



The Benefits and Drawbacks of Learning English Online

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ABSTRACT

Learning English is not an easy feat. We used to travel long distances to learn English from the best English teachers when we were younger. We may now study English without leaving our homes by using the internet; all we need is reliable internet access. As we all know, there are several advantages to studying English online, yet there are drawbacks if we do so incorrectly.

I utilized a quantitative research technique to identify the advantages and disadvantages of online English learning. First, I used Google Forms to determine the most pertinent 15 questions for participants, which took approximately three months, and I obtained 95 responses out of 100 surveys on the benefits and drawbacks of online English learning. By extensively investigating the replies, we can appropriately establish the weightiness of the pros and cons of studying English on the internet.

Although technology and multimedia make it easier to study English, there are advantages and problems due to poor internet usage. According to research, there are a plethora of advantages we may reap if we apply the right implications of using internet resources to learn any language, not only English. Without a doubt, if we exploited the internet in the wrong way, there would be a slew of bad consequences for our society as a whole.



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INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, even a child knows how to surf the internet. The world community typically refers to themselves as cybercitizens or netizens, and they can communicate, get information, and study any language via the internet simply by touching their smart phones with just their fingertips. Without a universal language like English, there will be barriers and hindrances to progressing in life. This is why learning English is essential. An unprecedented language revolution has been sparked by the Internet. Regularly reading content in the language is one of

the most important factors in learning the English language. The Internet provides a wide range of content that can help people develop the habit of regularly reading content in their language. Several of the English learning websites offer computer simulations with a stimulus for skill development through the internet, giving learners a focus for oral activity and various scenarios for them to discuss. Moreover, grammar and vocabulary need to be taught in meaningful contexts, and the Internet offers such a platform. The internet allows students to communicate with people around the world in English as well as explore "the real world" and learn in a unique way. No matter what topic you are looking for, you can always find content on the internet, even if you do not have access to current English books or newspapers. It is possible to practice one's English language learning by reading books, listening to audiobooks, or watching streaming movies and TV shows.

I estimate that many researchers have focused both on the pros and cons of learning English online. Research on this topic can only be done through quantitative research, as online surveys are either conducted with individual teachers and students or with schools and language institutions. Despite the immense value of online English study, nothing is immune to negativity as well as enthusiasm. Most academics always talk about the good aspects of the internet's advantages, but there is a missing component of the negatives in their studies. It all depends on whether internet users adopt it efficiently or ineffectively. That is why I am conducting this valuable research so that we may think about and contemplate the position of duality in the benefits and drawbacks of learning English on the internet.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Benefits

English teaching methodology could be revolutionized by the arrival of the Internet. English learners can access useful language resources and connect directly with native English speakers through internet technology, which has a global reach and offers extensive international resources.

Researchers have found that using the Internet increases language use and second language acquisition (Kasanga, 1996). For example, Researchers have found that interaction in language helps language learners learn. More specifically. Besides providing synchronous and asynchronous communication opportunities, it also helps ESL learners become proficient in the use of their language in real-life situations. In other words, the Internet motivates learners to use English in their daily lives and provides functional communication experiences (LeLoup and Ponterio, 1997). Communication with native speakers allows learners to practice certain skills such as negotiation, persuasion, clarifying meaning, asking for information, and participating in real and authentic discussions. Additionally, the Internet offers the opportunity to build knowledge together via self-expression, and then the ability to assess, evaluate, compare and reflect on their own and others' perspectives (Warschauer, 1997). In short, it is a useful way to communicate with native speakers in real-life situations, and to improve writing skills, culture education and target culture recognition. In the context of learning a second language online, access to and use of information is a platform for assisting students in creating essays, stories, poems, and other creative works and providing additional language activities in certain areas of learning. In addition, the Internet facilitates higher-order thinking skills by assisting students in

extending both their computer skills and Internet searching, as well as their conceptual and technical proficiency. It boosts participation when used in the classroom. For example, This method has been shown to increase the number of sentences a student produces over a classroom setting, as well as improve the quality of their speech: students use a variety of speech and their vocabulary grows with time. Various research activities show that the Internet changes the interaction between learners and teachers: there is less conversation between the teacher and a greater number of students in computer classes. In addition, it changes the role of the teacher and students and makes learning more student-centered. The Internet is a source of additional resources and original documents (Graus, 1999). The Internet is also proving to be an effective method for motivating students, facilitating their creative work and allowing them to collaborate and socialize while learning. Repeatedly, according to the classification of Passov (1991), intrinsic and extrinsic motivation are distinguished in the study of a foreign language, and the so-called broad social as well as personal motivation, related to the prospect of personality development, belongs to extrinsic motivation. As Petrovskaya and Rymanova's(2014) research on the motivation to study a foreign language at a higher professional education institution shows, 34% of Survey respondents indicated a potential opportunity to communicate with overseas colleagues on professional matters online in the future. This factor belongs to the motivation associated with the perspective of personal development, that is to say the training and development of professional skills. But in one aspect of our research, the intrinsic motivation is of great importance where we refer to the communicative motivation as well as the motivation resulting from the actual educational activity (operational and instrumental motivation) (Malinina, 2014). The results of the same research by Petrovskaya and Rymanova(2014) also show that motivational communication using modern information technologies (chats, forums, email, etc.) plays an important role; And 55% of respondents referred to this component of communicative motivation in the study of the English language. In the area of engaging operational tools, 58% of respondents study English in order to have the opportunity to see original language scholarly texts and articles in their disciplines online, presented in greater numbers in English. In this regard, it has been proven by research that students Often, they stop their choice on elective courses, that is to say professional English courses. In addition, the availability of Wi-Fi zones in an educational institution also creates favorable and attractive conditions for studying English. The use of networked computers can improve students' writing skills. Foreign language teachers can utilize e-mail to enhance their curriculum(Hertel, 2003). If participants have access to equipment and foreign contacts, international key pal projects, such as those that let students correspond with native speakers of the target language, are readily available.

