

## Chapter 1 : How Social Media is Changing Language

*Social media is a way to write about ourselves and interact with others. There are lots of different types of social media: social networking sites, online forums, sharing photos and videos, writing reviews, blogs and vlogs. Parents often feel unsure about their child using mobile phones and.*

Sign up for tips Social media is a way to write about ourselves and interact with others. There are lots of different types of social media: Parents often feel unsure about their child using mobile phones and computers. You may like to read our Frequently Asked Questions: How to use technology for learning. Blogs and vlogs Blogs are a bit like an online journal. Your child can write about their interests, ideas, wishes, humour and anything else they think about. Research suggests that blogging helps schoolchildren practise writing. Students tend to write more in blogs – they are writing for a real audience and a real purpose. Check out these blogging sites for children , which can be monitored by parents. Alternatively, if your child would prefer to practise their speaking skills, they could tell you about their ideas and record it in a video vlog. Ask your child to tell you something about their day. This can be in English or in your own language. Now, ask your child to upload a picture to show what they did. Your child might also enjoy collecting these pictures on a wall in their bedroom, or making them into a mini-book to read later on. Learning tip for 13–18 year olds Your child might enjoy making their own diary in English. They could write a blog, and either make it public or make it available to people they choose. Note down some key words, phrases and sentences. Leave them to write their diary entry, but be available if they need help. Facebook The Cambridge Assessment English Facebook page is updated every day, giving your child regular opportunities to practise English. Your child can talk to other English language learners and take part in fun language activities to practise English. Like our page and join millions of learners around the world! Learning tip Encourage your child to check out our interesting facts, videos, discussions and quizzes. Quiz answers are made available the next day. But innovative teachers are taking advantage and finding ways to use these technologies for learning. One example is Minecraft, a massive game, which now has a huge community of educators using it for real learning. Language learning teachers are getting learners to collaborate and communicate in English to build their own worlds. Learning tip Children, parents and teachers are all learning new digital skills at the same time. Explore technologies together and discuss whether they are useful. Ask each family member to try one type of technology: If you want ideas, here are some top-rated games , top-rated apps and top-rated websites. Does it help their English skills? How much fun is it to use? Ask everyone to rate it out of

## Chapter 2 : How Social Media Can Help Students Study

*These tools are called 'social media', and today play an important part in learning online. You may not realise it, but social media are not only found on websites such as Facebook or Twitter. Do you read an English learning blog, or visit an online forum to help you study?*

It consists of applying interactive social media channels to language learning, which will in turn enable the student to develop communication skills while using these social networks. The Communicative Language Teaching CLT method provided the basis for the development of the SMLL method, given both emphasise the importance of teaching within a great scope of contexts with the objective of developing a functional knowledge of the language. The Social Media Language Learning is based upon three tenets: Importance of live and actual communication in the target language through interaction and updated content comprehension and production based on Social Media channels. Fostering of social media communication skills at the same time as the language learning is taking place, in terms of editing, strategy, conceptualization, business insight, etc. The student is therefore invited to emerge as much as possible in activities which require the use of language, given that all of them will result in learning. In-class and out-of-class communication are equally important. It combines the benefits of another method, known as blended learning, which allows the student to learn autonomously, whenever and wherever he wants, with all the required material available online, and at the same time have the support of an experienced teacher who eases the process and provides a professional and live explanation of the subjects at hand. On-site classes with the teacher are intertwined with the ongoing online conversations with other relevant people. Learning is considered to be a constant, ever-flowing, indivisible part of everyday life, thus making the target language a part of it. Classroom[ edit ] A range of social media can be used to facilitate language learning, including blogs, online role-playing games, fan fiction writing, and so on. Blogs[ edit ] Web logs or blogs are one of many forms of social media. A blog is an online platform that people can use to express issues related to their lives and different viewpoints they may have. As blogging architecture became more user-friendly the popularity of blogs increased. The ability to comment on other peoples blogs as well as have people post comments on your own is key to blogging. Steven Thorne [7] has reported a number of trends with respect to blogging and language learning. Blogs used within language classrooms he has observed produce encouraging written production along with increased scores on standardized assessment measures showing significant language development. The use of blogs also enable teachers and instructors to assess written language learning in a relatively accessible way. Blogs, it is argued, allow students to create fluent sets of sentences from sentences that previously would stand alone. It also allows students to write in paragraphs and to use different tenses with more confidence to discuss topics within their blogs. Blogs help with language learning. Blogs help to develop vocabulary, increase reading speed, develop proper use of grammar and enhanced reading comprehension. Blogs produced better sentence fluency, a higher vocabulary, better sentence fluency and an awareness of looking for grammar mistakes in their writing. Blogs can give the confidence to write more sentences and to use different and more tenses. Social media studied include: Online gaming[ edit ] Many MMO massively multiplayer online games cross national and linguistic boundaries. They often have built-in chat functions and enable participants to chat with players from all over the world who speak various languages. This can provide players with the opportunity to learn a new languageâ€”at least at a basic levelâ€”so they can participate more fully in the game with the other players. In short, gamers may well be using a language they are learning much sooner than they otherwise might, given the highly contextualised nature of the talk typically found within game-play situations and the text-based medium of interaction. Without this social interaction, many students may be less willing to practice their new skills which would enhance their abilities in the language they are learning. Learning language from video games, it is argued, is a contextual process. Gamers playing a game that has text and audio in a language other than their own e. Many video games use repetition in their commands and this enables the player to recognize these words and come to understand what they mean and represent over time. Individuals playing MMOs typically want to be able to maintain social relationships with people who speak

