

# How to Succeed in Learning English in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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## **Abstract**

Nowadays, the changes in the world result socially and globally in people's lifestyle development, communication, learning, and other. This kind of development leads to learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which includes the main principles and concepts to help create, promote and support better learning. However, the most important link of interpersonal communication is still the use of English as an international language. The author believes that all learners wish, intend, hope and try to find effective learning strategies that can lead themselves to succeed in learning English. Therefore, the author recommends the 15 effective English learning as follows: 1) Finding strengths and weaknesses as well as corrections, 2) Setting goals, 3) Changing attitudes, 4) Creating opportunities, 5) Finding fellow friends, 6) Practicing, 7) Being self-confident, 8) Doing favorite activities, 9) Imitating a role model, 10) Doing imagination practice, 11) Learning from teachers, 12) Having fun with learning, 13) Using online media and technology, 14) Making friends with English-speaking people, and 15) Traveling abroad.

**Keywords:** Successful Learning, Effective English Learning Strategies, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, English Learning,

## **Introduction**

Thailand has adopted the principles of learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as part of the policy movement in the Thai educational field. In the learners' context, they are required to possess the 3Rs x 8Cs features, as identified by the Education Council (2016), which states that the Thai children's features in the 21<sup>st</sup> century consist of 3Rs, i.e. reading, writing and arithmetic abilities, and 8Cs, i.e. critical thinking and solving-problem skill, creativity and innovation skill, collaboration teamwork and leadership skill, cross-cultural understanding skill, communication, information and media literacy skill, computing and media literacy skill, career and learning self-reliance skill, and compassion skill. The author believes that the features aforementioned enable learners to be well-qualified in all aspects of life. They will certainly become quality citizens and help develop the country in the future. Thus, the author would like to propose the effective English learning strategies for Thai students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as follows:

### **1. Finding strengths and weaknesses as well as corrections**

The strengths and weaknesses in this paper do not belong to any specific person. That is, strengths refer to learners' existing good points, whereas weaknesses mean any of the existing points that need improving. Corrections are any process used by learners for improving their weaknesses, or for enhancing their strengths. This vital method enables learners to know and find appropriate means to improve themselves. What we can do is as follows. First, take notes on paper, computers, or any other equipment by dividing them into two parts: strengths and weaknesses as well as corrections. Second, write mind maps of self-improvement by listing strengths, weaknesses and corrections under sub-topics. This will help learners see details more clearly. Third, spend time with yourself considering and revising your strengths and weaknesses. The length of time spent on this activity