

NETFLIX IS AN INTERESTING AND FUN WAY TO LEARN ENGLISH

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Are you frustrated after trying to find an application or a course book to improve your English? Try out Netflix.

Netflix [1] has been around for some time, and watching series on it is a great way for you to practice your American English accent. This is great to train your listening skills and your speaking skills.

For beginners, one Netflix series that I highly recommend is “Magic for humans” [2]. Besides being super fun, you can listen to simple directions like “Hand me back the card” or numbers counting from 1 to 10 or choosing a card or choosing a number. You are going to be exposed to a lot of basic English directions and numbers and things like that and it is really fun because you can watch the magician make people disappear or do fun or funny magic tricks.

For intermediate English learners I have two suggestions. The first one is if you are into relationships, watch “Love is blind” [3]. This is a show that is interesting because you get to see what different people will do in order to spend the rest of their lives with that special someone and this is good for the intermediate level because there will be some challenging vocabulary, but it is still easy enough for you to understand what the main idea is even if you don’t know every single word you hear, you will be able to understand most of the show.

The second suggestion for an intermediate English learner is “100 humans” [4]. I love this show because it is about human behavior. It takes questions or assumptions about the way that humans behave or what we might assume to be true or false and actually proves it right or wrong with scientific studies using a controlled group of human subjects. So if you like to know about human psychology behavior and you like the scientific approach to things, you will love this show. Not only that, but it is good for intermediate English speakers because you can see what is going on while they explain what the experiment is. I think this is really good because you can understand what is going on even if you do not understand every single word they say, plus I think it is really interesting and important to watch something that you find engaging and easy to follow along if you want to improve your English.

As for advanced Netflix series, one that is immensely popular right now is “Ozark”. It is a very exciting kind of dramatic thriller series that can help you to train your English, especially because you are going to want to keep watching over and over. This show has a unique storyline and it is interesting to watch. It is also good for advanced English speakers because you can improve your listening skills by listening to non-standard dialects of English.

It is about a family from Chicago where people normally speak standard American English and they go to the south where you will hear a southern accent and you can train your ears to that kind of American accent as well.

Now while we are on the topic of southern American accents, you should watch “The Walking Dead”. It is funny and every episode makes you want to watch what happens next. The Walking Dead is challenging – you are going to hear southern American accents, British English accents and other American English accents as well. You are going to hear a character named Ezekiel speak in Old English as if he was an actor in a Shakespearean play, and let’s not forget Eugene who speaks in a very unique, academic and intellectual way which is difficult to understand even for a native speaker.

Now that we have mentioned which programmes and series to watch, let us talk about how to watch them for English learning [5].

If you are a beginner, do not start out with the more advanced programmes because it can be frustrating if you do not understand most of what you hear. So stick to something that has more standard American English to train your listening skills and your pronunciation skills as well. Start watching in small chunks, not the entire programme. If the series episode is 45 minutes long, which is an average length, start by watching 5 to 10 minutes, adding more and more time.

If you do not understand more than 50%, it is a good idea to turn on those English captions, so you can read along and listen at the same time and make sure that you understand what is happening in the programme.

As for intermediate English speakers, try to watch an entire episode without stopping and it is OK if you don’t understand every word. Just try to understand the main idea and then you can always go back and find words that you did not understand. You can look up the meaning of them or ask a friend if there is part of the episode that you really are not able to follow by this time.

Be patient with yourself and remember that even native English speakers do not always understand 100% of what the characters say on Netflix series.

Train your listening skills to understand not only the standard American dialect, but regional accent varieties as well. Do not rely on subtitles or captions and really make sure that you are challenging yourself to watch the whole series without stopping. This will help you train for tests where you need to listen or longer conversations or lectures.

Also, it would be great if you kept a notebook or maybe some notes on your smartphone with new vocabulary words and phrases that you learn during the show. It is important to go back and review those words and phrases so that you can start to remember them and use them when you speak English.

And, finally, a really fun way to train your American accents is to repeat what you hear characters saying. If you have a favourite character, let’s say you are watching The Walking Dead, you really like Rick, repeat everything he says as soon as you hear it. The best way to do that is if you are watching alone on your

own time, but by repeating what the characters say, you can practice their pronunciation, their accent, and the way they deliver their words and this is a powerful way for you to practice speaking on your own, from your own home for free.

So take advantage of your free Netflix English tutors and try this out next time you turn on Netflix.

References

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Анотація

Netflix дає можливість вивчати англійську мову більш цікаво, дивлячись ті програми і серіали, які підходять для вашого рівня знання мови.

Ключові слова: Netflix, словниковий запас, вимов, діалекти англійської мови.

Аннотация

Netflix дает возможность изучать английский язык более интересно, смотря те программы и сериалы, которые подходят для вашего уровня знания языка.

Ключевые слова: Netflix, словарный запас, произношение, диалекты английского языка.

Abstract

Netflix provides an opportunity to learn English in a more interesting way by watching the programmes and serials that suit your language proficiency level.

Key words: Netflix, vocabulary, pronunciation, dialects of the English language.