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Studying English abroad

Long version of English lesson plan = 1 or 2 x 90 mins

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

21st December 2009

Category: Languages / Studying a language / English
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

Studying English abroad

Many students want to learn English, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but where to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level they learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in some countries there is a shortage of native speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get the opportunity to practice their English with a native English speaker.

For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian, Americans, Australian and South African teachers; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are travelling through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local!

These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one of the best places to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country offers English learners the opportunity to attend an English speaking course - whether it is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.

While some people might prefer a city like London or Bristol, others may opt for the countryside. Britain offers a wide diversity of choice. Of course some foreign students wishing to learn English may wish to be in a class where there is no one else from their own country. Why? Because this allows them to learn English with others who are therefore in the same boat as them. If there are two people from the same country in the same class this allows communication with one another in one's own language, which may not be what some students want.

Loneliness can be an issue when living abroad. Many students miss their family and friends. Thus meeting and making new friends at the language school is a great way to avoid this. Some language schools offer accommodation to students. This can be in the form of a host family or renting a flat. Sometimes students share a flat with each other. Host families are a great way of being able to practise your English outside language school hours. Sometimes though you have to find your own accommodation. Watch out for dodgy landlords!

Sharing a flat can be risky but it can also be a great way of making friends with others. Everyone has their own needs and more importantly budget. Students either opt to pay for the course themselves or if they are very lucky their company will pay! Taking an English speaking course abroad in an English speaking country is an invaluable way of learning the language. After all, having a conversation in an English speaking environment - like a pub and speaking with the locals is surely putting your newly learnt language skills to the best possible test - is it not? By the way, mine's a pint!

LET'S START

1. Studying English abroad: What do you know about studying English abroad? **EITHER** Have you ever studied English abroad? Where? When? How was it? **OR** Would you like to study English abroad? Why? Where? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read 4 to 6 lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page 2 - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Would you like to study English abroad?

6. Let's write! An e-mail: Write and send an e-mail to your teacher about **Studying English abroad**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

7. Let's tell a story! Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile your own story about **Studying English abroad**. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	dodgy landlords	11	wide variety of choice
2	loneliness	12	native speakers
3	students	13	English
4	new friends	14	British English
5	intermediate	15	accommodation
6	listening	16	pub
7	to study English	17	writing
8	budget	18	host families
9	to practise	19	earning a crust
10	dialect	20	language school
Your choice 1 _____		Your choice 2 _____	

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their stories in front of the class.

8. Let's do 'The Article Quiz': Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score 1 point for each correct answer, and ½ point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) How many levels of English are mentioned?
- 2) Name the nationalities.
- 3) What do some teachers end up doing?
- 4) What does earn a crust mean?
- 5) Name the countries.
- 6) Name the Empire.

Student B

- 1) What can be an issue?
- 2) Watch out for who?
- 3) Who will pay?
- 4) What does the writer drink?
- 5) Where can students stay?
- 6) What do students miss?

9. Let's chat! In pairs. One of you rings your fellow student who is in another country! Chat on your mobile about the best place to study English abroad and why? Remember you are on the telephone! Momentarily there is a bad line. *5-minutes.*

10. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think English is the most important second language to learn. Students B think otherwise. Explain why.

11. Let's think! Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with **Studying English abroad** as you can. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

12. Let's compile! Sentences: Choose six/nine of the words from No 11. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

13. Let's think! Think of 5 reasons to learn English. Then add 5 places *and/or* countries where you might like to learn it. Write them below. Discuss them and compare lists with your partner. Why these?

5 reasons to learn English	5 places <i>and/or</i> countries
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

14. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Studying English abroad _____
- b) English _____
- c) British English _____
- d) Language schools _____
- e) Students _____

15. Let's unscramble: Try to unscramble the following sentences:

- 1) to English students learn many want
- 2) the is the world language of it business
- 3) for can that blame the Empire one British
- 4) out languages are to other there 101 learn there
- 5) and English are places to there study many learn

(answers are on page 18)

16. Let's talk! An online language school: *In pairs/groups/as a class.* Imagine you are online. One of you wants to improve your English. You have found a language school online and are speaking by video link to them. The other student is the language school representative who is giving advice to the student about the possibilities on offer. *5-minutes.*

17. Presentation: In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a 2 minute presentation on **Studying English abroad**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation. The class can vote on the best presentation. Class – After the presentations go through the strong and weak points on each presentation. Learn from the results.