According to previous studies, internet technologies provide equal learning opportunities to all (Lamy & Goodfellow, 1999; Ortega, 1997; Warschauer, 2000).

Drawbacks

A review of the research indicates that the use of the Internet in second language learning has certain disadvantages. Firstly, communication with native speakers negatively affects reading skills. The same applies to listening, speaking, and writing skills. Despite the fact that the Internet improves communication and language skills, the fact is that teachers and learners sometimes do not realize why, how, to whom and where they are teaching and learning. Secondly, although a wide range of material can be found on the Internet, integrating the

material into second language curricula presents a potential difficulty. Thirdly, unfortunately, using the Internet for language learning and teaching can be a waste of time if not based on the language curriculum. Since the Internet offers all kinds of subjects, some of them are not suitable for school children who are learning English as a second language. Although serious precautions are taken today, it remains a significant problem for parents and children (Singhal, 1997). Lastly, the increasing amount of information usually confuses learners when trying to access specific information. (Chafe, 1999).

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research was employed in this research study to investigate the benefits and drawbacks of learning English on the internet.

Description of Participants of the Study

Participants in the Data Survey are both male and female, aged 15 to 41 and above, of Myanmar, Chinese, Indian, and other ethnicities who primarily live there, and either one of them is a high school student or college student, or the majority of educational professionals with degrees ranging from high school graduates to doctorate levels. Figures (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)

Female replies outweigh male responders 42 to 53 out of the 95 people surveyed. This suggests that men participate more than women. Figure (1)

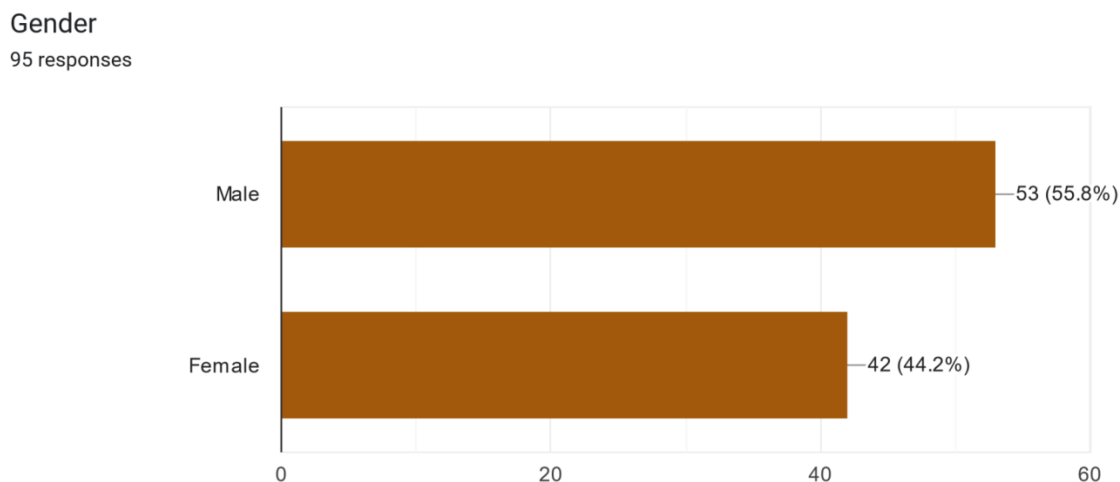


Figure (1)

There are 40 participants between the ages of 15 and 20. The 21-30 year olds have 29, the 31-40 year olds have 17, and the above 41 year olds have only 9. Young people are looking forward to the survey. Figure (2)

Age

95 responses

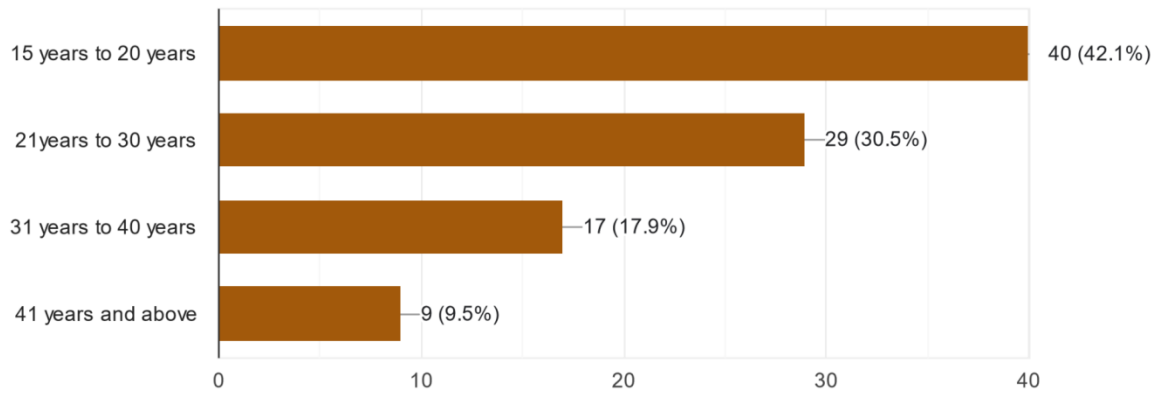


Figure (2)

