Creating active homework tasks

Thomas N. Robb, Ph.D.

tomrobb@gmail.com



First some basic principles (1)

- Students working at a distance is very different from students coming to your class
 - Seeing what they are doing or what they have done becomes much more difficult
 - It is easier for students who wish to spend more time on other teachers' assignments to pretend that they have done the assignment, to borrow someone else's work or find a suitable response on the Internet

Some basic principles (2)

- 2. Therefore it is very important that you
 - have a way of confirming that they have done the work, and
 - an efficient way of providing feedback or a grade on their work
- This presentation will suggest ways to accomplish these principles in your distance teaching.

Methods to ensure uniqueness

Make the feedback assignment unique for each individual student, for example

- Write about how you, a relative or friend has experienced something similar to what happened in the reading
- Write a short letter to one of the characters giving your own advice
- Keep a log of what you have read on the Internet
- Keep a list of new vocabulary that you have found

Methods to ensure uniqueness

- Record one paragraph from the story and submit it via WeChat. Count the number of strokes in the first 汉字 of your name and select that paragraph (and the next one, too, so that you have more than 100 words). Or perhaps use the last digit of their student number.
- Compare two versions of the same story and report what differences you find in the vocabulary that is used.
- Make a list of sentences or phrases that were difficult for you to understand.

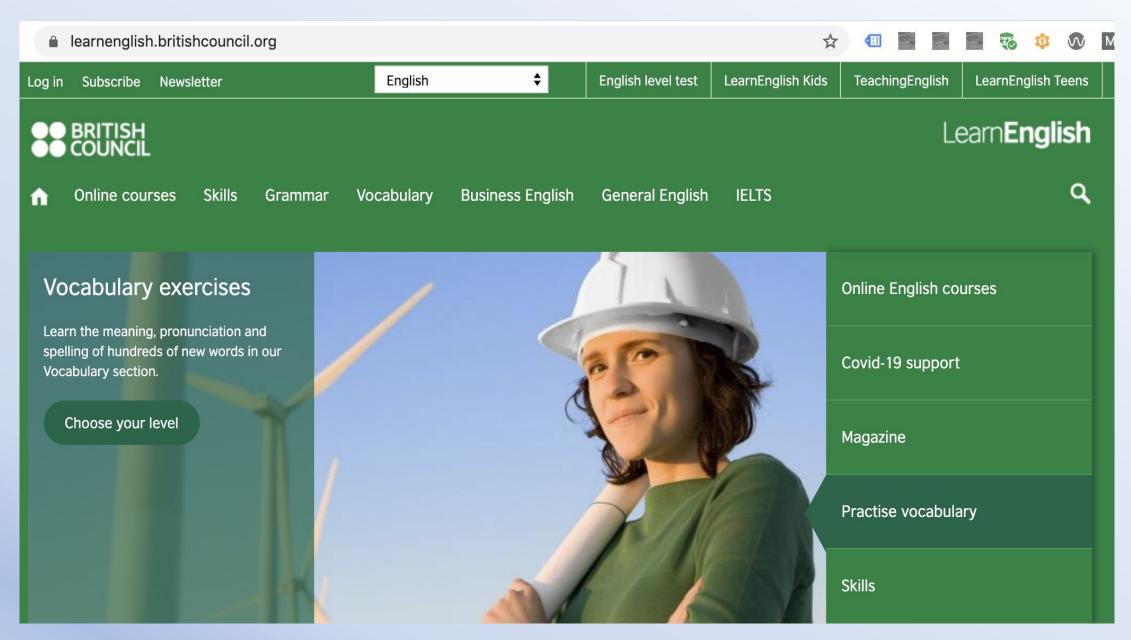
What to assign

- No matter where the material is from, students should work on material that is close to their own reading level. Material that is too difficult will not be effective since they will not be able to comprehend it.
- Easy material will lend itself to an "extensive reading" approach where they can read a large volume with little dictionary use to promote their reading fluency and to get a better grasp of how the words and grammar that they already "know" are actually used in 'real English'.