another language. Participation in these semiotically mediated communities may help to strengthen the ecological linkages between forms of language use and identity dispositions. Facebook, for example, allows language barriers to be broken down. According to the site, it has approximately 12 million registered members from countries around the globe although this includes members who have signed up for 1 day and never returned. Over , users visit the site daily. The difference between social media as professional development tools and other professional development tools is that social media gives the teachers a community to participate with. The US Department of Education stresses that teachers should not only be connected to resources but they should have communities of practice that provide career-long personal learning opportunities for educators within and across schools, pre-service preparation and in-service education institutions, and professional organizations Office of Educational Technology, Moreover, these online buttons give the language teachers the chance to help others in their fields, find solutions to their problems and improve their teaching language careers.

## Chapter 3 : Learn English through social media | Cambridge English

1 | *P a g e English language learning through social media and entertainment By Marija Ivanovic, ELTA Co-editor April, In recent years social media has become a predominant factor in our daily communication.*

Share via Email Twitter, Facebook and Youtube could be used to invigorate language lessons. But if things are going to change, teachers and parents need to get smarter. Apparently, pupils were even willing to explore languages like Arabic, Chinese and Spanish as well as more traditional alternatives such as French and German. Just two years later, this number was down dramatically, with fewer than half of all English school pupils taking a modern European language at GCSE level. Pupils were now not only avoiding traditional modern languages such as French and German, but avoiding languages altogether. The finger of blame was pointed at the incumbent Labour government, who in , decided to make foreign languages optional at GCSE level. Skip to , and the House of Lords is again being forced to call for languages to be made compulsory in schools. Senior figures claim that British kids cannot compete with their continental counterparts, and more worryingly, they warn that Britain risks being cut off from the rest of the world. Compulsory language learning on its own is not the answer, and there seems to be a deeper issue that needs addressing. Making modern languages a central feature of the new English Baccalaureate “an award for pupils securing a C grade or better in English, maths, history or geography, the sciences and a language” should help the figures, but what can teachers and parents do to inspire children and make them want to learn languages again? As the internet became more popular, websites have become a pivotal resource for school pupils across all subjects. Earlier this year France launched a national campaign to improve foreign language skills amongst its schoolchildren, centred round a website called englishbyyourself. Some have, the Guardian Teacher Network blogger Matt Britland was an early adopter, quickly recognising the opportunities that social media gives for sharing experiences, tips and resources. We are late to the party. Children now default to social media in nearly every aspect of their life. They use it to communicate with their friends, play games and watch TV. But by ignoring social media we are missing out on a world of opportunities. Schools like to think of themselves as modern, innovative and forward-thinking institutions, and the majority of them are. If you enter a classroom today, you are confronted with computers, PowerPoint, electronic whiteboards and iPads. But by refusing to engage with our children in the digital playground that is social media, we will never truly understand their needs and never fully realise its potential