

Dear student,

Writing in good and idiomatic English is the key to getting a good mark in your final exams. You will be expected to rephrase news articles and to express your views as accurately as possible without making any mistakes. You should therefore seriously work on your grammar and gradually master the vocabulary most commonly used in the press. Two hours a week is not enough to make progress: you will need to put in extra time working on your own. So why not start now and make the best of your summer to brush up your English!

Most of the texts you will have to deal with throughout the next two years will be about the recent news. You should keep abreast with what is going on in the world by reading, watching and listening to the news. Here are a few events and topics you can already look into:

- Brexit and the future of the European Union
- Immigration to Europe
- The polarisation of politics in the US and the UK
- The Trump presidency
- Fake news, « alternative facts » and growing distrust of mainstream media outlets
- The growing power of tech companies
- Climate change
- etc.

All newspapers now have a website. You can skim through the pages of *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Irish Times* etc.

Here's a list of useful links to listen to the radio:

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/ (a website designed for people learning English as a foreign language, it can be a useful tool to work on your own especially if you find it difficult to understand authentic radio programmes)

www.npr.fr (you can often download the transcript of the radio programme on this site) www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/ (a reference in the UK)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldserviceradio/programmes/a-z> (if you are looking for long programmes on a specific topic)

But you can also work on your English in a more relaxed way by watching TV series (*The Tudors*, *Homeland*, *Treme*, *Mad Men*, *Downton Abbey*, *The Wire*, *Show me a Hero*, *True Detective*, *Taboo*, *Peaky Blinders*, *The Crown*, *Years and years*, *Chernobyl* etc.) and films (start with subtitles in English — or even in French — to help you understand) or by reading novels...

Three things you MUST do before our first lesson together:

1. Buy the following vocabulary book by September, you will use it throughout the year.

Thompson Jean-Max, *The Big Picture – Vocabulaire anglais de l'actualité*, Ellipses (Collection Optimum) 4e édition

2. Revise your irregular verbs. You will be tested on them in September.

To have access to the list, send me an email at alexiane.sutton@ac-versailles.fr (Please mention your : LAST NAME First Name Class in the following order in the title).

3. Take the attached test « Clarifying the basics... » and work on any grammar point you might still find confusing in the test.

HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!