What to assign

Material that is slightly above their level will challenge them but will allow them to learn new vocabulary and grammar.

If the students can choose what to read among the many selections offered, that will encourage them to do more reading because they will find it more enjoyable.



Find out your English level

Take our free online English test!

START

Click **START** to begin the test and answer each of the 25 questions carefully. After each question indicate how sure you are of your answer (Certain, Fairly sure, Not sure).

When you finish the test, you will be told your approximate English level. You can then search for suitable content on LearnEnglish Teens by level. You can also search for content by topic.



This test is designed for personal use to give you an approximate indication of your English level. Contact your local British Council office if you would like to take a formal test of English.

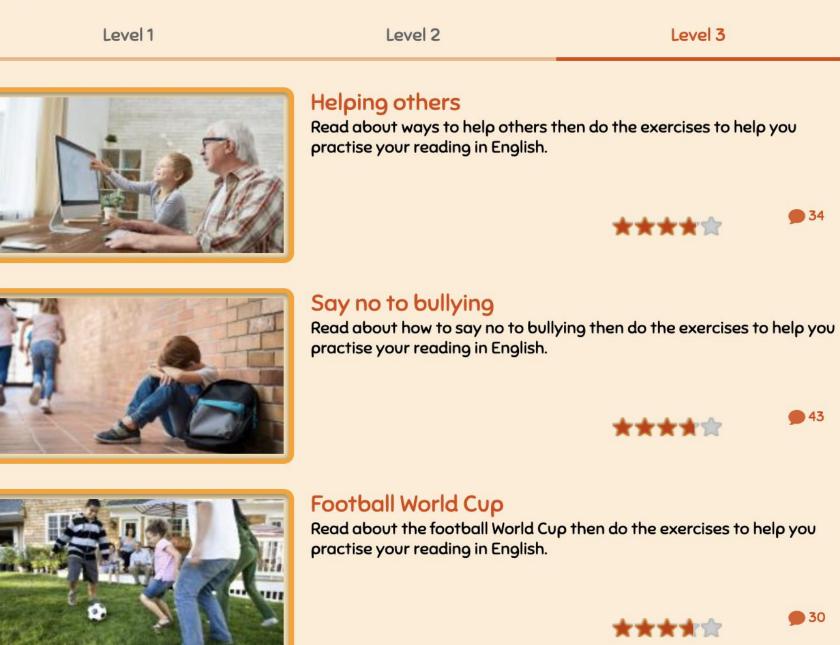
Step 2 - Search for content for your English level

Find content by level, section, or topic. Click 'Apply' button to see the results. All votes are for the last 12 months.

Level	Section		Topics	
🗸 - Any -	🗸 - Any -		🗸 - Any -	
Beginner/A1	-Speaking		21st century skills	Reset
Elementary/A2	Beginner A1 speakin	g	achievements	
Intermediate/B1	Elementary A2 spea	king	actors	
Upper intermediate/B2	Intermediate B1 spe	aking	adventures	
Advanced/C1	Upper intermediate	B2 speaking	advertising	
	-Listening		advice	
Test cache	Beginner A1 listening	g	agriculture	
lest cache	Elementary A2 lister	ning	ambitions	
	Intermediate B1 liste	-	animals	
Level:	Upper intermediate		animation	
Level.	Advanced C1 listenir		annual events	The second secon
	-Reading		appearance	. 11
Total	•		applying for a job	T I I
Average: 0%	Elementary A2 readi		apps	and the second se
	Intermediate B1 read	-	April fool's day	and the second in
	Upper intermediate	-	architecture	
	Advanced C1 reading		around the world	In ational Mamonia
	-Writing	9	art and design	national Women's
	Witting		authors	- We are women
		Video zon	bar chart	
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			beauty	ional Women's Day, women
			behaviour	ional women's bay, women
		Level:	bilingualism	
		Advanced	biology	Post date:
			Post date: 16 Mar 2020	Upper intermediate/B2 17 Feb 2020
			10 Mai 2020	
		+++	Total votes: 1	Total votes: 0
		Avorage: 10		Average: 0%
		Average: 10	VU 70	



Level Filter



12



FACT FILE: Say no to bullying

Bullying can happen to me or you or anyone. Millions of children around the world are bullied every year, but there are things that we can all do to help.