as a language learning tool. Five ways you can start to engage with your pupils on social media 1. Start posting updates to your timeline, but not in English. Create a Twitter account. Start tweeting in a foreign language, keeping in mind that you have a character limit, and see if your pupils can strike up a conversation with you. Impose a non-English only reply and retweet rule. Create a YouTube account. Those who want to have their video uploaded should send it to you first. Create a Pinterest account. You could even look for photos of the country, or infographics about languages in general, to help your pupils understand more about why they should learn it. Create a blog or Tumblr. Dedicate it entirely to publishing content in the language you teach. Show your pupils why you love the language and inspire them to do the same. Ask them to write something, however small, and post it for the whole world to admire. Related courses You can enrol in Digital communications for schools , a half-day seminar that offers a holistic introduction to essential communication and social media skills as part of your continuing professional development. You will also get access nearly , pages of teaching resources. Could you be one of our bloggers? Do you have something you want to share with colleagues “a resource of your own and why it works well with your students, or perhaps a brilliant piece of good practice in teaching or whole school activity that you know about it? If so please get in touch. If you would like to blog on the Guardian Teacher Network please email emma. Searching for your next role? See our Schools Jobs site for thousands of the latest teaching, leadership and support jobs. This content is brought to you by Guardian Professional.

## Chapter 4 : Using Media to Enhance Teaching and Learning

*Social media learning involves accessing information through a range of visuals, text and perceptions on a given subject. It also encourages one to actively participate by posting content on social networking sites.*

You may not realise it, but social media are not only found on websites such as Facebook or Twitter. Do you read an English learning blog, or visit an online forum to help you study? Twitter Follow English teachers to see their tweets. They can be very useful! Use hashtags such as Ingles, Twinglish or English in your tweets to meet other people who are studying English on Twitter and help correct each other. Our ILSC Facebook Page is a great example of a place where you can meet English learners from around the world and find useful links related to English study. There are many Facebook applications that offer a fun way to practice your English skills. YouTube YouTube is a fantastic place to learn English. There are literally thousands of videos that can help you practice! Remember to read the comments and add some of your own to really get involved with the English learning community on YouTube. Maybe you could even try creating some videos yourself? You can also find ILSC by visiting our channel! It is also useful to find blogs on hobbies or topics you are interested in that are written in English – our ILSC Blog is a great start! Make sure to get involved by adding a comment or asking the author a question. Forums English learning forums have been around ever since the internet was first invented! Some websites such as EnglishForums. You can still practice your English skills with other learners. Try spending at least one whole day a week writing posts, updates and journal entries only in English. You might encourage more of your friends to get involved as well! Do you have any other tips or websites that are useful for you and your studies? Let us know by leaving a comment!

## Chapter 5 : Using social media as a language learning tool | Teacher Network | The Guardian

*Using Social Networks to Improve Your English Or observing some of the niceties of communicating on the internet. Today, learning English involves much more than studying a textbook, doing tests, and putting dictums into practise.*

