

Spark Scoop

Alternative Learning Center



Study Habits: “Where There’s a Will There’s an A”

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed that the anticipation of Lunar New Year has begun to affect our students. We are all excited to celebrate, ring in the year of the Bull and get some much needed rest and time with loved ones. But the extent to which some of us are beginning to relax and let our guard down has impacted some of our study habits. We wanted to take a minute to write a few notes on effective habits for self study and encourage our students to make that hard, final push to the end of the year. What’s better than ending the year on a positive and fulfilling note?

Learning a language can be a challenging and sometimes daunting experience. It can also be a very rewarding one. To make real progress, there is obviously a lot of dedication and effort required, BUT you also need to develop the study habits that will most effectively improve your class work. Okay, so what habits are the most effective for those of us studying a second language?

Designed By Me!

Welcome to the world of fashion design! 8-week course understanding styles / colors & learning from masters to explore new fashion frontiers. Students will bring their designs to life!

Dare I Go

Virtual travel to: Lebanon, India, French Polynesia, Spain, Morocco, & Mexico! Experience food, music, culture, and histories of these amazing countries!

I Can Speak!

From the ABC’s to the 123’s: Designed for young children and focused on the learning alphabet, basic sight words, phonics, phrases & counting!



Adaptive Pre K-12 Curriculum

Full American Curriculum delivered both on-line & in person through our innovative teaching program



IELTS

Talk to us about our certified instructors for IELTS. Or visit our website at :

[IELTS](#)



Public Speaking

Public Speaking is an essential skill - never become nervous again with this essential class!
[Public Speaking](#)

We have outlined our top five below:

1. Plan and set realistic objectives and goals
2. Create a learner's dictionary
3. Review and self-study
4. Be an active learner during class times
5. Immerse yourself

1. PLAN AND SET REALISTIC OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Beginning to study a second language can be quite overwhelming. Start by setting REALISTIC goals. For example, you might aim to learn five new linking expressions in one week (realistic) versus a more generic goal of "master academic writing". If mastering academic writing is the ultimate goal, you and your class/teacher can help to create the milestones to allow that goal to become a reality through weekly (or daily) objectives. With the objectives identified, it is easy to create the study plan to follow each day/week. By using a weekly timetable, there is a plan that should have dedicated time for self-study, including time to review lessons. Planning learning by the week or, even more beneficial by the day will make it easier to measure progress.

Tip: A good app to help you both set goals, plan and schedule studying (not just for language learning) is [My Study Life](#). The app helps with organizing a routine for studying. The app is completely free and has robust application for all types of students.

2. CREATE A LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

When studying a language, it's essential to keep vocabulary notes from lessons. As language lessons are often based on a particular theme (e.g., shopping, music, family), it's a good idea to organize vocabulary by topic. Experiment with different ways of recording vocabulary, including flash cards, mind maps, and/or tables, see what works best for you. You should also make a note of the different forms, uses and pronunciation of particular words (make sure you have a good learner's dictionary).

Tip: To create your own personal dictionary, try using your mobile phone OR a dedicated notebook to record vocabulary from your lessons. Use the same format each time you enter a new word and its definition. We have found that adding the word in your native language helps! Electronic formats tend to work better because they are easier to keep in alphabetical order in addition to topical.

3. REVIEW AND SELF-STUDY

To successfully learn new vocabulary and grammar, you need to review your lesson (self-study) notes regularly. Go through the notes (and you should be taking notes) from a particular lesson and try memorizing some or all of the important language or grammar points (remember, to anchor self-study to your realistic objectives and weekly goals).



Our Reader of the Month!

Hong Ha is our reader of the month!

Ha lives in near Da Nang with her sister (both Spark students). She is a energetic girl that loves spending time with her family, animals of all sorts and spreading joy, love and happiness to everyone she encounters. Ha is a voracious reader and is currently finishing Guinea Dog 3!

Please help us congratulate our READER of the MONTH!

To test yourself, try writing on a blank paper all that you can recall. Repeat the process until you've memorized all the things you set yourself at the beginning of the task. Completing this process three times per week. Alternatively, try flashcards on new vocabulary words immediately before bed. Studies have proven that review immediately before sleep helps "lock in" knowledge.

Tip: Some learners benefit from creating flashcards. Quizlet is an app that allows you to use previously created content from others or create your own unique content.