What is bullying?

Bullying is when someone makes you feel bad or hurts you again and again. Bullying can happen at school, out of school or online. Bullying includes:

- calling people mean names
- laughing at people
- telling lies about people
- taking someone's things without permission
- not letting someone play in a group
- hitting people.



What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying happens online and includes:

- sending mean messages
- sharing photos without permission
- not letting someone be part of an online group.

What can you do?

If someone is mean to you, tell an adult that you know and like. For example, talk to a parent or a teacher. You can block a person who sends mean messages online. Ask an adult to help you. Don't reply.



Talk to your parents or teacher or an adult that you know well if you see bullying or if you are worried about a friend.



Say sorry if you are mean to someone. You can write a message or talk to the person. Think about how to be kind in the future.

We can all help to say no to bullying.



Talk to your parents or teacher or an adult that you know well if you see bullying or if you are worried about a friend.



Say sorry if you are mean to someone. You can write a message or talk to the person. Think about how to be kind in the future.

We can all help to say no to bullying.

4. What do you think?

What was the most important fact about bullying? What can schools do to stop bullying? What's the best way to say sorry?

www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids

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What can you do with this reading?

- Have them read the article WITHOUT using a dictionary, asking them to time their reading
- They record their time, then check unknown words and read and time it a second time.

Date	Title of Article	Source	Reading time 1	Reading time 2	Number of new words
08-Aug	Say no to bullying	BC Kids	5'20	3'50	3

• Next, they make a list of any unknown words on a form that you provide, perhaps as an Excel file

ſ	Date	Title of Article	Word/phrase	Meaning
	08-Aug	Say no to bullying	cyberbullying	网络欺凌
-				
t				

 They can respond to the questions in #4 with their own ideas: "What was the most important fact about bullying?" and "What can schools do to stop bullying?"



Welcome to LearnEnglish Teens

Covid-19 learning support: LearnEnglish Teens wants to support students who can't go to school at the moment. You can find tips and advice for learning at home on our new support page.

LearnEnglish Teens is brought to you by the British Council, the world's English teaching experts. If you want to learn English while having fun, this free website is just for you. LearnEnglish Teens can help improve your English with reading, writing and listening practice, tips for exams, grammar and vocabulary exercises, games and videos. You can also interact with other teenagers from all around the world. If you want to learn English in your own country, find an English course near you.

Are you looking for an English course?





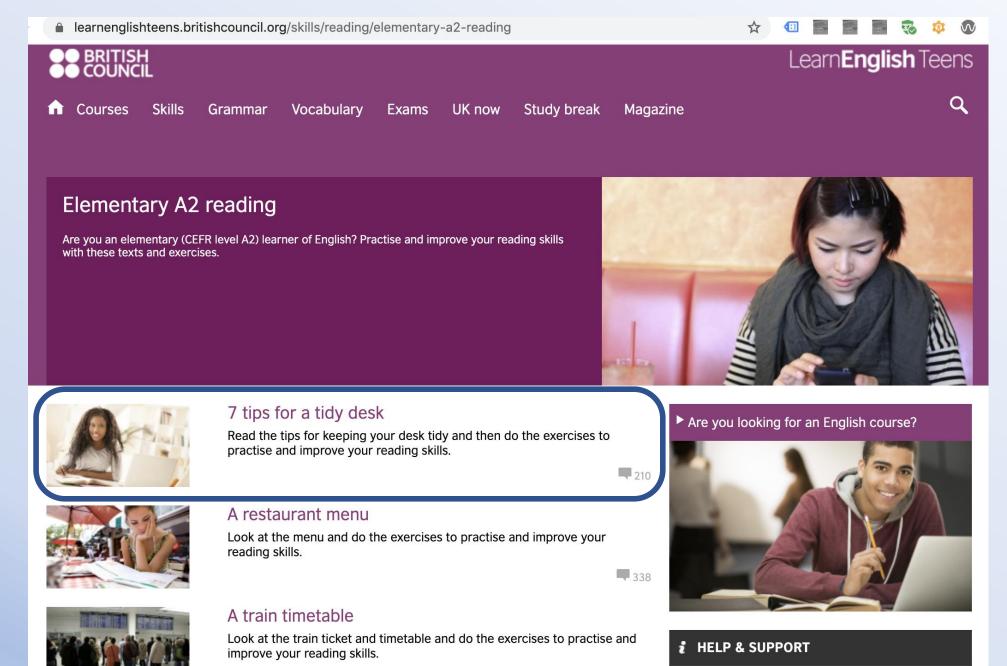
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Covid-19 learning support: LearnEnglish Teens wants to support students who can't go to school at the moment. You can find tips and advice for learning at home on our new support page.