Student distraction can become issue Lack of control for inappropriate content Relying on Social Media for all contact Photos are what makes social media social. Do you want to learn how improve the photos taken with your Phone? Students become friends with their classmates on social media and are more likely to collaborate on projects. This can lead to higher retention rates as students become more connected to the institution. Faculty can use social media as a way to get students to participate. Many students are naturally shy in person, and many may not speak up in a classroom, but that may not be the case on social media. Faculty can ask questions on social media such as Twitter and students can answer those questions, by including a specific hashtag. Social Media can be useful for team projects. Many colleges stress the importance of the soft skill of working in groups. Social Media sites can be helpful to increase this ability as the students can hold meetings in real time and work on their projects. This enhances the likelihood that they will also spend time together working on projects and may not have to make time to meet in person all the time as the project progresses. Having teams work together using social media only strengthens advantage one and two of your educational activities. Social media can provide a richer experience for resources. Videos, resource websites, and tutorials can be shared very easily with the entire classroom at the click of the button. This eliminates the need for students to copy website links from a handout and have the risk of mistyping. It is much easier just to click a link than to type it. Video Conferencing in the Classroom is also a significant benefit. Using social networking sites such as Google Plus will allow the use of Google Hangouts. These sort of resources can be used to setup class sessions where everyone can collaborate through video in real time. Google Hangouts can also be saved for future reference, in case one of the students has a conflict and can not make the meeting. These are just a few of the many advantages of using social media in education, but like anything else, where there is an advantage there are also disadvantages of social media in education Disadvantages of Social Media for Students in Education Students can get distracted and start using the social media for their purposes and not pay attention to the educational content. Distraction is going to happen to a certain extent, and there is not a lot the faculty member can do to prevent it. They key to explain to the students that you are using social media as an educational resource, and they need to stay focused on those tasks during classroom participation. Using the feedback model for answering questions listed in the advantages of social media will help to reduce this disadvantage. Posting inappropriate content can also be a significant problem. This can damage the reputation of the educational institution and likely one of the reasons that many educational institutions have not embraced social media. This can be overcome by ensuring you have the proper social media policies in place and dealing with students who violate the plan in a manner that still encourages social interaction, but lets them know they need to remain professional. The risk of these sorts of incidents can typically be reduced with proper education of the students. Students, especially those in college that posting inappropriate content on social networks can not only hurt them in their classes but also raise a red flag to potential employers that the student may not be a good fit. It has many of the social media interaction applications and still will allow you to keep your social media in education somewhat protected and private. This is a problem throughout society and not just limited to education. Having the student interact through a social media technology such as Google Hangouts, can sometimes break the ice and allow them to communicate better in person. This is one of the main reasons that social media in education should be a supplement to your educational activities and not the only method of instructional delivery. These are just a few of the advantages of social media in education and also some of the potential disadvantages. Social media can be a powerful enhancement to the way students learn. It does take some planning and thought process before implementation. Please let us know in the comments.

## Chapter 6 : Social Media Language Learning - Wikipedia

*Start using social media platforms as learning tools, and you'll soon notice you're making a big difference into the way your students perceive education. Facebook For Social Learning Flipped Classroom Social Learning Platform Social Learning Tips.*

The primary advantage of this approach is that the instructor takes on the role of a facilitator who helps students interpret what they are listening to, reading or seeing. Media can also be student-generated. This approach utilizes asks the student to step into the role of the teacher and create content that will engage learners and help them to master concepts. Lastly, social media can also be used to enhance teaching and learning and it includes varied online technology tools that allow people to communicate easily via the internet to share information and resources. Using media requires that the instructor step outside of the traditional lecture method and facilitate learning by encouraging students to learn through the media. This approach works best when students are primed. If students are not adequately informed about what they are expected them to learn, they will struggle to make the connection between the learning objectives and the media that they are exposed to. When to introduce media? Before learning the concept. Showing media before the discussion gives students an image to which they can compare the topics under discussion. This approach allows quick reference to easily recalled examples. Schwartz and Bransford show that demonstrations focused on contrasting cases help students achieve expert-like differentiation. In addition, Schwartz and Martin found that carefully-prepared demonstrations "help students generate the types of knowledge that are likely to help them learn" from subsequent lectures. After a brief introduction but before learning the concept. This method provides students with a brief capsule of what the media is about and what to look for -- helping to focus attention while watching the media. After learning the concept. Showing media after describing a theory or concept allows the instructor to use the scenes as a case study. This approach helps students develop their analytical skills in applying what they are learning. Repeating the media is especially helpful when trying to develop student understanding of complex topics. Utilize the media before the discussion to give students an anchor. Guide students through a description or discussion of the topics. Rerun the media as a case study and ask students to analyze what they see using the theories and concepts just discussed. Also punctuate the rerun with an active discussion by asking students to call out the concepts they see in the scenes. This method helps to reinforce what they have just learned. Tips if you are new to this method: Find one movie, song, or news source and incorporate it into your class. Expand once you are comfortable. Provide a clear link between what you want your students to learn and the media. Care must be taken provide the proper learning context. It takes time to integrate media effectively into a course. This is not edutainment, it is the conscious use of media to enable students to learn more. Use the subtitles feature for visual media. This is especially useful in focusing student attention on the words being said. If the media equipment does not work, go to plan B and continue on with your class without missing a beat. Students respond to incentives. If you require them to write a reaction paper, take a quiz, or place questions on your exams that relate to the media content they will pay more attention and learn more in the process. View the copyright information on the cautions page.

