|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| At home, I can improve my skills in English by… | At home, I can improve my knowledge and understanding by:  | At home, I can also learn by… |
| **Reading*** Trying reading as many different types of texts as possible: novels, short stories, magazines, blogs, quality newspaper articles that interest you…
* Read for enjoyment!
* Set some personal reading time aside every day; even 20 minutes
* Try reading genres that you wouldn’t normally read at home, such as plays or anthologies of poetry.
* Find newspapers aimed at younger readers. These can be borrowed from the school library. Try [***www.firstnews.co.uk***](http://www.firstnews.co.uk)
* Try accessing newspapers online
* Visiting book shops to browse/ see what is new
* Swap books with friends
* Why not form a book club with your friends where you meet to talk about your favourite books?
* Get into the habit of looking up new words to broaden your vocabulary- maybe decide to learn two new words a week. You can use online dictionaries if you don’t own one; [*www.****dictionary****.com*](http://www.dictionary.com) *or* [*www.oxford****dictionaries****.com/*](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/) *www.collins****dictionary****.com*
* Keep a notebook especially for this. Note down the meanings
* Other websites of interest include: BBC Events- Authors Live *www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p006v267*
* BBC Authors Live *www.bbc.co.uk/events/rhvg9*

**Writing*** Start writing for enjoyment at home e.g. keeps a diary or write your own novel or write your own blog- *www.****write****rsdigest.com/online-editor/the-12-dos-and-donts-of-****writing-a-blog***
* Practise spelling words you find difficult or words found in your personal reading. Your teacher will give you 10 spelling words a week to help you improve; stick these on the fridge or on the walls of your room!
* Keep your own vocabulary notebook up to date with other words you see, not just the 10 in school.
* Online resources for grammar and spelling can be accessed at home, such as BBC Bitesize at [*www.****bbc****.co.uk/education/*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/) *bbc.co.uk/learning* [*https://www.****bbc****.co.uk/****skillswise***](https://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise)
* [*http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling\_grammar/nouns\_adjectives\_prepositions/play/*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/nouns_adjectives_prepositions/play/)
* *Read over and proof read your writing or read it aloud*
* *Ask another person to read it over for you*
* *Take part in writing competition, for example BBC 2 500 words short story competition* or competitions you hear about in school*www.****bbc****.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1*

***Talking and Listening**** *Try to take an interest in what is going on in the world around you. Watch or listen to the news a few times a week* [*www.bbc.co.uk/****newsround***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround)*is aimed at younger viewers*
* *Watch documentaries on TV*
* *Talk to your parents/ guardians about some of the stories/ issues you learn about here or in school*
* *Form opinions about these issues*
* *Join a debating society in or out of school*
* [BBC - GCSE Bitesize - Speaking and listening](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/speaking/)

*www.****bbc****.co.uk/schools/****gcsebitesize****/english/****speaking*** | * Talking about books with parents or guardians
* Visit/ join your local library
* Take opportunities to hear authors speak about their work (**See *BBC Authors Live***)
* Ask for help with homework assignments
* Revise regularly for example new grammar taught in school
* BBC- Learning: online learning resources – [*www.bbc.co.uk/learning-*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning-)***class clips***
 | * researching the kinds of jobs and careers you can have using English
* Take opportunities to visit the theatre to see plays being performed
* Or go to the cinema to see films of novels or plays
* [*www.rsc.org.uk/education*](http://www.rsc.org.uk/education)
* **Interactive Learning Resources Royal Shakespeare Compan**y: *www.rsc.org.uk/education*[*www.bbc.co.uk/learning-*](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning-) *class clips*
 |