

THE METHOD OF LEARNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE WITH SMARTPHONES

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*“Anything can change, because the smartphone
revolution is still in the early stages.”*

Tim Cook

Abstract: *This article introduces the definition of the world of smartphones and the reason behind their spreading around the globe. Moreover, this article discusses several ways that learners and teachers may implement smartphones into English language learning process. This paper mentions methods of interactive activities, learning with the help of recording and taking pictures and the method of notifications.*

Key words: *technology, smartphones, method, student, learner, task, camera, voice recorder, vocabulary, SMS.*

The beginning of the XXI century is considered to be the starting point of technology development with implementation of various types of devices, such as smartphones, laptops, tablets and personal computers. All of the mentioned devices work as tools to make humans' work simpler and to make life more comfortable than it was before. Living in a digital world and communicating with people mostly on the Web, the question among teachers and methodologists naturally arises: "What should we do with education?" Definitely, the world is changing so fast and educational approaches are meant to be changed by time. First of all, let's define the term smartphone. Smartphone is a mobile phone that performs most of the functions of a personal computer. These general functions are interface, internet access and an operating system which enables a user of this smartphone to download applications and games. That's why learning English language with the help of mobile devices (in our case, smartphones) is very beneficial. Potentially, the positive impact of smartphones on English language learning was researched by a number of scientists and was proven to be true. To start with, the first benefit of smartphones in learning is that it is accessible everywhere and at any time, which makes the educational process less difficult. Another benefit that has to be considered is the way mobile devices make the process of exploring a language more enjoyable with interactive games and, most importantly, visuals that smartphones can offer. Therefore, there are several methods that can be used in a classroom with students. Almost all learners nowadays have a working and of a new model smartphone with access to the Internet. In addition, most learning centres have Wi-Fi access in the area of

theirs. The first method that can be applied by a teacher during English language class is the integration of tasks performed in every student's smartphone and accessed instantly there. For instance, there is a task named "spot the difference". It is conducted by the following steps. To start with, the teacher sends students several pictures via social media or by email, by one picture to each group divided by a teacher himself/ herself. Every group has to describe the picture to each other and they should guess the difference between pictures in a group chat or Google Classroom. By the help of this task, the learners can develop listening and speaking skills, build communicative and group work skills. At the same time, digital devices like smartphones are being actively used during lessons. Another method that is as effective as the first one is considered to be learning English language with the help of a smartphone's recorder and a camera. A sound recorder is an application used to record one's voice for future purposes of repeating and remembering it. For example, learners may record their voices and share the recording with other group mates or friends to have peer feedback and objective opinion on student's capabilities. Recording and listening to the learner's voice is considered to be a perfect tool for building a proper pronunciation. Another useful side of sound recorder is that it can provide facilities to integrate the recordings into language projects that are, again, may be completed with the help of smartphones. Whereas a smartphone's camera may work as a thing to provide learners' grammar development. As an example of this task we can provide the task that is given to students by most teachers around the world. The task consists of steps where the student should take pictures of words and sentences written in an English language in a span of a week and submit all these pictures during the class. In this task, the smartphone acts as a language learning tool as well as the proof of finished work by the students. The third method that this article is going to open up about is named the method of enlarging English vocabulary with the help of smartphones. As a result of a study conducted by Kennedy and Levy(2008), students who took part in a research showed better results at the range of vocabulary than those who did not participate in the study. The research was based on the following things. The teachers provided students with the SMS texts that contained 10 new English words every day until the research was finished. Even if students did not really show interest in the texts and new words at first, they did remember the words naturally by seeing those SMS texts every day. Smartphones worked as notifications and alarms for students' brains to understand that an English language is a part of their lives. According to West (2012) technologies of mobile learning have the potential to transform the educational field in favor of learners as the ability of students to have access on the internet using their smartphones, tablets or laptops create great learning opportunities for them in different respects. The beginning of the change, however, starts with the learner himself/ herself. What about teachers, it is important for them to identify main principles of mixing the educational side of learning with enjoyable side that can be reached with the help of smartphones. The digital world may have its own weak spots, but still it is a huge

step in humanity and the crucial tool in a modern educational process. How fast its importance will be understood depends solely on teachers and students who take the path of English language learning process.

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