## Chapter 7 : Using Social Networks to Improve Your English - communicating on the internet

*Using social media as a language learning tool Children now turn to social media by default. This makes it a great - albeit currently underused - tool for language teaching, says Ryan Owen Gibson.*

By Laura I Gomez You can follow her on latinageek. Given the globalized online world we live in, learning a new language has never been easier – nor as interactive, interesting, and social! From Twitter to blogs to social networks, there are numerous ways you can start your social language learning and keep it up while making new friends. The landscape of social media offers a wealth of resources and information where people can discuss and expand on hobbies, interests and passions - while creating connections with others who feel the same way. Learning a language is no different. Below is a roundup of ways that you can use social media to learn a language and connect with native speakers. This is just a taste of the many language learning sites available across the social web. Which have you used? List your favorites in the comments. Community Each of the free language learning sites below are free and have options to chat with native speakers. Some of their best features include: If you want to build a foundation for a new language, this is definitely the place to begin. SharedTalk has audio, and group and private chat rooms available in 30 languages. This language exchange also offers forums and chat rooms. TV – This is the place to go to for funny and entertaining social language learning – mostly in Spanish. There are also a number of games available, such as tongue twisters and crossword puzzles. YouTube - YouTube - Because YouTube is a global video community, it has become a great place to learn languages, converse with other fans of language learning, and practice listening to people speaking in other languages with a variety of accents. Also be sure to check out ProfASAr who has over 2, followers and 68 videos, and attempts to teach students how to teach themselves languages. His videos are definitely geared toward the academic, but it is sufficiently engaging and interesting for everyone. Blogs Omniglot – Omniglot is the granddaddy of language learning blogs. It covers a wide spectrum of languages and has developed innovative, engaging ways of quizzing its readers such as its "Mystery Language Quiz of the Day," in which readers are asked to identify a language being spoken in an audio clip. Well worth a read. Want to learn more about the diversity of languages and history behind them? This language journey blog should be on your list. Twitter Twitter has also developed into a great place to learn languages in a social environment. Here is a sampling of accounts worth following: Ideal for language geeks, linguists and word lovers. I Kinda Like Languages - From widgets to pop songs, "I Kinda Like Languages" uses Twitter to disseminate social language learning in a diverse manner with plenty of links to outside resources. Learn Spanish – Learn Spanish offers daily tweets to build up vocabulary. French Language – French tweets with links to audio pronunciation.

**Chapter 8 : How to Use Media to Enhance Teaching and Learning**

*Learning Through Networks* The advantages of learning of such skills are clear, but there is one ultimate perk. The creation of an independent learner, a learner who can adapt to changing contexts by engaging their network, a learner who can confidently navigate through the jungle of the Internet.

Social media offers numerous opportunities for both personal and professional purposes. Research also concludes the fact that people are logging on to social networking sites like Twitter; Facebook and LinkedIn like never before. Social media has witnessed a rapid growth over the last few years. Apart from networking, it also enables people to teach others to develop 21st century competencies. Organizations are considering providing social media-like interactivities in their learning portal or LMS to cater to their current online expectations and behavior patterns. According to a research by the eLearning Guild, However, integrating social media into LMS, organizational intranet or learning portal has its advantages as well as disadvantages.

