

M1Unit5

Languages around the world



Reading for writing



Teaching objectives

By the end of the class, you will be able to:

- 1 know common **trouble** student's **have with** English learning
- 2 have a good understanding of how to write a blog about English learning problems and **recommendations** with various expressions
- 3 know your trouble with English learning and form positive attitude to it





Lead-in

1. What's the poster about?

2. Where can we exchange ideas?

On a **forum**

How to organise your speech on an online **forum**?



The poster features a light blue background with a border of autumn leaves at the top and bottom. In the center, there are two small, green-roofed birdhouses hanging from thin lines. Numerous small, dark birds are flying in the sky. The title 'English Learning Strategies' is written in a large, orange, 3D-style font. Below the title, the text 'Any trouble with English learning?' and 'Any personal secret to open your mind?' is displayed. A large orange box contains the text 'A public website to meet for open discussion'. At the bottom, it says 'Register for our forum' and provides the website URL 'http://bbs.wwenglish.org/'.

English Learning Strategies

Any trouble with English learning?
Any personal secret to open your mind?

A public website to meet for open discussion

Register for our **forum**

Website: <http://bbs.wwenglish.org/>



Read for main idea

1. Who **puts forward** the question "What are your biggest problem ..."?

Wang Le

2. Who **replies to** the question?

Liu Wen, Jia Xin, Li Rui

3. What is the blog mainly about?

Problems & Recommendations

→ **English learning**

The screenshot shows a blog titled "Learning English" with a search bar, login, and sign up options. The main content is a discussion thread. At the top, a user named Wang Le asks, "Hey, everybody, what are your biggest problems with learning English?". Below this, three users have responded. Liu Wen says, "Hi! I've been studying English since primary school. I used to get high marks in English, but now I'm having a lot of trouble with my listening. When I listen to native English speakers talking in a video, I can catch only a few words. I can never quite get the main idea. Any advice?". Jia Xin responds, "Listening to English radio programmes helps me get used to how fast native speakers talk. I also repeat what I hear to help myself to experience the feeling of the language. Sometimes I even record my voice so I can listen to myself and compare my pronunciation with the radio host's! My biggest headache is how to be polite in English. It's so much easier to just say 'Open the window!', but in English that can sound really terrible. I have to think about who I'm talking to and then decide whether to say, 'Open the window, please!' or 'Could you open the window, please?' or even longer 'Would you mind opening the window, please?'". A third user, Li Rui, starts with "Yeah, that's really hard! I think it all depends on who you're talking to. If I'm talking to a close friend, I can use short requests like 'Open the window'..." and the text is cut off.

What are their problems?

What recommendations
come up in the blog?



Read for details

Read and fill in blanks

<i>Name</i>	<i>Trouble</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
	have trouble	listen to English radio programmes

**How do they organize their
trouble and recommendations?**

 Jia Xin	in English	
 Liu Rui	remembering new vocabulary	——Li Rui



Read for organisation

Advice

Taking Jia Xin's post for example

Listening to English radio programmes helps me get used to how fast native speakers talk. I also repeat what I hear to help myself experience the feeling of the language. Sometimes I even record my voice so I can listen to myself and compare my pronunciation with the radio host's!

Supporting details
(how to do)

My biggest trouble is how to be polite in English. It's so much easier to just say "Open the window!", but in English that can sound really terrible. I have to think about who I'm talking to and then decide whether to say, "Open the window, please!" or "Could you open the window, please?" or even "Would you mind opening the window, please?"

Example
(he has experienced)

trouble



Jia Xin



Read for organisation

How do they organize their trouble and recommendations?

Trouble: Problem

Putting forward advice:

How do the students

a. Doing sth would be a wise choice.

b. I think that...

c. I recommend that you should...

d. It's a good idea to

e. It's highly suggested that...

f. It's of great importance to...

g. If I were you, I would ...

Advice: Advice



Discussion & Drafting

Express your trouble and offer recommendations to your partners' trouble. Then choose one problem from your partner and write a blog about it.

While writing, you should

A: What are your 'biggest problems with learning English?

B: **Describe the problem clearly**
...is the biggest headache for me. I have no idea... Some times I believe... but
(problem+example, using various expressions)

A: **If I were you, I would**... It's important to... That works

B: **Write one or two ideas on solving the problem**
for me.
(advice+supporting details, using various expressions)



Exchange Drafts

Assess each other's work according to the checklist.

General content:

- Does the writer give a clear **description** of the problem?
- Is the advice clearly explained?
- Does each sentence **relate to** the main idea?

Basic writing skills:

- Does the writer use **pronouns** to refer to things or people correctly?
- Does the writer **use correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation?**
- Are there any **grammar mistakes?**

Get your draft back and revise it.



Reading others' articles would be a wise choice to improve your writing. If you read a number of good writing articles, you will learn how to use various sentences to express themselves, and

Can you add a beginning and an ending to the writing to make it a complete letter of advice?

The beginners make mistakes while writing. But don't worry. Finding out why you made the mistakes will help you avoid the same mistakes and enable you to write better. For me, grammar is my biggest headache. It's so complex and difficult that I have no idea when and how to use it properly.



Sample

a letter of advice

I'm sorry to hear that you are having trouble with your writing. I understand quite well you are anxious now, because I have a similar problem. Here comes my recommendations

Reading others' articles would be a wise choice to improve your writing. If you read a number of good writing articles, you will learn how to use various sentences to express themselves, and present information in an excellent way. If I were you, I would also keep a diary. That works for me. Besides, it is natural that the beginners make mistakes while writing. But don't worry. Finding out why you made the mistakes will help you avoid the same mistakes and enable you to write better. For me, grammar is my biggest headache. It's so complex and difficult that I have no idea when and how to use it properly.

Hope that you will find my suggestions useful, and look forward to your reply.