# QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT THE LEARNING OF ENGLISH[[1]](#footnote-1)

With this questionnaire we would like to know what you do on your own initiative when you use or learn English (at home or in class). There are no true or false answers so it is important that your answers are about what you think. Your answers will be treated confidentially.

**The questionnaire has several sections and a number of items. For each item, choose the option that best represents what you do according to this scale:**

 *Always never or*

 *or almost often sometimes rarely very rarely hardly*

 *always* ever

 **A B C D E F**

**Mark one option only (*A*, *B*, *C,* *D, E o F*) in the corresponding slot in the answer sheet.**

Example: look at the following answer (E) from someone who does not have the habit of reading the newspaper every day:

I read the newspaper A B C D E F

## IMPROVING YOUR GENERAL LEVEL OF ENGLISH

## *In order to improve your level of English, how often do you do any of the following?*

1. I try to understand songs in English.
2. I review what we have done in class or I test myself on my own.
3. When I read or listen to English, I pay attention to new words or structures.
4. I ask someone who knows more than me to correct me.
5. When I see short texts in English, I try to figure out what they mean.
6. On my own initiative, I seek occasions to use English outside class (talking to people, using Internet, writing letters to foreign friends, etc.).
7. I try to do homework or study English together with someone.
8. When I write or speak in English, I use words and structures that we have recently learnt.
9. I read aloud to improve my pronunciation.
10. When we do speaking activities in the English class, I try to participate as much as I can.
11. When I hear someone speak in English, I make an effort to see what I can understand.
12. On my own initiative, I look up dictionaries and textbooks to learn new words and sentences.
13. *Always never or*
14. *or almost often sometimes rarely very rarely hardly*
15. *always* ever
16. **A B C D E F**
17. I pay attention to the errors that I make when I write or speak in English.
18. I do exercises, sentences or dictations to practice on my own.
19. I do other more creative things to practice English.
20. I try to remember words, expressions and sentences from songs, movies, readings, etc.

## VOCABULARY LEARNING

## *When you want to learn or remember the vocabulary that has been taught in class, how often do you do any of the following on your own initiative?*

17.    At home I make lists of words and I study them.

18.    I write down the word as it sounds or make some sort of annotation to remember its pronunciation.

19. On my own initiative I write the translation next to the word I would like to learn.

20. I relate the English word with other words that are written or sound in a similar way.

21.    I write down the word together with an example sentence.

22.  I create my own dictionary.

23.  I relate the word in English with an image, a drawing or a scheme.

24.  I repeat the words out loud several times.

## STUDYING GRAMMAR

## *When you go over the grammar that you have studied in class, how often do you do any of the following?*

25.    I write summaries or outlines of the structures that we are learning.

26.    I review the structures mentally or out loud.

27. When the structures are similar to Catalan or Spanish, I translate them to learn them.

28.    I write down the structures that I would like to learn.

29. I memorize example sentences in order to remember some grammar points.

## READING IN ENGLISH

## *What do you usually do on your own initiative when you read a text in English?*

30.    Before I start reading, I look at what the text is about.

31.    While I read a text, I translate it mentally.

32.    I try hard to understand the text word by word.

33.    I relate what I know about the topic with what the text is about.

*Always never or*

 *or almost often sometimes rarely very rarely hardly*

 *always* ever

 **A B C D E F**

***And when you are reading and come up with something that you do not understand, what do you do?***

34. I try to guess by drawing relationships with Catalan, Spanish or other words in English.

35. I look up the words of almost all new words in the dictionary.

36.  I pay attention to the words that appear next to what I do not understand in a text.

37.  I try to understand the structure of the sentence.

38. I ignore it and continue reading.

39. I ask someone the meaning of what I do not understand.

40. I pay attention to the key words or the words that I already know.

41. I use my intuition.

42. I analyze the word segments (prefixes and suffixes) of what I do not understand in order to find out the meaning (example: police-man).

## WRITING IN ENGLISH

## *When you write compositions or other texts in English, what do you usually do on your own initiative?*

43.    Before I start writing, I first think about what I want to say.

44. First I write the text in Catalan and then I translate it.

45.    I pay attention to the grammar when I write.

46. I write new sentences based on structures or set phrases that I have memorized.

47. I look up the textbook and use sentences that are similar to the ones there.

48. I only use easy words and structures, which I know for sure that are correct.

 49.    I reread what I have written before I go on writing.

 50.    I review what I have written carefully.

***And while writing, if you want to use words, expressions or grammatical forms that you do not know or do not remember at that moment, what do you do?***

51. I use my intuition.

52. I make up a word that looks English.

53. I ask someone how to say in English what I do not know.

54. I apply some rule that I know.

55.    I use some book or the class notebook.

*Always never or*

 *or almost often sometimes rarely very rarely hardly*

 *always* ever

 **A B C D E F**

## SPEAKING IN ENGLISH (outside class)

## *When you speak English with foreigners, what do you usually do to speak and communicate with them?*

56. Before speaking, I think what I want to say in my mother tongue and then I translate it.

57. Before speaking, I think what I am going to say in English.

58. I listen with attention.

59. I pay attention to intonation.

60. I try to translate what is being said to me at the very moment.

61. When I talk, I use English words that I have heard in songs or in class.

63. I speak slowly to be better understood.

64. When I speak, I pay attention to the grammar I use.

***And if you have problems when talking to foreigners to understand them or express yourself***?

65. I pay more attention to the gestures used by the person who is speaking.

66. I try to deduce what is being said from the context.

67. I ask the person who is speaking to repeat or explain to me.

68. I pretend I understand.

69. I ask the other person to speak more slowly.

70. I try to guess what is being said to me from the key words.

71. If I get stuck, I say the sentence in another way.

72. I say it in Catalan or Spanish.

73. I make it up.

Thanks a lot for your cooperation

1. Initial version in Tragant, Thompson and Victori (2013) Understanding foreign language learning strategies: A validation study. *System* 41 (pp. 95-108). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)