



**Fix These 5 Mistakes And  
Improve Your English Fast!**

# Are You Making the 5 Big English Study Mistakes?



Studying too much grammar, and not focusing on communication.



Doing too much test prep, and not boosting all your English powers.



Not learning the top words first, learning words you don't need yet.



Not spending enough time — studying, using, enjoying English.



Not getting lots of meaningful, interesting, and story-full input.



## Mistake #1 — Focusing too much on grammar

**Mistake:** Many learners spend most of their time on grammar study. They may fail to learn English naturally.

**Solution:** You can learn grammar naturally as you understand and communicate meaningful messages.

Grammar is important, but learners and teachers often spend way too much time on grammar. You learned your first language without studying grammar. And you can learn English without focusing on grammar too much.

If you focus too much on grammar, you lack balance. Language expert Paul Nation says learners should do four things: (1) get meaningful input, (2) produce meaningful output, (3) grow fluency, and (4) study rules for grammar, sounds, and words.

So, you can focus on grammar about 25% of the time. And you can "pick up" grammar naturally. Read and listen to many messages and stories. Pay attention to grammar bits in the messages you receive. Improve grammar as you practice fluency and communicate with people.



## Mistake #2 — Doing too much boring test prep

**Mistake:** Many learners work too much with test prep books. They may fail to grow their total English skills.

**Solution:** You can score higher on tests if you boost your English powers with meaningful communication.

Go to the language learning section of a bookstore. You will see mostly TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS test prep books. These books will teach you how to prepare for a test. But you need more than test prep. You need to grow your "total English."

What can you do? You need to read and listen to stories at your level. Research shows that big readers score high on big tests. They have big word power. They learn grammar naturally. They write better than non-readers. Big readers get a feel for English.

Test prep books can help. But test prep books are boring. And experts say you need to study 135-180 hours in 3 months between each big test. You need balance and to keep it interesting. So, focus on meaningful, story-full input and output. After all, big tests measure your English communication powers!





## Mistake #3 — Not learning the top words first

**Mistake:** Learners study rare words too soon. They waste time – by not mastering the most important words first.

**Solution:** Make sure you learn the top 2,000 words first. Then you won't have gaps in your word power.

Imagine a student named Rio. She doesn't know many basic words, but she studies words like: "acrimony, vagabond, and skittish." If Rio reads 3,000,000 words (365 hours of reading), she will meet "skittish" only 5 times. It's a rare word.

Rio needs rare words, but later! She still doesn't know many of the most common words. She needs the top words first. They come from the top 2,000 words of English. They cover 80% - 88% of ALL English texts. After mastering the top 2,000 words, Rio can learn the [Academic Word List](#) for a 10% power boost.

When you learn the top words first, you save time and energy. Why? You spend time learning words that you meet all the time! If you want to know more, click here to download our free book.

[The 10 Laws of Word Power.](#)



