

## a short introduction

**T**he world language is English and every day more and more people are finding that they need to learn it. More than anything else, people need to learn to speak English and they want to learn in a way that is simple and fast. And that is why there is **SpeakYourMind**.

## What you learn and how you learn it

**SpeakYourMind** is based on three simple ideas:

- 1) If you want to learn to speak a language you need to practice it
- 2) The best way to really learn words and learn grammar is by using them regularly
- 3) You learn something better when you enjoy it and you see your progress

### Practice

'I know it but I can't use it!' Maybe you are one of the many people who have studied English at school and say exactly the same thing. With **SpeakYourMind** you learn to use words and grammar in a real conversational situations at the right level for you.

### Structure

The **SpeakYourMind** programme selects and organises words and grammar to make sure that you learn the right things at the right time. This way it's easy to learn easily and to progress naturally.

At the beginning of the course you learn to say simple things with simple words and constructions. As you progress through the course you build up the language that you need in order to communicate more and more 'difficult' ideas in a wider range of situations.

### English-rich lessons

With **SpeakYourMind** lessons are not limited to one particular rule or theme. You might not have many opportunities to practice your English outside school so lessons are designed to make you use as much of your English as possible in class. Lessons are full of English: they provide the opportunities to use hundreds of different words and different grammatical structures while you talk about a wide variety of different subjects: your daily routine, travel, future plans, your work and interests.

### Speak Your Mind

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## step 1 listen then speak

The most important part of the lesson is the guided dialogue between students and the teacher. This dialogue is mainly question-and-answer. The teacher introduces and explains new words or constructions in simple English and gives examples. Then the teacher asks a series of questions which give you the chance to use the new words in your answers.

Because people usually listen and speak much more than they read and write, it's important to learn how words 'sound' before you learn how they 'look', so the introduction of new words is oral. Learning new words in conversation means that you learn the right pronunciation and it helps you develop your confidence in using English in real situations outside the classroom.

Nothing that we learn is easy the first time – the teacher doesn't expect you to use new words or grammar easily at once. So, when things are new for you the teacher is always ready to help and guide you when necessary.

## step 2 revise and learn

Studying something today doesn't mean that you'll know it tomorrow or in a month's time. With **SpeakYourMind** you start to use new words every lesson but you really learn them by hearing them and using them again and again in different contexts over the following lessons. Words or constructions that seemed difficult the first time are less difficult the second time, easier the third and so on until they become part of the English that you really know well.

The number of times you revise the new words you learn varies according to your level and how easily you can learn - when you learn things quickly a few revisions are enough, when things are more difficult, more revision makes sure you learn well.

As you become more confident and fluent, the teacher can begin to make the conversation faster during the revision – remember that people don't speak slowly in real situations. This way you learn to understand natural speech without translating and you begin to speak in English without needing to think about how you do it. The teacher listens and checks your English all the time and helps you to improve by pointing out your mistakes and correcting and helping when needed.

## step 3 read and write

Listen, speak, read, write – this is the natural order in learning a language and to complete the learning process, lessons contain a reading or writing exercise where students use words and grammar they have already used in conversation. Reading and writing activities take up a small part of the lesson; usually between 5 and 10 minutes but often more at more advanced levels.

The grammar does not usually change very much from when we speak and when we write. If you know how to say something you know how to write it in an e-mail or a short letter. But very often the way that we spell words is not easy, and it won't get easier if you don't practise! You are sure to make spelling mistakes at first and the only way to improve is by checking your writing and correcting your mistakes and trying again – this is the only part of the course that you have to do by yourself.

[www.speakumind.com](http://www.speakumind.com)

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