The bulk of the population is made up of Myanmar, Chinese, and Indians. It is made up of 54.70% Myanmar, 23.20% Indian, 18.90% Chinese, and the remaining 3.20%. Myanmar was the most active as a consequence. Figure (3)

Ethnicity

95 responses

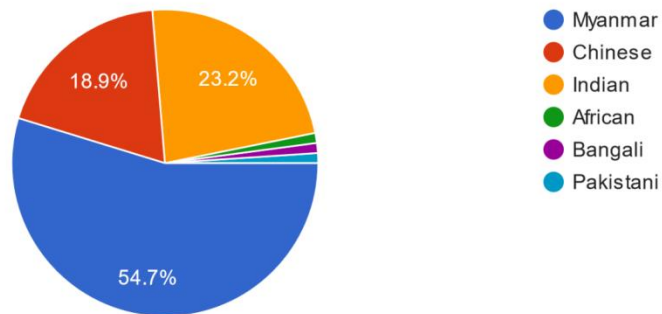


Figure (3)

The survey respondents comprise 40% high school graduates, 23.20% Master Degree holders, 18.90% Bachelor Degree holders, 15.80% Diploma holders, and the remainder are doctorates. That is, high school students were more enthusiastic about learning English online. Figure (1.5)

Education Level

95 responses

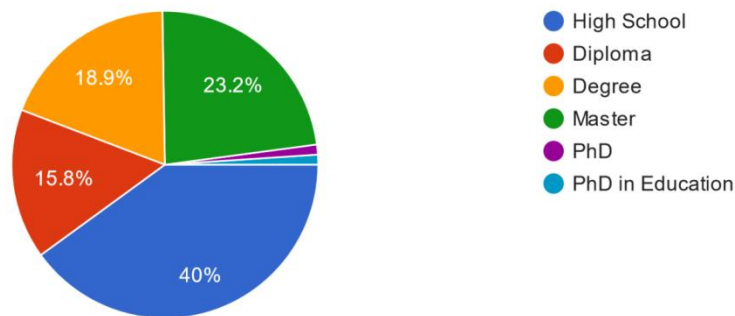


Figure (4)

The poll respondents' primary occupations include 38 high school students, 26 college students, and 27 postgraduate students, as well as two writers, one educator, and one editor. The majority of high school students are eager to discuss both the advantages and disadvantages of learning English online. Figure (5)

Primary Occupation

95 responses

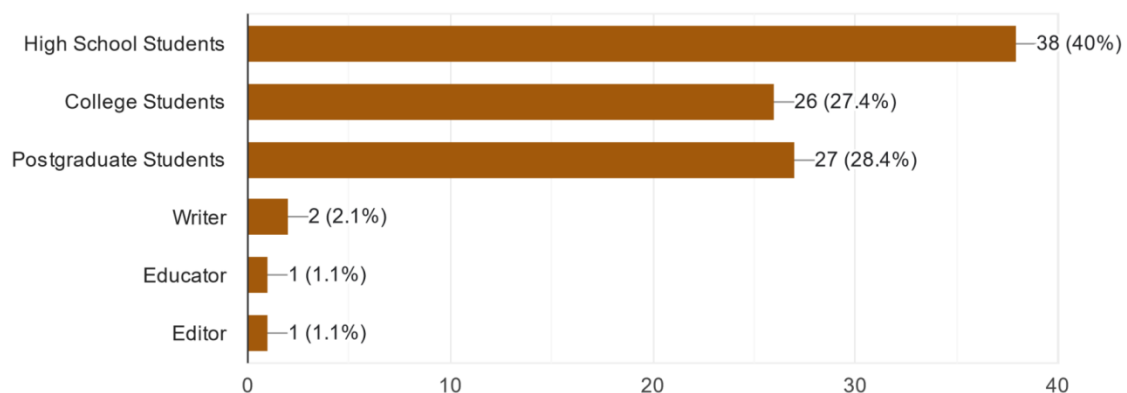


Figure (5)

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION (TREATMENT) AND/OR DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND MATERIALS

English students were asked about the advantages and disadvantages of learning English on the internet. I used Google Form to choose and create 15 acceptable questions for the 100 participants, and I sent the link to each of them through email.

For the survey, we used a 5-point Likert scale with respondents stating their degree of agreement with the following statement.: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neutral; (4) Agree; (5) Agree strongly. (Appendix)

Detailed and Descriptive Data Collection Procedure

Due to time restrictions, the majority of participants did not respond immediately after the Questionnaire survey was sent out. I extended their time. I received only 35 responses over the course of a month. Then I scheduled another month, informing them that I needed to get enough responses. I received 50 more responses in the second month. It took over three months to complete the survey, and I finally received 95 out of 100 responses.