LearnEnglish Teens is brought to you by the British Council, the world's English teaching experts. If you want to learn English while having fun, this free website is just for you. LearnEnglish Teens can help improve your English with reading, writing and listening practice, tips for exams, grammar and vocabulary exercises, games and videos. You can also interact with other teenagers from all around the world. If you want to learn English in your own country, find an English course near you.

Are you looking for an English course?





▼ Reading

Seven tips for a tidy desk

1. Only keep things you really need on and near your desk.

Use a tray for any papers you have to read. Have a jar for pens and pencils and have a bin near your desk.

2. Don't keep any drinks on your desk.

Go to the kitchen when you want to have a drink or, if you prefer, keep a drink on a small table near your desk.

3. Reduce the amount of paper that you use.

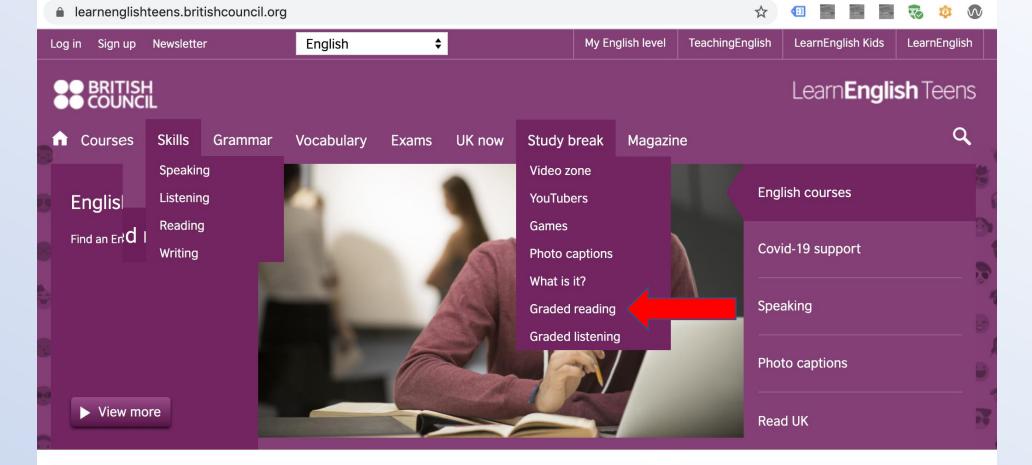
Try to keep as much information as possible in folders on your computer. Before printing a document, ask yourself, 'do I really need to read this on paper?'

4. Scan your notes.

If you have a lot of paper (magazine articles, notes, worksheets, etc.), use a scanner and keep a digital version as a PDF on your computer.

What to do?

- Give them as as screenshot just the first 4 of the rules.
- Ask them to think of 3 more rules and report them to you via your course website (if you have one) or perhaps by WeChat.
- Later you can show them the three additonal rules on the website, and perhaps a collection of the ideas from the students in your class.



