

Year 7&8 Ideas to Improve in English

Throughout the year Years 7 & Year 8 complete a variety of assessments, based on a combination of reading and writing skills.

Below are some ideas to support students who found particular skills difficult.

Assessments (Year 7/Year 8)	How to Practice At Home
Reading Skills - Fairytale/Sherlock Holmes - Selection of Poetry/Frankenstein - Wuthering Heights/Richard III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When reading, ask yourself ‘what is the writer trying to make me think or feel about this character/situation?’; • Create 10 questions about the ideas in the text and then try to answer them; • Summarise the ideas of the text in 50 words.
Writing Skills - Twisted Fairytale/Mystery Story Opening - Dramatic Writing/Gothic Setting Description - Holiday Brochure/Identities in 2020s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a combination of non-fiction writing styles. Write your own piece of non-fiction; • Choose a topic that interests you and produce a newspaper. Annotate your work for facts, statistics, opinions and the 5 W’s; • Take a photo of something that interests you and describe it in 100 words. Annotate for similes, metaphors, exciting adjectives etc.
Literature Essay (PEE Skills) - Beowulf/Sherlock Holmes - Blake Poetry/Frankenstein Outsider Essay - The Tempest/Richard III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read two books from the same genre. Create a list of the similarities and/or differences between the texts; • Read an extract from a book. Pick out 3 important ideas and the quotes that demonstrate them; • Choose 3 quotes from your book and try to identify a key-word or technique that has been used.

Five Ideas to Improve your English

- **Check your notes!** Read over your class notes and highlight the key ideas. Ask your teacher about anything you are unsure of when re-reading your own work.
- **Do your home learning!** Engage with the centralised home learning tasks on Google Classroom and push yourself to complete at least one Stretch and Challenge task per half term.
- **Develop The Passion!** You can never become good at English without the passion to succeed. Have fun while learning new words and think of it as entertainment. Even if it's not the subject you'd give the best preference, you should still try to develop a passion at the very least.
- **Keep A Journal!** Write random jokes, stories and articles, or even pictures with wordings you like or collect them and keep them together in a single place. Be constant in your writings and make sure that you don't run out of writing instruments.
- **Visit Websites!** Below is a selection of some online resources, including games, to improve spelling, vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. Some sites have games/apps which can be downloaded to a mobile phone.

[Simple spelling rules and tips](#)

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/words/spelling-rules-and-tips>

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/spelling.htm>

Games to help students learn to spell the words most commonly misspelt in Year 7.

<http://www.what2learn.com/content/samples/Literacy/literacy.htm>

An excellent selection of games to improve many subjects from BBC bitesize for Key Stage 3.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/game/>

Good spellers might like to take on Hard Spell, a game against the clock which is more challenging. http://www.bbc.co.uk/hardspell/starspell_game.shtml<http://www.kidsspell.com/>

Rules for English grammar and punctuation

http://www.grammarbook.com/english_rules.asp

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

Book Blogs DogEared – Dog Eared is a National Geographic book blog written by kids for kids.

The blog offers reviews, book recommendations, and a book of the month feature

<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/blog/dogearred/>