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

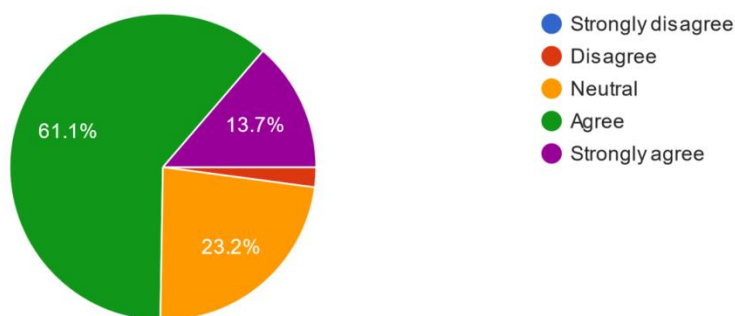
The quantitative research was conducted using Google Forms, and the following are the analytical data findings:

Question 1: The majority of people agree (61.10% Agree + Strongly Agree 13.70%) = 74.80%. (See Pie Chart 1.1.)

Almost 75% of participants believe they can learn English at home comfortably. 23.20% were indifferent, while several were confused what to say, and just 2% were fully opposed to studying English online.

Learn English from the comfort of your own home.

95 responses

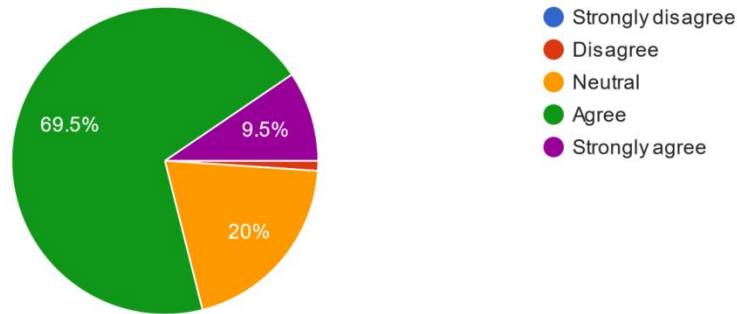


Pie Chart 1.1

Question 2: 20% Neutral, a little bit Disagree. 69.50% Agree + 9.50% Strongly Agree= 79% (Pie Chart 1.2). As a consequence, the majority accepts to utilize numerous resources for online English study at the same time.

You can use multiple English resources simultaneously.

95 responses



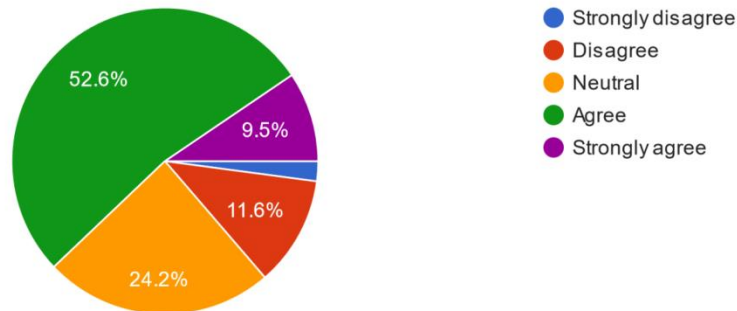
Pie Chart 1.2

Question 3: 24.20% are Neutral. 11.60% Disagree and slightly Strongly disagree. 52.60% Agree + Strongly Agree 9.50% = 62.10% (Pie Chart 1.3).

Aside from being fairly unbiased, the majority of participants believe they can practice their English abilities with native English speakers.

You are able to practice your skills with native speakers.

95 responses

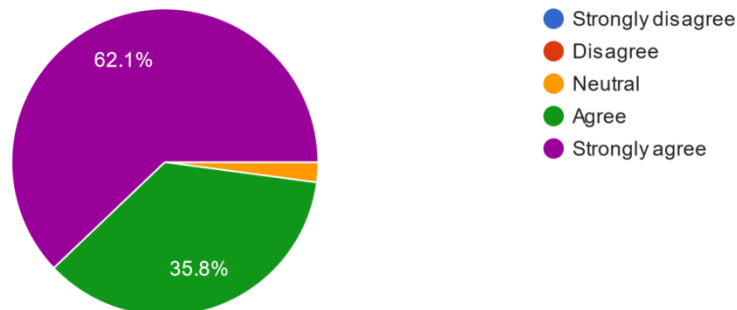


Pie Chart 1.3

Question 4: A little bit Neutral. Mostly accepts 35.80% Agree + 62.10% Strongly Agree = 97.90% (Pie Chart 1.4). Almost all of the participants were urged to listen to news and music in general in order to enhance their online listening skills.

If you wish to improve your listening skills, you can listen to news, such as BBC, VOA, and CNN, and you can also listen to music, songs, and speeches.

95 responses

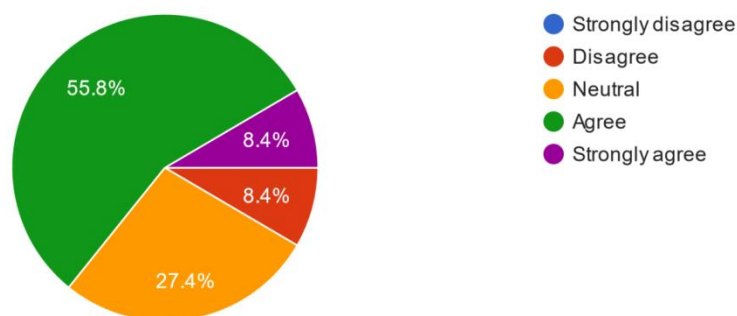


Pie Chart 1.4

Question 5: 8.40% Disagree and 27.40% Neutral. More than fifty percentage of participants accept 55.80% Agree + 8.40% Strongly Agree = 64.20% (Pie Chart 1.5). Despite the fact that some participants are indifferent, more than 64% were picked to practice English speaking with the elites through the internet.