**Advantages** Almost everyone between the ages of 15 to 30 have an account with one of the several social media network providers. The young workforce today is used to instant communication. There are several advantages of facilitating such an interaction within the organizational context as well. What is the difference between traditional and social media learning? The traditional method is a typical classroom kind of learning with little chance for interaction. However, social media learning provides two way interaction enabling active learning. It helps networking of people having similar passions and goals. It helps share ideas and experiences, obtain competencies required in real life, unravel opportunities and recommend the path to success. Facilitates Natural and Active Learning: According to research, people go to work to improve their relations with their colleagues rather than secure a good pay package. In one telecom company, the management kept employees from meeting each other during coffee and lunch breaks. This, proves that social networking has a direct impact on the way people learn and work. It enables employees to actively share knowledge; between peers who may not be physically located in the same place. It removes the barrier of distance for learning and knowledge sharing between peers. Easy Access to Knowledge: Social networking sites help access information anytime and anywhere. They also facilitate access to information of a diverse kind on a given topic with ease and efficiency. In turn, it supports lifelong learning processes and professional development. With more number of employees using Smartphones and data driven mobile devices such as tablets, it makes knowledge sharing considerably easier. Social media learning involves accessing information through a range of visuals, text and perceptions on a given subject. It also encourages one to actively participate by posting content on social networking sites. It helps users post or express individual views, thereby generating tons of content onto the site.

**Disadvantages** Despite its benefits, social media is not without disadvantages. Organizations need to be mindful of them, as they incorporate social media elements into their learning domain. Uncertainty in terms of authenticity of content and control: Social media is subjected to continuous change. Hence, this lacks the required structure to fit into the exact learning need. There may be a need for content moderation in places, requiring additional resources. A critical step for learning is measuring. However, at present, measuring tools are there but a few. However, it is still in a nascent stage and one has to wait and watch how it transforms the tracking and reporting features inherent in an LMS. Managing Social Networking Sites: Once logged into a site, one gets invitations to log on to other similar sites. Thus, logging on to many sites is not possible for one person. Organizations need to have systems and restrictions to ensure employees manage their social networking groups responsibly and speak the voice of the organization in public. Distinction between private and public content becomes very difficult to determine and it would be a challenge for organizations to make this happen. In spite of these disadvantages, learning through social media via higher technology has a greater impact on learning and is appropriate for a professional environment based on competency. The latest advantage of this media is its ability to impart knowledge effectively. But often, many corporates are overlooking the advantages of learning offered by such media. The need of the hour is to help corporates understand the advantages of social media learning for employee training and knowledge sharing which is often overlooked. Considering the fact that organizations are seeing an increase in the so

called Gen Y workforce, check out this presentation that talks about social media environment and how it can be used for training Gen Y Sales Force. In the present scenario, social media is turning out to be a relatively inexpensive and accessible learning platform rather than just a place for networking. View Free E-learning Sample Courses.

## Chapter 9 : Advantages of Using Social Media for Students in Education

*Social Networking and Language Learning Lara Lomicka, The University of South Carolina Gillian Lord, The University of Florida Abstract Our increasing dependence on and use of various technological tools has impacted.*

