# STUDYING ENGLISH VIA THE INTERNET

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*Internet gives modern students a great number of ways of studying foreign languages. The World Wide Web offers many educational resources that can be widely used for studying the language on-line under the guidance of qualified tutors. This process has both its pros and cons. But it can be rather effective and beneficial providing special conditions are met.*

*Key words: computerisation, computer technologies, Internet resources, on-line teaching projects, on-line studying, language schools, distance education, language exchange.*

The most essential and determining modern technological advance has created opportunities for radical, spasmodic increase of efficiency of intellectual work. A basic element of modern information technology is computerisation, which is considered to be a nucleus of the fast developing technological revolution. The computer has penetrated practically into all spheres of activity of the man. Nowadays it can also serve as the means for learning foreign languages on-line.

However, this process has both its benefits and drawbacks. On the one hand it provides accessible education to students in rural areas. Besides a person has an opportunity to learn at his/her own pace adjusting the lessons to his/her own schedule. Time flexibility also gives the opportunity to interact with other students taking the same course. In many ways online courses can be more cost effective, as there is not as much of a necessity to have to purchase textbooks or audio/video materials. Often the required materials are available online, or are included into the tuition. Many of the English courses come with the software.

On the other hand, students should be highly motivated and disciplined as it is more difficult to study on one's own especially from a home setting. The

absence of in person interaction can also be a drawback. If you are not around other students who are learning English as well or speak English then you will have a tendency not to practice what you are learning. Moreover, you have to be sure that you have a computer that is going to allow you to utilize all of the resources that may be available to you. Plus you want to be able to make use of high speed Internet.[1]

Nowadays there is a great number of on-line language schools. Among them are: British Council Centre (learnenglish.britishcouncil.org), BBC Learning (bbc.co.uk), the London School of English (londonschool.com), ESOL Courses (esolcourses.com), English-Classonline (english-classonline.com) and others. They not only provide a range of materials of high level but organise the process of on-line studying based on the level of knowledge of every listener. The process of teaching is organised in the following way: every participant is given a personal teacher who is to guide you through the learning process, to explain the material and to estimate your progress. You may address your teacher if you have problems. The used learning materials are: textbooks and audio/video materials of Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Longman and other highly respected publishing houses; manuals for distance education, games, computer multimedia courses. They are sent to your e-mail address. You do the test task and send it back to your teacher. The teacher checks, analyses the mistakes, estimates your progress and advises what material should be revised or paid special attention to. In the end you have a final test. According to its results you'll get the certificate that confirms that you have completed the language courses.

The majority of online language schools offer a range of multiple course choices to meet the specific needs and goals of individuals: General English, Conversational English, Business English, Professional English, Exam Preparation, etc. They can be subdivided into elementary, beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, advanced levels.

Some Internet language projects deal only with one language; others suggest studying many languages. For example, My Language Exchange com (mylanguageexchange.com) touches upon studying up to 115 languages. It uses the Cormier method of language exchange that has been proven for 3 years at the C.E.L.M. language school in Montreal, Canada. According to this method, small mixed groups of native speakers of two languages spend half the time speaking in one language and half the time in the other language. Activities are structured to ensure all areas of language acquisition are exercised such as vocabulary, pronunciation and listening comprehension. In addition, the activities in the Cormier method are designed to enable students to discover the "conversation culture", that is they give the opportunity to understand how native speakers of other cultures interact. The method relies on ensuring the students have fun and are relaxed to make language practice more enjoyable and therefore more effective.[2]

The World Wide Web has great potential to change language instruction and learning of foreign languages. Using the Internet for Learning English is new, and there are few books and papers on this subject, though there are many resources on the Internet. There has been little research done on how to use these resources most effectively, but we need to continue to investigate ways to use the Internet for better language learning and teaching.

The list of used sources:
1. The benefits and Drawbacks to Learning English Online by Grace Rimando [Електронний ресурс]: Режим доступу: http://www.talktocanada.com/blog/learning-english-online/. – Назва з екрану.
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