The internet is also an option for you to practice speaking English with experts.

95 responses



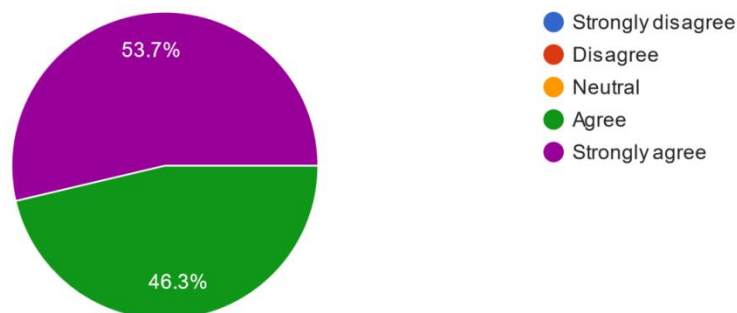
Pie Chart 1.5

Question 6: All participants accept 46.30% Agree + 53.70% Strongly Agree = 100% (Pie Chart 1.6). All of the respondents agreed that reading online papers and other online English literature

is the best approach to enhance their reading skills.

You can read newspapers, novels, and short stories to improve your reading abilities.

95 responses

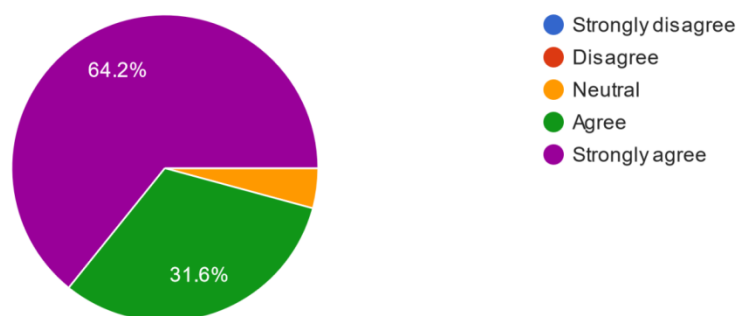


Pie Chart 1.6

Question 7: Slightly Neutral. Mostly accepts 31.50% Agree + 64.20% Strongly Agree = 95.80% (Pie Chart 1.7). The majority of participants feel that reading and repeating other students' essays on the internet helps their writing.

English learning online allows you to improve your writing skills by reading and repeating other English learners' essays.

95 responses

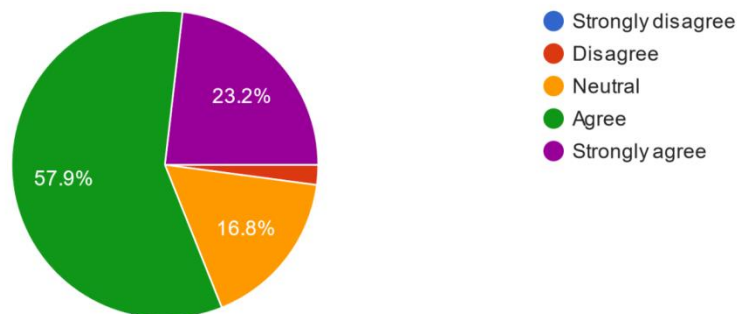


Pie Chart 1.7

Question 8: Less Disagree and 16.80% Neutral . Mostly accepts 57.90% Agree + 23.20% Strongly Agree = 81.10% (Pie Chart 1.8). The majority agreed that they could study at their own Speed online.

You can study English online at your own pace.

95 responses

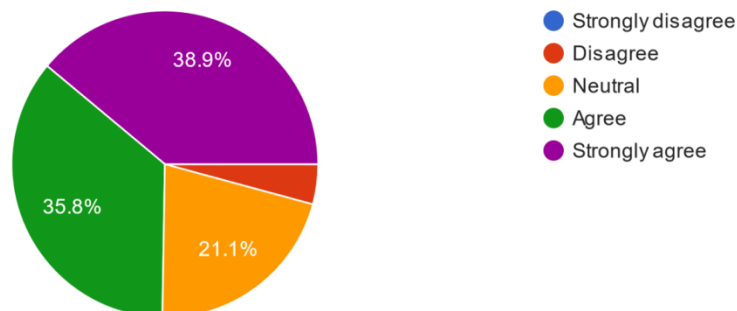


Pie Chart 1.8

Question 9: Less Disagree and 21.10% Neutral. Mostly accepts 35.80% Agree + 38.90% Strongly Agree = 74.70% (Pie Chart 1.9). With the exception of the displeased and neutral, about 75% are willing to spend more time fixing their mistakes, learning new terms, and writing in English online.

With English learning online, you can spend more time correcting your weaknesses, be it in vocabulary or writing.