Welcome to LearnEnglish Teens

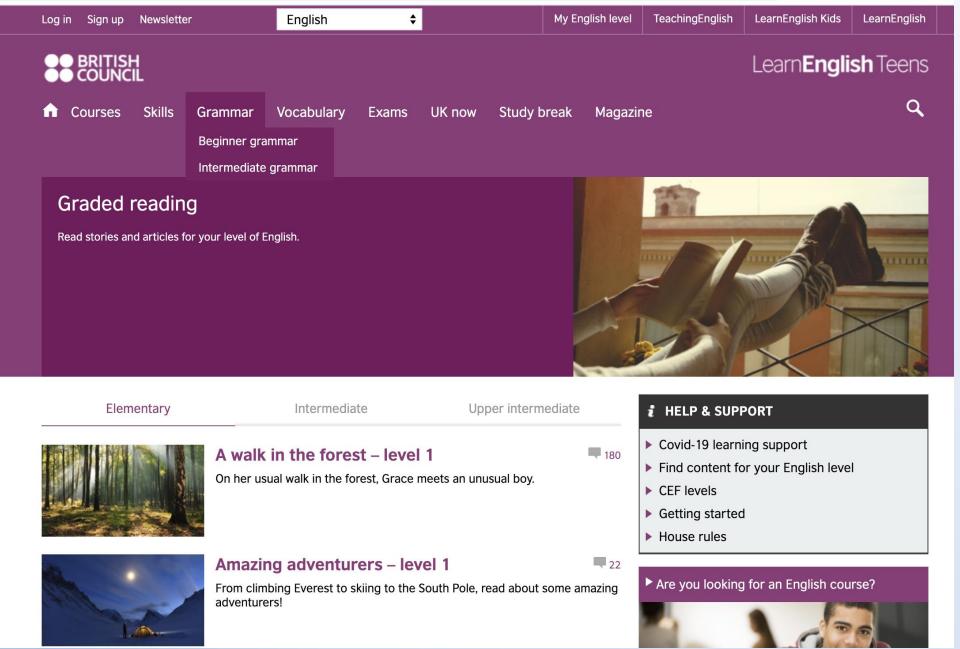
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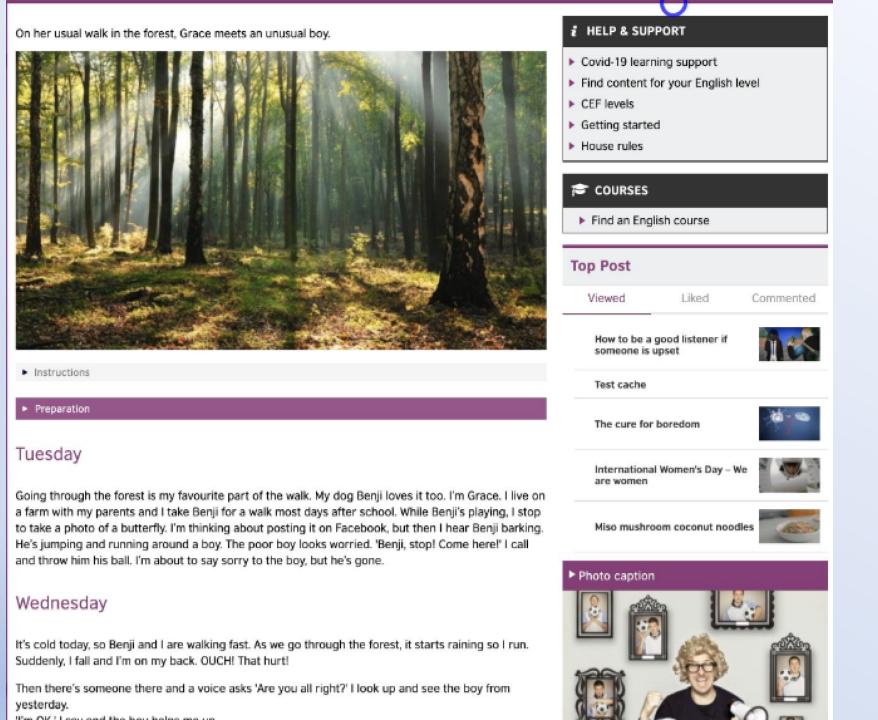
LearnEnglish Teens is brought to you by the British Council, the world's English teaching experts. If you want to learn English while having fun, this free website is just for you. LearnEnglish Teens can help improve your English with reading, writing and listening practice, tips for exams, grammar and vocabulary exercises, games and videos. You can also interact with other teenagers from all around the world. If you want to learn English in your own country, find an English course near you.