18. Pros and cons of studying English abroad: In pairs think of 3 pros and 3 cons of studying English abroad.

	Advantages		Disadvantages
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: After reading the article guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Many students want to learn French, as it is the best language | T / F |
| b. English is the business language of the world | T / F |
| c. The British Empire created the demand for English today | T / F |
| d. Conversational English is a vital part of learning English | T / F |
| e. Everyone in England speaks the Queen's English | T / F |
| f. American English is easier to learn | T / F |
| g. Many travellers teach English to earn a crust | T / F |
| h. Many native teachers marry a local | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. student | earth |
| b. world | step |
| c. obvious | chat |
| d. however | good luck |
| e. level | accent |
| f. vital | lack |
| g. conversation | nevertheless |
| h. shortage | important |
| i. dialect | visible |
| j. opportunity | pupils |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| a. Many students | by a non-native speaker |
| b. it is the business language | the British Empire for that! |
| c. One can blame | is the obvious answer! |
| d. Of course, there are | speak the Queen's English |
| e. but where | is a vital part of the learning process. |
| f. In England | of native speakers |
| g. Having a conversation in English | to learn English |
| h. Many students will probably be taught | want to learn English |
| i. there is a shortage | 101 other languages out there to learn |
| j. Actually, not many English people | of the world. |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Studying English abroad

Many _____ want to learn English, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but where to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries _____ on local _____ in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level they learn _____, reading, _____, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a _____ part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in some countries there is a shortage of _____ speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get the opportunity to practice their _____ with a native English speaker.

For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! _____, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian, American, Australian and South African _____; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are _____ through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and _____ English. A good place is in an English speaking country. _____ one of the best places to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country offers English learners the _____ to attend an English speaking _____ - whether it is in Manchester, Malta or _____.

English

courses

grammar

enrol

native

writing

vital

students

Malaysia

probably

Actually

course

study

teachers

travelling

opportunity

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Studying English abroad

Many students want to learn English, as it is the _____ the world. One can blame _____ for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but _____? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level they learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by _____, as in some countries there is a shortage of native speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to _____ on to others. Some students however will get _____ practice their English with a native English speaker.

For British English you _____ to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include _____, _____ and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian, American, Australian and South African teachers; _____ ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are travelling through Europe _____ years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local!

These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one _____ to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every _____ offers English learners the opportunity to attend an English speaking course - whether it is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. How would you describe your English accent?
- c. How important is learning English?
- d. Today, is it advantageous or not to speak good English at an interview?
- e. Is going to an English-speaking country to learn the language a good idea or not?
- f. What advice would you give someone wanting to learn English in a non-English speaking country?
- g. Would you prefer to live in an English speaking country and work while picking up the language as you go along?
- h. Would you prefer to live with a host family or would you prefer other accommodation when learning English abroad?
- i. Would you consider learning another subject alongside English?
- j. How important is location when choosing your language school?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Have you ever considered studying English abroad?
- c. What benefits are there of speaking English?
- d. What advice would you give anyone wanting to learn English abroad?
- e. In what country would you consider taking an intensive course in English? Why here?
- f. Is it better to take an intensive or do a part-time English course?
- g. What makes your language school better than others?
- h. How important is the teacher when learning English?
- i. Do you prefer a native speaker?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

Let's brainstorm!

Studying English abroad

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Brainstorm some ideas about **studying English abroad**. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative! *10-20 minutes*.

	Your ideas
1) Country and town/city/other place you would like to study together	
2) Type and length of course. Who is paying?	
3) Type of accommodation you might stay in and why	
4) Food you might eat	
5) What you might learn	
6) Places you might visit	
7) Your aims before you go	

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one of the best places to learn British English is
- () the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced
- () countries there is a shortage of native speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get the opportunity to practice their
- () opportunity to attend an English speaking course - whether it is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.
- (1) Many students want to learn English, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but where to learn English? In England is
- () regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian,
- () in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country offers English learners the
- () level they learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in some
- () Americans, Australian and South African teachers; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are travelling through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust
- () English with a native English speaker. For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own

LANGUAGE: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

(1)___ students want to learn (2)___, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British (3)___ for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but where to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level they learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in some countries there is a (4)___ of native speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get the opportunity to practice their English with a native English speaker.

For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not many English people speak the Queen’s English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, (5)___ and accent. I mustn’t forget the many Canadian, Americans, Australian and South African teachers; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are travelling (6)___ Europe for six months to two years and earn a (7)___ teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one of the best places to (8)___ British English is in Britain. (9)___ American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country (10)___ English learners the opportunity to (11)___ an English speaking course – (12)___ it is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.

1.	(a)	most	(b)	many	(c)	much	(d)	may
2.	(a)	Slovak	(b)	English	(c)	French	(d)	Chinese
3.	(a)	Empire	(b)	Bankers	(c)	Sportsmen	(d)	Miners
4.	(a)	shortages	(b)	short	(c)	shortage	(d)	shorts
5.	(a)	dialect	(b)	dial	(c)	dialler	(d)	dialects
6.	(a)	thorough	(b)	though	(c)	through	(d)	thought
7.	(a)	bust	(b)	dust	(c)	must	(d)	crust
8.	(a)	burn	(b)	stern	(c)	yearn	(d)	learn
9.	(a)	likewise	(b)	likeable	(c)	like	(d)	liked
10.	(a)	coffers	(b)	roofers	(c)	buffers	(d)	offers
11.	(a)	attending	(b)	attend	(c)	attends	(d)	attune
12.	(a)	weather	(b)	when	(c)	whether	(d)	where

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Studying English abroad

Many students want to learn English, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, (1)___ are 101 other languages out there to learn but (2)___ to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, (3)___ students in non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level (4)___ learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in (5)___ countries there is a shortage of native speakers. (6)___ teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students (7)___ will get the opportunity to practice (8)___ English with a native English speaker.