95 responses



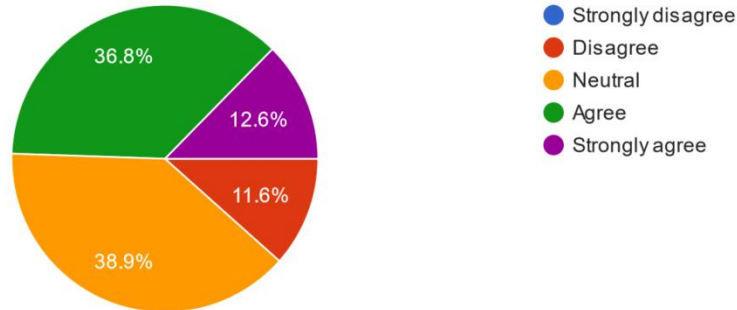
Pie Chart 1.9

Question 10: 11.60% Disagree and 38.90% Neutral. 36.80% Agree + 12.60 % Strongly Agree = 49.40% (Pie Chart 1.10). Almost half of the respondents said that online English learning had

numerous advantages over traditional classroom instruction.

English learning online offers many benefits over traditional classroom learning.

95 responses

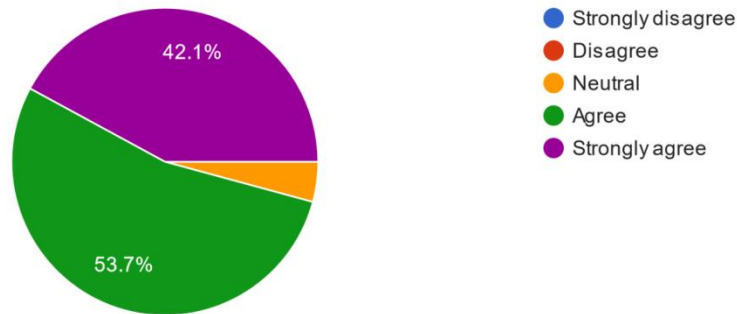


Pie Chart 1.10

Question 11: Rarely Neutral. 53.70% Agree + 42.10% Strongly Agree =95.8% (Pie Chart 1.11). When we removed the neutral, over 96% agreed that spending too much time in front of a computer screen was hazardous.

Spending too much time sitting in front of a computer screen can be harmful.

95 responses

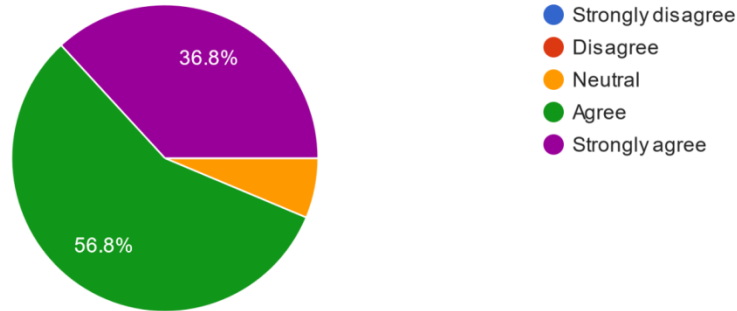


Pie Chart 1.11

Question 12: 8.30% Neutral. Mostly 56.80% Agree + 36.80 % Strongly Agree =93.60% (Pie Chart 1.12). Almost 94% agreed that online learning required consciousness and time management and that it reduced the opportunity to communicate with others.

Online learning requires self-discipline and time management skills and diminishes social interaction.

95 responses

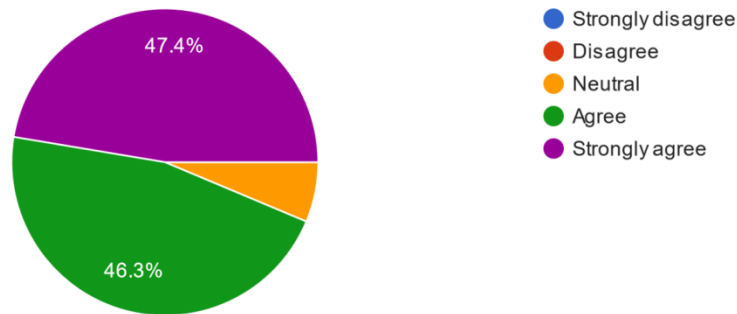


Pie Chart 1.12

Question 13: With the exception of the slightly neutral, majority accepts 46.30% Agree + 47.40 % Strongly Agree =93.70% (Pie Chart 1.13). The majority of respondents agreed that online English learning may distract them from whatever they were studying since they could utilize all of their smart gadgets to flip between games and entertainments.

Online English learning can be used on smart phones and laptops, where you can easily switch to games or videos or YouTube as entertainment. This completely diverts them from subject studies.

95 responses

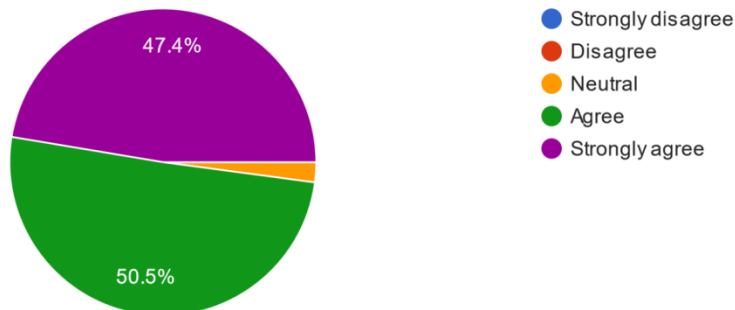


Pie Chart 1.13

Question 14: Rarely Neutral. Mostly accepts 50.50% Agree + 47.40 % Strongly Agree =97.90% (Pie Chart 1.14). Most of them agreed that there are several advantages to online learning owing to its flexibility and lack of location preferences, but they must spend more money on a strong internet connection.

