many children's cartoons focus on social interactions, so people can hear some real world conversations and phrases.

– Children's cartoons use words that are simple enough for low level English learners to understand, but also throw in plenty of challenging new words for more advanced learners.

– These shows are often repetitive—they repeat words, phrases and even whole sentence structures.

– They are usually short, about 20 minutes long. Sometimes each episode is split into two halves of 10 minutes each.

– There are cartoons that are made specifically for learning new words and phrases.

– It is a fun way to learn which is motivating.

Developing reading through visual novels

It is hard to make reading more various and motivating. New generations feel uncomfortable when they try to concentrate on reading, and it takes a lot of time to read in non-native language. The best solution is to be more involved in the story. The visual novels help to avoid the issue, the reader is always involves – he or she can influence the game, need to make choices, interact with the images. It is also immersive kind of edutainment thanks to music and interactive pictures. To follow the story, the reader should remember the previous choices, main characters. He or she must develop the relationship with other characters; choose appropriate style of communication, depending on who he or she is talking to – a friend or an enemy. The main disadvantage of this method of reading is that some of the stories include adult contents, although it is possible to avoid. The most common apps for visual novels are Romance club and Chapters. Romance club is a Russian application, but language can be switched to English. Chapters are more authentical.

Conclusion

Analyzing various sources and working on the topic of the project, we have proved that it is possible to continue learning without mentoring and stay motivated. Nowadays, the importance of learning English is increasing, and we know that many people have difficulty remembering foreign language vocabulary. The most crucial point in learning English is the way people learn the language. The more interesting the method, the better the material will be absorbed. A good way to assimilate and understand information is to perceive it in various forms.

This article included an analysis and description of modern ways of self-study English. As a result, there were found ways to develop grammar and lexical skills and receptive skills without help of teachers. We concluded that they all differ from each other in their own way, but all can be effective. Each of them has its advantages and disadvantages and each of them is useful to a certain extent, but they should be used in a complex.

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