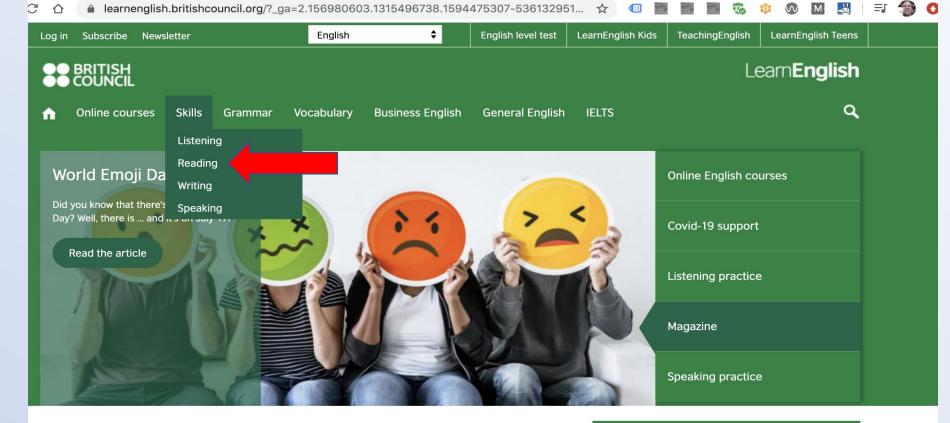


learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/graded-reading

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Covid-19 learning support: LearnEnglish wants to support those of you who are learning at home at the moment. You can find tips and advice for learning at home on our new **support page**.

Welcome to LearnEnglish

Learn English online using our high-quality resources to quickly improve your English. This website is created for adult learners of English by the British Council, the world's English teaching experts.

Start by taking our **free English test** to help you find your level. Then find lessons and resources to improve your English **skills**. Get more practice to improve your **general English** with our extended listening and reading materials. At any time, use the **grammar** and **vocabulary** sections to help and support your learning.

Find out more about our range of **online classes and courses** to improve your English.

► Are you looking for an online English course?



Find an English course near you

Choose a country/territory -

• 11EL D

Choose your level to practise your reading





Pre-intermediate A2

messages, forms and timetables.

Reading practice to help you understand simple texts and find specific information in everyday material. Texts include emails, invitations, personal messages, tips, notices and signs.

Reading practice to help you understand simple information, words and sentences about known topics. Texts include posters,

Intermediate B1

Beginner A1

Reading practice to help you understand texts with everyday or jobrelated language. Texts include articles, travel guides, emails, adverts and reviews.

Upper intermediate B2

Reading practice to help you understand texts with a wide vocabulary where you may need to consider the writer's opinion. Texts include articles, reports, messages, short stories and reviews.



Advanced C1

Reading practice to help you understand long, complex texts about a wide variety of topics, some of which may be unfamiliar. Texts include specialised articles, biographies and summaries.

Writing

Beginner A1

Pre-intermediate A2

Intermediate B1

Upper intermediate B2

Advanced C1

Writing for a purpose

Speaking

Beginner A1

Pre-intermediate A2

Intermediate B1

Upper intermediate B2

► Are you looking for an online English course?



i HELP

- Covid-19 learning support
- Getting started
- English level test
- House rules
- Frequently asked questions
- Sign up for newsletter



Intermediate B1

Are you an intermediate (CEFR level B1) learner of English? This section offers reading practice to help you understand texts with everyday or job-related language. Texts include articles, travel guides, emails, adverts and reviews.

Each lesson has a preparation task, a reading text and two tasks to check your understanding and to practise a variety of reading skills. Make a start today.



A conference programme Read the programme for a management conference to practise and improve your reading skills.





How to spot fake news

Read some tips for spotting fake news to practise and improve your reading skills.