It is well known that the advantages of online learning are that they are flexible and available from anywhere with a good internet connection. You will ...oney in order to get the best internet connection.

95 responses

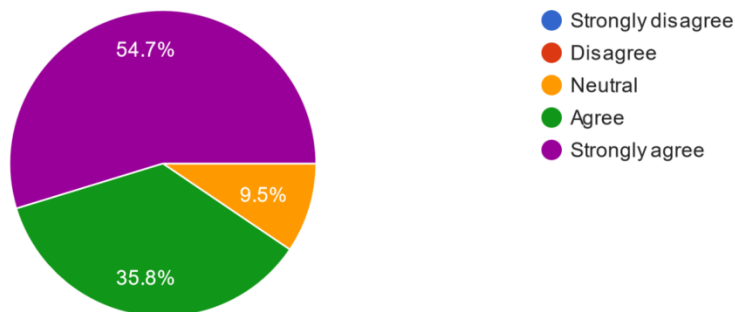


Pie Chart 1.14

Question 15: 9.50 % of Neutral. Mostly accepts 35.80% Agree + 54.70 % Strongly Agree =90.50% (Pie Chart 1.15). More than 90% agreed that individuals abused the internet by visiting improper websites rather than studying English online.

Lastly, be careful that you do not misuse the internet by visiting inappropriate websites rather than learning English.

95 responses



Pie Chart 1.15

MISCONCEPTION

According to my knowledge, the majority of research focused on the advantages of using the Internet to learn English rather than the misuse, disadvantages, and other negative aspects of using the Internet.

Although the Internet allows us to become fluent in all four micro-skills of English, English learners might over-rely on new technology, which makes them forget vocabulary and grammatical rules, which are crucial parts of learning any language.

LIMITATIONS

I recently polled 100 people of varying levels. It is also exclusively available to online English learners from Myanmar. If we provide additional time and respondents complete the poll, I may gain more detailed and useful data about the advantages and disadvantages of online English learning. Additionally, expanding the survey to additional Asian countries will provide more realistic statistics on real-world online English learning challenges.

CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is a descriptive and quantitative research design in which measurable data from a population sample is sought for statistical analysis. As a consequence, we can clearly and properly define our sample members' individual quantitative models. Except for questions 3, 5, and 10, the majority of respondents agreed on a percentage between 75 and 100. Thus, we presume and conclude that studying English online is more beneficial than harmful. (Participants' Responses by Percentage Table.1 and Histogram.1)

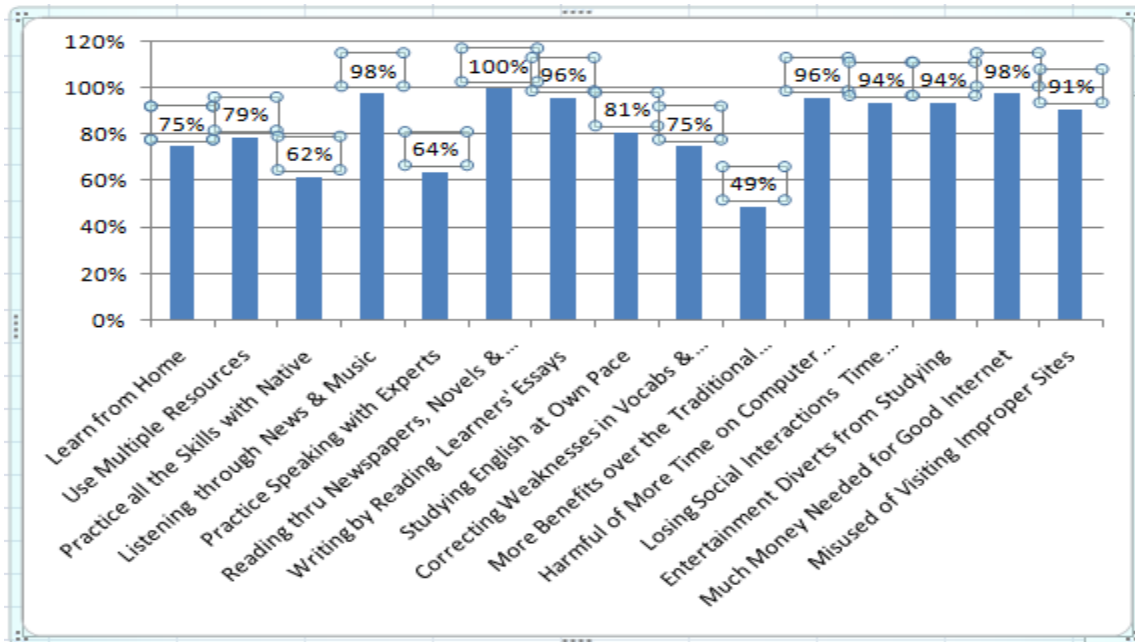
The majority of participants anticipated that the main benefit would be that they could learn English on the internet from the comfort of their own homes. The majority of the participants were able to access various English materials online at the same time. 62% of participants said they could practice all of the skills with native speakers, whereas 24% were unsure if they could practice such abilities over the internet or not. The majority of respondents said they would listen to news, music, songs, and speeches on the internet. 64% agreed completely to practice speaking English with professionals online, but 27% remained neutral. Respondents volunteered to read newspapers, novels, and short stories online in order to enhance their reading abilities. The majority of participants thought that reading and repeating other English learners' writings on the internet would help them improve their writing abilities. They, too, agreed to study English online at their own speed. The majority believed that by studying English online, students would be able to spend more time fixing shortcomings such as vocabulary and writing. Almost 40% of respondents were unsure if online learning has many advantages over traditional classroom instruction. However, half of them were confident of the advantages of studying English on the internet.

