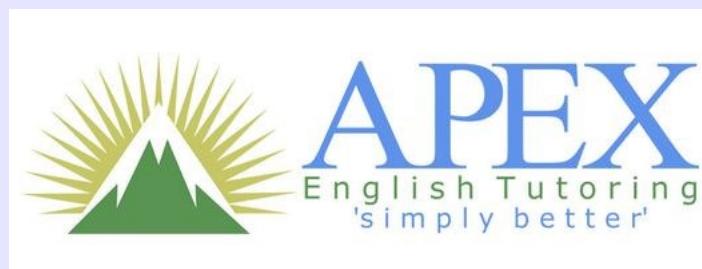




Your New Best Friend:

Why a Notebook is So Important to Get Great English



Introduction

In this mini- E-book, I'll explain why a notebook is an essential thing to have if you are learning English—or learning anything, really.

There are four parts to this e-book.

- Why get a notebook?
- Should I buy one - or make my own?
- How to organise your notebook.
- And why you should keep it handy.

So, let's start with the first question: why should you get a notebook?

Why you should get a notebook.

This is the main reason.

Writing notes helps with remembering what you have learned.

The actual, physical act of writing slows you down - a good thing. It helps you think about what you are writing.

Saying: "Oh I'll remember that!" and not making a note of it results in your forgetting it. Has this happened to you

If you are learning by scrolling posts on English on your phone, it's tempting to read once–then go on to 'the next exciting thing' - without making a note of it.

The next part: Should I buy or make my own notebook?

Notebooks are quite inexpensive. You do not have to buy an expensive one.

The important thing is to get one! And use it.

Make sure it's not too small. A4 size is perfect, the size of a school exercise book, with plenty of room to write your notes. Sixty to 100 pages is a good number of pages.

Make one?

If you cannot afford to buy one, then why not make it yourself. Save loose pieces of paper, then fold and staple them together to make a book. Use cardboard (from a cereal pack for example) and make a front and back cover.

You could make holes on one side of the papers and secure the pages together with string.

Keep your notebook handy for when you read or hear something that will help you develop your English.

It could be:

- ♦ a new word or phrase (words/phrasal verbs/idioms)
- ♦ a grammar rule

- ◆ a difficult word to pronounce or spell
- ◆ a punctuation mark
- ◆ whatever

Create an index

Leave the first page blank, so that you can write an index to your notes. And number the pages.

Keep your notebooks

When that notebook is full, start a new one.

But keep all your notebooks.

They will become text books that you have made containing all the important information you might need.

Instead of re-reading your English text books, it's much easier to use your notebook,

A short summary

So far, I have explained:

- ◆ Why you should get and use a notebook.
- ◆ Whether you should buy a notebook or make one yourself.
- ◆ When you should use your notebook.

How to organise your notebook

In this last part, I'll explain how to organise your notebook to be the most effective.

Think of all the things you might want to note in your notebook.

- ◆ Grammar rules
- ◆ Punctuation marks and how to use them
- ◆ New words and phrases (phrasal verbs/idioms) to build up your English vocabulary
- ◆ Pronunciation of words
- ◆ Tips on how to improve your English (reading or listening comprehension skills, how to practice English etc).

So, that's about six items.

Now, do you immediately start writing notes from page one, mixing them all up?

Or do you make a system so that you can add new notes in an organised manner.

A system to organise your notes is the best way.

You could (in a sixty page notebook) allow 10 pages to a topic.

That's plenty of room to write notes on each one.

Here's a tip? Use the six topics I mentioned as your starting point.

Some topics such as punctuation might only need a page or two.

Organising your notebook this way lets you find sections more easily to revise, add more words and phrases, or grammar rules.

And when you've filled your notebook, begin a new one.

Gradually, you will write your own textbooks, filled with the most important information and perfectly organised.

Compare your notebook with your friends. See what they have considered important. Maybe their notes are important to you too.

Conclusion

I hope my mini e-book on the value of keeping a notebook has been useful to you.

Good luck with your notebook, and have fun with it.

Let it be your new best friend.

Take it everywhere - with a pen of course.

PS In my mini-lessons (that you get when you sign up to my Newsletter,) I explain more about how to make notes in your notebook.