See more >

39



A flyer for a gym Read a flyer promoting a new gym to practise and improve your reading skills.





100

Innovation in business

Read a blogpost about being innovative in business to practise and improve your reading skills.

27



A travel guide

Read a travel guide about Bangkok to practise and improve your reading skills.

See more >



Read a dialogue where three people negotiate who does what to achieve a



8

25



An email request for help

Read an email asking for help from another department to practise and improve your reading skills.





Digital habits across generations

Read an article about how people at different ages use computers and smartphones to practise and improve your reading skills.







Read an encyclopedia entry on the Taj Mahal to practise and improve your reading skills.





Read an article about robot teachers to practise and improve your reading skills.

See more >





Read a blogpost about the impact of social media influencers in the business world to practise and improve your reading skills.

See more >

29

18









The legend of fairies

Read a text about the legend of fairies to practise and improve your reading skills.







See more >



Home » Skills » Reading » Intermediate B1

How to spot fake news

Do you need more help with your English? Take an online English course or class.

Read some tips for spotting fake news to practise and improve your reading skills.



Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

i HELP

- Covid-19 learning support
- Getting started
- English level test
- House rules
- Frequently asked questions
- Sign up for newsletter

- Find an online English course
- Find an English course near you



Learn**English**

Reading: B1 How to spot fake news

Read some tips for spotting fake news to practise and improve your reading skills.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

bombard	fooled	unrelated	source
fake	subtle	phenomenon	sure

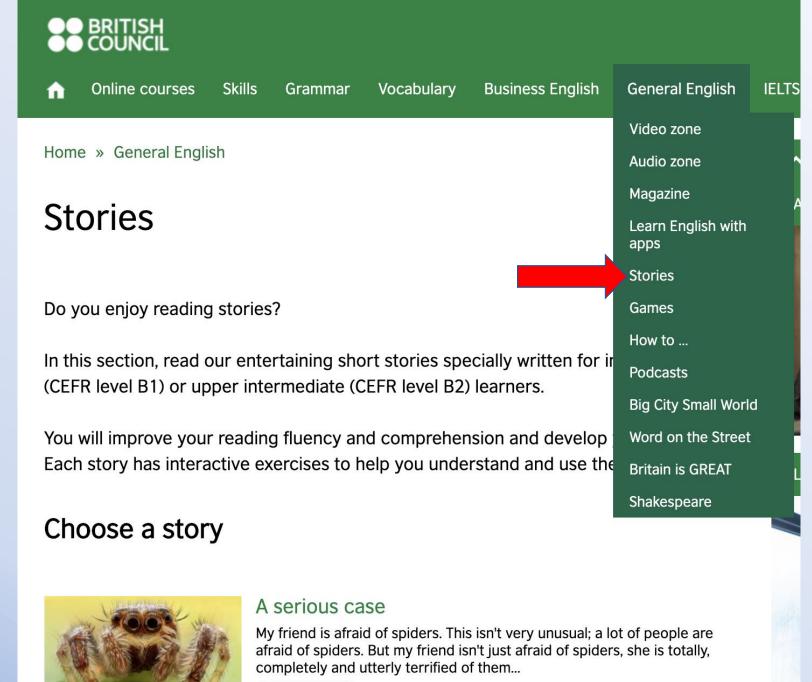
1. A is something that is designed to look real but isn't.

- 2. If you someone with messages or information, you give them so much that it is difficult to deal with at all.
- 3. A is a rare or important fact or event.
- 4. If something is, , it is not obvious and it is difficult to notice.
- 5. If you are, you are tricked into believing something that is not true.
- 6. If you are about something, you are confident that it is true or correct.
- 7. If something is to something else, the two things have nothing to do with each other.
- 8. A is a thing, person or place that provides information.

Reading text: How to spot fake news

Every time you're online, you are bombarded by pictures, articles, links and videos trying to tell their story. Unfortunately, not all of these stories are true. Sometimes they want you to click on another story or advertisement at their own site, other times they want to upset people for political reasons. These days it's so easy to share information. These stories circulate quickly, and the result is ... fake news.