## Mistake #4 — Not spending enough time

**Mistake:** Learners think English classes or lessons are enough. They may fail to get enough time to really learn.

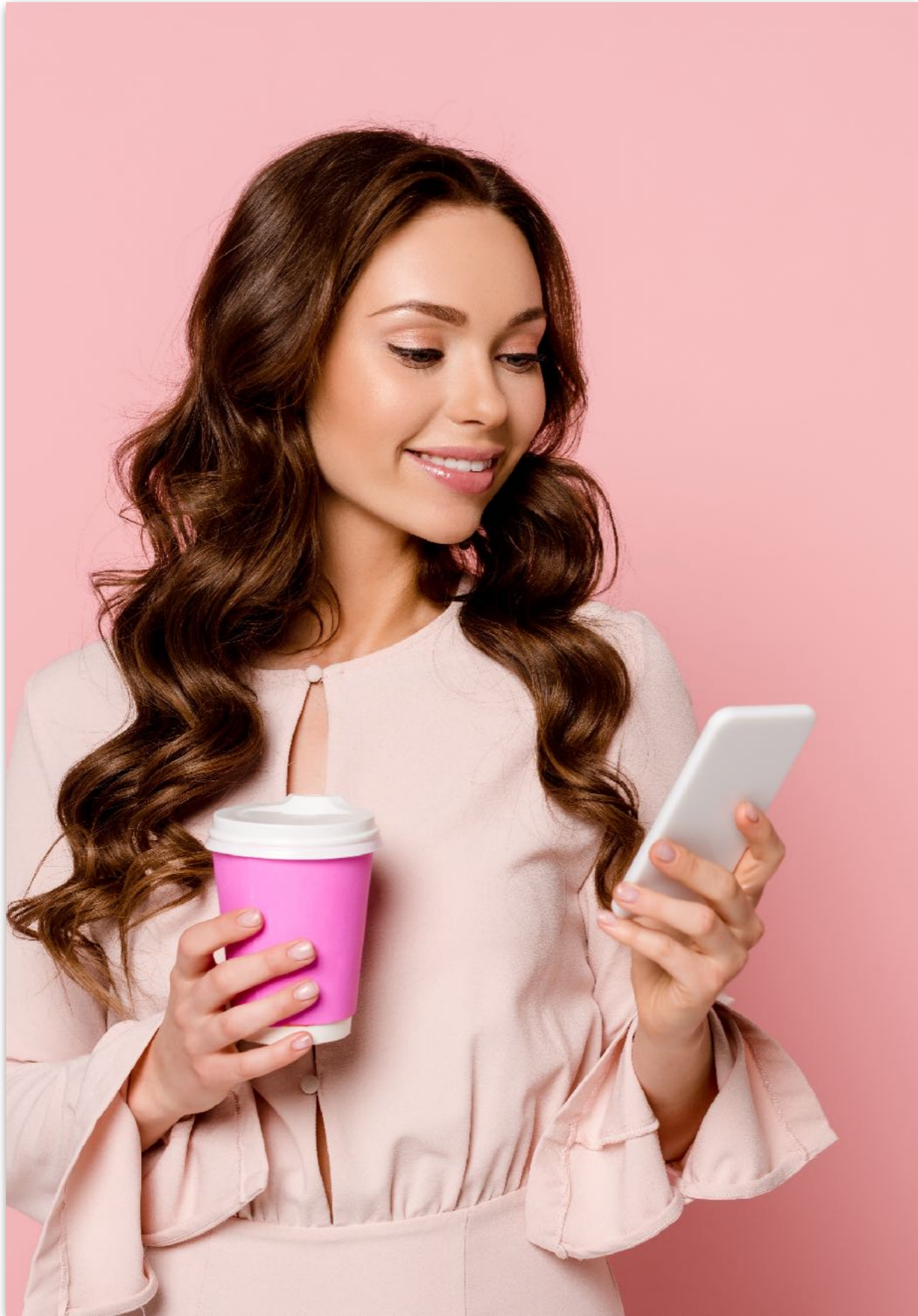
**Solution:** To master English, make a daily plan for time on task — the more time you spend, the better you get.

Language classes can help you a lot, but they do not give you enough time to really master English. And many English classes don't focus enough on communication. You need more time outside class. You need more time working with meaningful and story-full input and output.

Of course, it's best if you live or study in an English-speaking country. This gives you the most time on task. But if you can't live in an English-speaking country, what should you do?

Make English-speaking friends. Listen to songs. Watch videos and movies. Talk with conversation partners or coaches. Do big, easy reading with stories at your level. For a big test (like TOEFL/IELTS), study total English for 135-180 hours for 3 months. You need this much time to improve your score.





## Mistake #5 — Not getting enough interesting input

**Mistake:** Learners do old style study and fail to enjoy meaningful, interesting, and story-full messages.

**Solution:** You can learn English the best way by getting big input with meaningful and interesting stories.

**You didn't master your first language by study. You mastered it through over 10,000 hours of communication. You heard and read millions of words in meaningful messages. You spoke and wrote mountains of meaningful messages.**

**What works best to pack your brain with more English? Stories work best. Why? Stories are more enjoyable, understandable, and memorable. Power up your mind with lots of fiction and non-fiction stories, and English will stick in your brain.**

**Big story reading works when you read at the right level. This means you don't need a dictionary. And when you master a level, you move up. So, you keep learning. At [ReadOasis](#), you can read and listen to thousands of stories. You can enjoy learning English the natural way and avoid the 5 big mistakes!**

# Study Smarter and Learn a Better Way



Balance study. Work on input, output, fluency. And study grammar about 25% of the time.



Test prep is not enough. Work on total, meaningful communication, not only test prep.



Learn top words first. Find an unknown word? Check it [here](#). If it's in the top 2000, learn it! Get the Free Book: [10 Laws of Word Power](#).



Schedule English study daily. Enjoy songs, videos, stories. Talk with friends. For TOEFL-like prep, aim for 135+ hours between tests.



Get lots and lots of story input! Story content works best to boost English in your brain.





# Stop Making English Mistakes That Hurt You

Is your big test score low? Want more fluency, accuracy, and confidence with English to get a better job or study abroad? Join ReadOasis. Get pro coaching with Dr. Shock.

## GO SOLO PLAN

Get solo access to ReadOasis. Power up fluency with story-driven content!

## GO PRO PLAN

Power up fluency with story-driven content. Get expert online coaching.

## TEACHERS, START YOUR CLASS

Dr. Shock has a PhD in linguistics from the University of Edinburgh. He teaches at a major university in Japan. He has over 25 years English teaching experience. He knows how you feel as a learner. He's an expert that can help you.



# Power Up Your English Skills!

