

Unit I

Learn to Study

Part A Appetizer



I. Try to Find the Gems (TFG)

You might have learned of the saying, “***It is never too old to learn.***” Please fill in the blanks with proper words to make the following sentences meaningful as well as grammatical.

1. _____ and learn.
2. There is no _____ road to learning.
3. Learning without _____ is labor lost.



II. Global Listening and Reading (GLR)

Please take the following **FOUR** steps to learn effectively.

Step One

Listen to each of the passages and then read the ten statements and questions following it.

For Statements 1-8, write on the line before each statement;

T (for True) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

F (for False) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for Not Given) if the statement is not given in the passage.

For Questions 9-10, write the answers on the lines according to the passage you have just listened to.

Step Two

If the passage proves to be too difficult for you to understand by the first listening, then look at the list of the new words and read them aloud before listening to the passage again.

Step Three

If you still have difficulty in understanding some parts of it by the second listening, then read the audio script in detail to improve your understanding. And check your answers to the ten statements and questions.

Step Four

Now if you can understand the material well by reading, listen to the record again for consolidation of listening comprehension without glancing at the audio script.



Passage 1 English and Spanish Speakers Learn Together, and from Each Other

⇒ **Statements and Questions**

- ___ 1. Several ways to teach foreign languages are offered by hundreds of American schools.
- ___ 2. The method named dual or two-way immersion is a traditional way of teaching foreign languages

in American schools.

- ___ 3. All of Helen Arzola's kindergarteners from English-speaking families heard Spanish before.
- ___ 4. The dual-language program aims to teach all Hispanic children English.
- ___ 5. Hispanic children can not learn English well unless they have a good command of their first language.
- ___ 6. Some people doubt if bilingual education is sufficient in terms of English learning.
- ___ 7. Pro-English is an international nonprofit group.
- ___ 8. A national survey found that more public elementary and middle schools taught French, German, Russian or Japanese in recent years.
9. Why do some schools say a federal education law from the last administration has hurt language teaching?

10. Schools face problems like _____ and _____.

❖ *New Words to Learn before Listening to the Passage Again* ❖

1. immersion [i'mɔ:ʃn]	n.	沉浸, 专心
2. the Pledge of Allegiance [ˈpledʒ, əv, əˈli:dʒəns]	pro. n.	宣誓效忠(美国人站在国旗前右手贴左胸宣誓)
3. academic [ˌækəˈdemɪk]	a.	学术的; 学校的; 学习的
4. executive [ɪgˈzɛkjətɪv]	a.	行政的
5. skeptical [ˈskeptɪkl]	a.	疑心的

⇒ *Audio Script for Further Understanding*



In the last ten years, hundreds of American schools have begun to offer a new way to teach foreign languages. This method is called dual or two-way **immersion**¹. Here is how it works at London Towne Elementary School in Centreville, Virginia, outside Washington. In some classes, only Spanish is spoken, even during **the Pledge of Allegiance**²— a morning tradition for American schoolchildren. And this is a second grade class where the children learn math and other subjects completely in Spanish. Later in the day they learn only in English. Half of the children

are from families that speak Spanish at home. The other half are native English speakers. Myra Olmeda is the teacher.

MYRA OLMEDA: “When these both groups come together, they’re learning, you know, one from the other — which is the greatest thing that is happening.”

Helen Arzola teaches the youngest children.

HELEN ARZOLA: “A child before eight is a language learning machine. That’s their reason for being, for the most part. So this is the time to learn a language.”

She says her kindergarteners from English-speaking families may have never heard Spanish before. And she says children from Spanish-speaking families benefit from learning in their own language.

HELEN ARZOLA: “The goal of the dual-language program is to teach low-income Hispanic children English — good English, social English and **academic**³ English. And that can only happen if they have a good, solid foundation in their first language.”

But some people are still not sure about these programs. They say bilingual education has not always taught Hispanic

students enough English. K. C. McAlpin is **executive**⁴ director of a national nonprofit group called Pro-English.

K. C. MCALPIN: “The experience of history has made us a bit **skeptical**⁵, OK? Because it’s another thing that sounds like on the surface is a great idea.”

London Towne Elementary is in Fairfax County, Virginia. The county also offers immersion programs in French, German and Japanese. One sixth grader at London Towne says it’s not like traditional teaching.

DANIEL SHANK-ROWE: “It’s really just like being in the environment where everyone’s talking Spanish. You just catch on.”

Another student says she likes to learn other languages. But a national survey found that in recent years foreign language teaching decreased in public elementary and middle schools. Fewer schools teach French, German, Russian or Japanese. Some schools say a federal education law from the last administration has hurt language teaching. This law only requires testing of progress in math and reading. Schools also face language teacher shortages, and now budget cuts caused by the economy. (427 words)



Passage 2 Going Digital: the Future of College Textbooks?

⇒ Statements and Questions

- ___ 1. Charles Schmidt says electronic textbooks now account for two to three percent of sales.
 - ___ 2. The average college student in America can not afford their textbooks any more.
 - ___ 3. Students have access to online versions for many of the most popular college textbooks.
 - ___ 4. In the test, the students in Northwest Missouri State University rent textbooks in order to save money.
 - ___ 5. Northwest Missouri State University tested the e-textbooks with seven thousand of its students.
 - ___ 6. In the survey, 56% of students reported that downloading the books from the Internet was easy.
 - ___ 7. Administrators are disappointed with the e-textbooks now available because only the minority are interactive.
 - ___ 8. None of the e-books available now is interactive.
9. What will happen if more digital books include video, activities, games and other ways to interact with the information?
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10. According to Charles Schmidt, electronic textbooks are expected to reach ten to fifteen percent by _____.

❖ New Words to Learn before Listening to the Passage Again ❖

1. available [ə'veɪləbl]	a. 可得到的	3. downloading [ˌdaʊn'ləʊdɪŋ]	pr. p. 下载
2. administrators [əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə(r)z] n. (pl.)	行政管理者	4. physical ['fɪzɪkl]	a. 有形的, 实物的
		5. interactive [ɪntər'æktɪv]	a. 互动的; 交互式的

⇒ Audio Script for Further Understanding

The average college student in America spent an estimated seven hundred dollars on textbooks last year. The National Association of College Stores reported more than five billion dollars in sales of textbooks and course materials. Association spokesman Charles Schmidt says electronic textbooks now represent just two to three percent of sales. But he says that is expected to reach ten to fifteen percent by 2012. Online versions are now **available**¹ for many