

Listen to Ana, Paula and Josef, three foreign students, talking about their strategies for learning English.

Ana: Oh Josef, I missed the English class yesterday, can I borrow your notes?

Josef: Er, I think you'd better borrow Paula's. She takes lots of really good notes. I just draw little pictures and symbols. You'd never understand them.

Paula: He's right - the margins in his text book are full of funny little drawings, faces, shapes! You can borrow my notes. Here you are.

Ana: Thanks. (pause) Wow, Paula, you really are neat. I like the way you organise everything into columns and charts. It makes it really clear to read. I'm finding English quite difficult this term.

Josef: But you are good at English. You always remember so much vocabulary. I don't know how you do it.

Ana: Oh, vocabulary isn't a problem. I say the word a few times and it sticks in my head afterwards. I have to say it out loud though, otherwise it doesn't work. I use my walkman a lot too.

Paula: I thought you were just listening to music all the time, Ana!

Ana: Well, sometimes I am - but English music. The words stick in my head and I even learn some grammar that way. I record myself reading grammar rules sometimes too. If I listen a few times before an exam I usually remember most of it. Sometimes I listen to classical music too. If I listen to a particular song when I am studying and then I listen again a few days later, I remember almost everything.

Josef: Really? I'll have to try that. I find grammar quite difficult. I end up writing things on little cards and then I play with them - spread them all over the table and sort them out in different ways.

Paula: (*laughing*) You just like playing, you're like a child. Show Ana your English book.
(*sound of Josef getting his book out*)

Ana: Wow! What are those snail shapes?

Josef: They're to show where there are idiomatic phrases. Look: "pull your finger out!"

Ana and Paula: What does that mean?

Josef: (*laughing*) to make more effort - that's what I need to do!

Ana: Yes, me too!

Paula: It's funny isn't it? We all seem to have completely different ways of studying and learning.

Josef: Yes, but that's normal when you think about it. Everybody's different - hang on a minute -
(*sound of pages being turned*)

Josef: Where's that snail? Ah yes: "one man's meat is another man's poison"!

Ana and Paula: (*laughing*) What?

Josef: One man's meat is another man's poison - what's good for one person doesn't have to be good for somebody else.

Paula: Exactly! Anyway, who's coming to the party on Friday?