

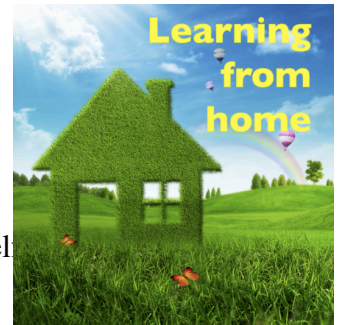
Talk to yourself in English

Most students are spending time alone these days.

Here are some easy ways to practice English. Use these ideas.

Talk to yourself *silently* in English. This follows the units in

English Firsthand 1.



Unit 1 – Introductions. Turn on the TV but turn off the sound. Find a show where people are doing things – like a drama. If you were meeting them, what would you ask? What would you say about yourself ("Hi, I'm (name). I'm a student at (school's name)./ What do you do? ...").

Unit 2 – Describing people. Look at people on TV or in a magazine.

In your mind, describe their clothing, hair, etc. ("He's wearing a purple shirt, jeans and sunglasses. He has medium-length hair. He's cute! ...").

Unit 3 – Schedules and routines. Think about your schedule today. Was it typical? ("I got up at 7:00. That's what I usually do. Today I had a new partner in English class. I hardly ever talk to her."). What is the same/ different than before the virus?

Unit 4 – Locations. Descriptions of places Look around your neighborhood. In your mind, describe the buildings/places you see. ("That building is green. Actually, it is kind of an ugly shade of green. There's an old house with a blue roof. ...").

Unit 5 – Giving directions. Think about the way you used to go to school. Imagine your bus is a taxi. In your mind, you are giving the taxi driver directions in English ("Turn right at the next corner. See that signal? Turn left there.").

Unit 6 – The past Think about everything you did today. How many different verbs can you use? ("I ate toast and drank coffee for breakfast. I took a shower and washed my hair....").

Unit 7 – Jobs, abilities and interests. Look at people or places on TV or in a magazine. What jobs do you imagine the people do? What abilities do they need? ("She's beautiful. She could be a model. A model has to be able to look good all the time. There is a doctor's office. A doctor has to have a license...").

Unit 8 – Invitations. In your mind, think of all the ways you know to invite people. Then look at TV or a magazine. Imagine all the people are your friends. What would you like to invite each person to do? Think of what you would say in English. ("Hi. Would you like to play tennis this afternoon? How about going to a movie?").

Unit 9 – The future. Think about first weekend when you can go out again. What do you want to do? Use as many verbs as you can. ("I'm going to meet my friends Saturday night? Maybe we'll go to (place)...."). OR • Think about your life in 5, 10, 20 years into the future. What is your dream in English? What little things can you do TODAY to help make that dream come true. (Someday, I'll travel around the world. Having good English will help me. Today I am practicing by thinking of English sentences right now!...").

Unit 10 – Shopping. Look at a magazine with advertisements. How many things can you think of that the store sells? ("There's a stationery store. They sell notebooks, pens, mechanical pencils, erasers,...").

Unit 11 – Process (how to do things) Think of things you know how to do or foods you can make. In your mind, give the directions in English. ("This is how to make cup noodle. First, boil water. Then...").

Unit 12 – Music Try listening to English songs. Really pay attention to the words. If you need extra help, you can usually find the words on the internet. Search for: (song title) lyrics. ("Lyrics = song's words). Think of a song in Japanese. How would you explain it in English?

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