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For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not (1)___ English people speak the Queen's English. (2)___ have their own regional accents. British English native speakers (3)___ include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian, American, Australian and South African teachers; many of (4)___ have ended up settling in a country (5)___ is not their own or for example who are travelling through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, (6)___ even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one of the best places to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. (7)___ English speaking country offers English learners the opportunity to attend an English speaking course - (8)___ it is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.

whether

that

some

every

also

many

most

whom

GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Studying English abroad

Many students want to learn English, (1)___ it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn (2)___ where to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students (3)___ non-English speaking countries enrol on local courses in their country. (4)___ each level - be they (5)___ beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate (6)___ advanced level they learn grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a vital part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught (7)___ a non-native speaker, as in some countries there is a shortage of native speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get (8)___ opportunity to practice their English with a native English speaker.

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For British English (1)___ might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! Actually, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all (2)___ whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. (3)___ mustn't forget the many Canadian, Americans, Australian (4)___ South African teachers; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or (5)___ example who are travelling through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and study English. A good place is in an English speaking country. Probably one of the best places to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English (6)___ the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country offers English learners the opportunity to attend (7)___ English speaking course - whether (8)___ is in Manchester, Malta or Malaysia.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	countryside	11	communication
2	tongue	12	risky
3	countries	13	invaluable
4	obvious	14	accommodation
5	knowledge	15	environment
6	probably	16	conversation
7	dialect	17	dodgy
8	themselves	18	though
9	regionalised	19	diversity
10	opportunity	20	therefore

HOMEWORK

Newspaper article: Write an article between 200 and 500 words on **Studying English abroad**. Read your article to your classmates and discuss them in the next lesson.

WRITING: In class:

Five-minute article: Write an article on **Studying English abroad**. You have five minutes. The teacher will select some students to read out their work.

ANSWERS – 2 – UNSCRAMBLED

- 1) Many students want to learn English
- 2) It is the business language of the world.
- 3) One can blame the British Empire for that!
- 4) There are 101 other languages out there to learn
- 5) There are many places to learn and study English

ANSWERS - 1

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. T d. T e. F f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. student | pupils |
| b. world | earth |
| c. obvious | visible |
| d. however | nevertheless |
| e. level | step |
| f. vital | important |
| g. conversation | chat |
| h. shortage | lack |
| i. dialect | accent |
| j. opportunity | good luck |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| a. Many students | want to learn English |
| b. it is the business language | of the world. |
| c. One can blame | the British Empire for that! |
| d. Of course, there are | 101 other languages out there to learn |
| e. but where | to learn English |
| f. In England | is the obvious answer! |
| g. Having a conversation in English | is a vital part of the learning process. |
| h. Many students will probably be taught | by a non-native speaker |
| i. there is a shortage | of native speakers |
| j. Actually, not many English people | speak the Queen's English |

GAP FILL: Studying English abroad: Many **students** want to learn English, as it is the business language of the world. One can blame the British Empire for that! Of course, there are 101 other languages out there to learn but where to learn English? In England is the obvious answer! However, many students in non-English speaking countries **enrol** on local **courses** in their country. At each level - be they a beginner, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate or advanced level they learn **grammar**, reading, **writing**, listening and speaking. Having a conversation in English is a **vital** part of the learning process. Many students will probably be taught by a non-native speaker, as in some countries there is a shortage of **native** speakers. These teachers have themselves learnt English and are happy to pass their knowledge on to others. Some students however will get the opportunity to practice their **English** with a native English speaker.

For British English you might be lucky enough to get a real Englishman for that real English accent! **Actually**, not many English people speak the Queen's English. Most have their own regional accents. British English native speakers also include the many Scots, Irish and Welsh people living abroad - all of whom have their own localised tongue, dialect and accent. I mustn't forget the many Canadian, Americans, Australian and South African **teachers**; many of whom have ended up settling in a country that is not their own or for example who are **travelling** through Europe for six months to two years and earn a crust teaching. In fact, some even end up marrying a local! These days there are many places to learn and **study** English. A good place is in an English speaking country. **Probably** one of the best places to learn British English is in Britain. Likewise American English in the USA or Canadian English in Canada. Every English speaking country offers English learners the **opportunity** to attend an English speaking **course** - whether it is in Manchester, Malta or **Malaysia**.

LANGUAGE WORK:

- 1 - b 2 - b 3 - a 4 - c 5 - a 6 - c 7 - d 8 - d 9 - a 10 - d 11 - b 12 - c

Studying English abroad – 21st December 2009