

## ***How Can Translation Students Improve Their English***

### **1. What should I do during this break?**

- You should make a list of your objectives, i.e. things that you would like to do. Check my blog for details: <http://aljarf-students.maktoobblog.com/?archive=2007-03-24&archMod=2&d=24&cal=3&y=2007> . Read the first 10 posts in my blog posted in the last week of March 2007).
- You fill in your weekly schedule. You can download it from my website's main page: <http://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/aljarf/For%20Students/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
- Practice all skills every day: listening, speaking, reading and writing, in addition to vocabulary and grammar.
- The Internet has countless websites that help you practice all kinds of skill. I have a special section for that in my website: <http://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/aljarf/study-work/Pages/internetenglish.aspx>

### **2. What's the most effective way to learn the English language?**

- There is no one single effective way that suits everybody. That depends on your general proficiency level and purposes for/situations in which you want use your English.
- We do not improve within few days or few weeks. Improvement is a long slow process.
- It requires continuous efforts in small dosages, i.e. instead of practicing once a week for 5 hours, it is better to practice for one hour at a time 5 times a week.

- You also need to work on all of the skills because they support each other.

### **3. How can I know my real level?**

- You need to take a test such as the TOEFL. I have a list of tests in my website as well: <http://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/aljarf/study-work/Pages/internetenglish.aspx> . Try taking one of the Placement Tests.
- I also have a test bank in my website. You can take those tests: <http://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/aljarf/Tests/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
- There are also websites that provide you with graded exercises. You can do those and see which level is easy for you and which one you have difficulty with.

### **4. What should I do when I read a book? an article?...etc**

- You need to underline the main ideas and number the details under each main topic with a pencil.
- You can also make an outline and write a one page summary of what you have read.

### **5. What should I do when I listen to something in English?**

- Take notes while listening.
- Write the main ideas and details under each topic.
- Make an outline and write a summary of what you have listened to.
- For a month you can do this in English and then you can take notes in Arabic, write the main ideas, details, make an outline, and a summary in Arabic (because) you are going to be an interpreter. This is good practice for the interpreting courses you are going to take later.

**6. Should I read and listen in the same field?**

- Since you are going to interpret in different fields, it is better to read and listen to material in different fields. The best things for this purpose is to watch CNN or BBCnews on T.V. at first and then you can listen to BBC radio because there are no pictures. You can also read from an encyclopedia as it includes articles in the different field. Start with the areas you are going to translate in level 5.

**7. Should I translate every single word?**

- No. First translate the overall meaning, i.e. write a summary of the main ideas and supporting details in Arabic for a while. Then start translating short and easy texts in full and increase the length and difficulty level gradually.

**8. Should I put every word (that I translated) in a sentence?**

- No. This is not translation. You can do this if you want to learn how to use words and remember their meaning.

**9. How could I be well-prepared for level 5?**

- You have to have good reading and writing skills.
- You need to learn how read, write and take notes fast.
- Your grammar and spelling should be excellent.
- You need to have good vocabulary knowledge in different fields.
- You should know Arabic derivation and basic rules.
- You need to learn how to distinguish different writing styles.
- You need to learn how to apply, and not memorize, information.