4. BE AN ACTIVE LEARNER DURING CLASS TIMES

When in class, try to participate **as much as possible**. Be determined after each lesson to use the language and grammar that has been presented. Making mistakes normal - don't allow mistakes stop personal progress. Be an active learner: find out from your teacher what your strengths and weaknesses are; ask others what they think of your pronunciation; find English speakers to practice speaking - grab a coffee or lunch with native speakers whenever possible. By being active, using the language whenever possible and taking control of your own learning, the results happen far faster.

Tip: There are language apps to help you connect with speakers of English, a good recommendation is HelloTalk. For a subscription fee of (\$6.99 (monthly), \$39.99 (annually) or \$89.99 (lifetime)) this app helps you to use the language outside of the classroom.

5. IMMERSE YOURSELF

To succeed over the longterm and fully own your language skills it is important to fully immerse yourself in the language as much as possible, as often as possible. While you may not be able to have a full immersion program, you can create a great substitute through television, movies, music, books and audio files. For advise like this to truly work, it's crucial to make sure the topics interest you. Try to get in the habit of immersing yourself in the language a minimum of 90 minutes per day (whenever possible).

Tip: YouTube is a free and an infinite resource of English-based videos.

THE BOTTOM-LINE

By creating a strong foundation of realistic goals, it becomes easier to set daily and weekly objectives to fulfill your goals. Those goals are further enhanced by the creation of a personal dictionary that aligns with your specific lessons in which you can review and self-study between lessons. And when in class, be fully present and available for each and every lesson - you will get out of each lesson only the effort you put into it. And lastly, immerse yourself at every opportunity to talk to others, watch television, read books or just listen to music! This is a fun, exciting and interesting journey - enjoy your ride!



Enterprise City Jr.



Math Sunday



Art



Triplets 13th Birthday

What we've been up to...

Our **Pre-K** group has been working hard to put sight words into use through reading as well as continuing to practice alphabetic letter and sound recognition. They now have more than 80 words they can read and perfectly pronounce! Our Pre-K groups are successfully reading Hop On Pop on their own. We have continued to work on sound blending, segmentation, and consonant coupling.

Our **1st & 2nd grade** has been working on synonyms and antonyms as well as context clues in reading for vocabulary. This month, we have finished Geronimo Stilton "The Giant Diamond Robbery". We have just begun our new workbook to put our English vocabulary in use and apply grammar rules. In math, we are exploring measurement and learning skip counting as well as continuing to build our skills in basic addition / subtraction!

Our **3rd, 4th & 5th** graders have finished the first book in the series "Guinea Dog". A book about a boy who desperately wants a dog but whose parents have given him a guinea pig - but this is NO ordinary guinea pig. We have started a challenging story analysis and writing series that is helping to develop our grammar and written communication skills entitled Fairy Tales. We have focused on character and story development as well as how illustrations help to enhance our understanding of the story. We have also begun to work in teams to develop our public speaking skills!

Our **6th grade** is nearing the end of the year and we are working through the most challenging subjects in Social Studies and Science. We have been learning about the periodic table and how elements and compounds make up specific material. We have finished our unit on Social and Emotional Development which has included deep discussions on healthy relationships, the development of our strengths, asking for help, having a positive attitude and problem solving though both creative and root-cause analysis. We are anticipating the completion of our 6th grade curriculum March 31.

Our **High School** students have now completed mid-term exams and have moved to very serious IELTS preparation. We have focused on writing and extending our vocabulary to most effectively and eloquently communicate our ideas. We have also worked extensively on speaking. We have continued to push ourselves to use mind maps to generate a logical flow to our oral presentations.

Our **Art** students have been busy being creative and exploring color, blending and crafting! We have

focused this month on watercolor projects. Our little artists have created watercolor sunsets, dancing monsters, and mystical, magical and whimsical scenes.

Class Updates

Art: Our art class has one opening. Email us at: info@Spark-vn.com for more information or to register.

Designed By Me!: This class has been created in response to the success of our first (much shorter) trial class. Designed for kids 7 - 13 years old, this class takes students into the world of fashion design. 8-week course teaches how to create mood boards, understanding styles and colors and learning from masters to explore new fashion frontiers. Students will bring three of their designs to life! Parents are invited to attend the end of class fashion show! Register: info@spark-vn.com

Coming soon:

- Vietnamese conversation for beginners
- Adult Cooking Class
- Cooking for Children
- Mr. & Miss Manner's

Email us at: info@Spark-vn.com for more information or to register in advance!

Lunar New Year Schedule

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	★	★
★	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

★ Indicates No Classes