Today, learning English involves much more than studying a textbook, doing tests, and putting dictums into practise. With the advent of the Internet and its attendant technology, hosts of options exist for improving your English skills. These options involve interacting with others online via social networks - communicating in order to learn about other cultures, have fun, and to learn English at the same time. Social networks are a relatively new phenomenon. They began in In , MySpace launched, with Facebook following in Next up was Twitter in People are increasingly conversing online using diverse social sites. They enjoy the immediacy and convenience of engaging in discourse any time, any place, anywhere. Twitter Twitter is a social networking site that demands precision of expression. Therefore, you must be concise in your messaging. This is excellent for improving your English as you eliminate unnecessary words. Like writing poetry, you choose the best words to communicate with. Twitter does not afford you the luxury of rambling on about a topic. With Twitter, you send your Tweets to your Friends or Followers, and you can Follow other people who interest you, and read their Tweets, which are also short. In this way Twitter helps you improve your English reading skills too. You can read a variety of short messages on a myriad of subjects. In this way, you learn new words, turns of phrase, and jargon, which all helps you build your English vocabulary. I Twitter, do you? Facebook Facebook is a social networking service whereby users can create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages. This includes automatic notifications when they update their personal profile. Facebook users can also join common-interest user groups that they find useful. In a nutshell, Facebook is a web portal for keeping in touch with others. You choose whom you allow to access your Facebook pages. You can post text, pictures, images, video, and music on your Facebook page. You can use a "Wall", which other members can use in order to text each other messages. In addition to text, messages can also contain photos, videos, music and links to other websites. Again, this is an excellent mechanism for building your English skills. You gain English writing experience through composing your various messages. You are not limited to characters, and so you can be elaborate a bit more with your messaging. Facebook also builds your English reading skills. You can read an assortment of messages from those whom you allow into your pages. This diversity of messages means you can learn new words from people all over the world, depending on your list of friends. Some may write extended messages, giving you the opportunity to study their way with words, as well as their word choice. Facebook exposes you to a significant selection of writing text in which to build your English skills. You can follow the Learn English Network on Facebook. Skype Skype is a computer software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet. Calls to other users of the Skype service are free. Calls to traditional landline phones and mobile phones involve paying a fee. You can use Skype on your computer, your mobile device, or on your TV, depending on the model of TV you have. As concerns improving your English skills, Skype gets you talking. Consequently, you converse, which is putting your English speaking and listening skills into action. Just as you do in-person, you chat and get your message across verbally. Moreover, you listen, which means you learn English words and phrasing from others. There are even teachers on Skype who offer traditional English lessons and there are conversational groups that meet more informally. You really can learn English on Skype. LinkedIn LinkedIn is a social networking site for professionals. LinkedIn allows for connecting with others to find and share opportunities on a daily basis. On LinkedIn you can build your business English skills through writing your profile, and then keeping it updated. You also build your business English skills through sending messages to others, reading their responses, and replying in kind. YouTube YouTube is a video-sharing website. Users upload, share and view videos on this social networking site. Learning English via YouTube involves listening to the language via the videos you view. You also learn through reading the comments posted in English, situated below each video. In addition, some YouTube videos are text presentations in a slide show format, or have subtitles available, so you can actually read English in each screen shot. Tell people about your life, read some poetry, sing a song, showcase

your talent. You can even create cartoon videos using software like Muvizu, Flickr Flickr is a social networking site with a difference, because you build contact with people by sharing photographs, and short videos. If you have a digital camera, you can share your life with an online community. Put up some pictures and find people who have taken photos of things you are interested in and leave a comment for them, or find groups on subjects you like to take pictures of. There are groups for countries, hobbies, animals Forums And Message Boards Social networking really began with message boards and then moved to forums. They allow users to communicate about different subjects. A forum is a discussion area on a website. Most Internet forums focus on a specific subject. Those interested in the subject gather to discuss topics and share opinions, information, and ideas. Forums get you writing English. In turn, you read the postings of other forum members and pick up new words, phrases, and unique information along the way. It all contributes to building your English language skills in an interesting manner. An example is the Learn English forum. Here users interested in building their English language skills gather to converse. You can practise your English on this forum by posting your thoughts on a variety of topics, and by connecting with others who have an interest in learning English in the Live Text Chat room. Things To Bear In Mind There are other social sites out there, but these are the most popular, and they are all free, and likely to remain so. When you choose somewhere to network, be aware that sites that start of as free, sometimes start charging for premium accounts, or close down altogether. You can join a social networking site dedicated to learning English, but that way you could be restricting yourself to speaking about learning English, which would get pretty boring after a time. If you are already taking part in some formal learning in traditional or online classes, think of the rest of the net as the playground at school. Remember to conduct your conversations safely when using social networks. Keep some control over the information you display. Never display any of your personal ID numbers, phone numbers, or bank and credit card account numbers. Be careful on what sites you want your full name, address, and phone number posted. Consider the above array of social networking sites for improving your English. Used wisely, social networking sites allow you to connect with others while developing those all-important communication skills you desire. The way you interact with others is part of your success with these services.