There is a range of fake news: from crazy stories which people easily recognise to more subtle types of misinformation. Experts in media studies and online psychology have been examining the fake news phenomenon. Read these tips, and don't get fooled!



See more >

Choose a story



A serious case

My friend is afraid of spiders. This isn't very unusual; a lot of people are afraid of spiders. But my friend isn't just afraid of spiders, she is totally, completely and utterly terrified of them...

454

51

94

393



Alberto's new neighbours

Alberto took one look at his new neighbours and knew that his life was going to get more difficult. There they were, two of them, as big and as noisy as their car - and smelly and stupid as well...

See more >

See more >



Coming back up

Have you ever done any extreme sports? Are you an adrenaline junkie? Read this story about one man facing his fear.

See more >



The birth of a star

Henry is an astronomer. He is very excited because he thinks he might have discovered the beginning of a new star. But then he gets even more exciting news ... he's going to be a father!

See more >



The broken mirror, the black cat and lots of good luck

Nikos was an ordinary man. One thing that he did not believe in was superstition. But when so many things that are meant to cause bad luck started bringing him good luck, he began to wonder ...

See more >



The Christmas the lights went out

Five people, whose lives interrelate, live the build-up to Christmas in different ways in different places. A sudden blackout changes their lives forever ...

122

29

107



Elephants, bananas and Aunty Ethel

I looked at my watch and saw that it was going backwards. 'That's OK,' I was thinking. 'If my watch is going backwards, then it means that it's early, so I'm not late for work at all.' And then I...



King of the pumpkins

'Deep in the middle of the woods,' said my mother, 'is the place where the king of the pumpkins lives.' A young boy and his cat try and find out what, if anything, is true about his mother's...

See more >

See more >



Mr Smith's new nose

It is the 22nd century and the world is very different. With new technologies, people can have the bodies that they want. See what happens when Mr Smith decides to change his body.

See more >

Scarlett

Scarlett is twelve years old and is trying to understand the world around her. She asks questions about everything, all the time. She also says that she already knows five languages ...







The four judges must agree on who will win the four awards in the important Global Music Awards. But there is a problem. They must all agree on each winner. If they can't all agree, nobody will ...

See more >



The golden boys

Mr and Mrs Hamilton had two sons, Richard and Philip, who were both taller and friendlier than me. My parents liked them a lot. 'Why can't you be more like Richard and Philip?' I hated them.

See more >



The comeback

Fausto Ruiz got off the boat at the port of the city where he had been born fifty years ago, and to which he had not returned for twenty years.

See more >

See more >

132

The Dinosaur in Jake's Garage

One morning, Jake found a dinosaur living in their garage. Find out what happened next.

26

9

55

31

See more > The fix











119









A serious case

M

Do you need more help with your English? Take an online English course or class.

My friend is afraid of spiders. This isn't very unusual; a lot of people are afraid of spiders. But my friend isn't just afraid of spiders, she is totally, completely and utterly terrified of them ...



Do the preparation task first. Then read the story and do the exercises.

Student's view

	Title of the book or article		1275	
		Source (Site name or URL)	Approximate word count	My comments
1	A serious case	https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/st	1275	She cured here fear of spiders
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Teacher's view

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Summary

We have just shown you British Council sites, but there are others which have an abundance of material that is *at the correct level* for your students. They can use the British Council online test to discover that for themselves.

You must have a clear strategy for ascertaining that they have actually done their assignments, but in a way that does not cause you too much extra work.

The students keep a record of what they have done that you can view, as needed.

References

British Council Site

- Kids: <u>https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/</u>
- Teens: https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org
- Adults: https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org
- Voice of America (VOA)
- <u>https://learningenglish.voanews.com/</u> ESLFAST.COM
- https://www.eslfast.com

Magic Keys

<u>http://www.magickeys.com/books/</u>



Manythings – A variety of activities for language practice

http://www.manythings.org/

PERC -Publink Extensive Reading Club

http://www.publinkchina.com/perc



Now, let's take some questions from the Q and A.



You can also use the chat box to leave your comments and questions!