In terms of negatives, the majority believed that spending too much time in front of a computer screen was hazardous. They also underlined the importance of self-discipline and time management skills over online learning and the lack of social engagement. Although online

English learning may be done on smart digital devices, the majority of students are diverted from their studies by entertainment programs. The majority of respondents favorably cited the benefits of online learning, which are flexible and accessible from anywhere with a decent internet connection, but the disadvantage is that they must pay a lot of money to have the best internet connection. Finally, they cautioned students not to abuse the internet by accessing improper websites instead of studying English.

Table 1: Participants' Responses by Percentage

Questionnaire responded by Participants	Agreeable Percentage
Learn from Home	75%
Use Multiple Resources	79%
Practice all the Skills with Native	62%
Listening through News & Music	98%
Practice Speaking with Experts	64%
Reading thru Newspapers, Novels & Stories	100%
Writing by Reading Learners' Essays	96%
Studying English at Own Pace	81%
Correcting Weaknesses in Vocabs & Writing	75%
More Benefits over the Traditional Classroom	49%
Harmful of More Time on Computer Screen	96%
Losing Social Interactions Time Management	94%
Entertainment Diverts from Studying	94%
Much Money Needed for Good Internet	98%
Misused of Visiting Improper Sites	91%



Histogram 1: Participants' Responses by Percentage

The internet can be used very effectively and wisely to improve one's English, as long as the user knows how to use it. With the help of the Internet, there are a lot of different ways to become more fluent in English. For example, one can practice his English language learning by reading books or newspaper articles, listening to the radio, and watching TV and film streaming videos online. The internet can create an English classroom without walls. The Internet can help shape your language studies, such as learning about holidays, a trip, a career, or any type of related information, to name a few. One can learn about new cultures, places, and countries as he can access as many cultures as he likes with a click of the mouse.

Through live communication, one can communicate with native English speakers and spend quality time with them. He can practice speaking and writing English. And if he makes a mistake, a lot of willing native English speakers can correct it.

Internet usage problems occur mainly due to unavailability, insufficient internet access, computer anxiety, teacher inexperience, students, and some financial obligations. It may be possible to teach and learn a second language via the Internet, but these issues cannot be solved by that alone. In other words, it cannot encompass all teaching and learning activities and replace the actual teaching and learning environment, such as language classes and real-world communication. Therefore, it is only a tool for educational activities. However, it could imply that the research on this issue is not yet over. There are numerous issues concerning the use of the internet in language learning and teaching, including the attitudes of learners and teachers towards it, individual differences in using the internet, effective ways to use it, and the appropriateness of educational and instructive materials used on the internet and their impact on teaching and learning. Finally, it can be said that technology is not a goal but merely a tool for all human necessities. The Internet can complement the teacher because it offers greater possibilities for language input, thus enhancing language learning.

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QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY ON BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF LEARNING ENGLISH ONLINE

As part of East Bridge College's research project, I would like to conduct a study to determine the benefits and drawbacks of learning English online. I will treat all responses with the utmost confidentiality.

No specific information about the respondents will be disclosed in this study. Please indicate on the 5-point scale which statement in each of the following paragraphs best describes how you feel.

(1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neutral; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree

APPENDIX

Part. I

Please circle the appropriate answers to all the questions. You should select only one option that describes you best.

1.	Gender	(1) Male	(2) Female	(3) Other	
2.	Age	(1) 15 years to 20 years	(2) 21years to 30 years	(3) 31 years to 40 years	
3.	Ethnicity	(1) Myanmar	(2) Chinese	(3) Indian	(4) Other
4.	Education Level	(1) High School	(2) Diploma	(3) Degree	(4) Master
5.	Primary Occupation	(1) High School Students	(2) College Students	(3) Postgraduate Students	

Part. II

- 1) Learn English from the comfort of your own home.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 2) You can use multiple English resources simultaneously.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 3) You are able to practice your skills with native speakers.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 4) If you wish to improve your listening skills, you can listen to news, such as BBC, VOA, and CNN, and you can also listen to music, songs, and speeches.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 5) The internet is also an option for you to practice speaking English with experts.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 6) You can read newspapers, novels, and short stories to improve your reading abilities.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 7) English learning online allows you to improve your writing skills by reading and repeating other English learners' essays.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 8) You can study English online at your own pace.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 9) With English learning online, you can spend more time correcting your weaknesses, be it in vocabulary or writing.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 10) English learning online offers many benefits over traditional classroom learning.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 11) Spending too much time sitting in front of a computer screen can be harmful.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 12) Online learning requires self-discipline and time management skills and diminishes social interaction.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 13) Online English learning can be used on smart phones and laptops, where you can easily switch to games or videos or YouTube as entertainment. This completely diverts them from subject studies.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 14) It is well known that the advantages of online learning are that they are flexible and available from anywhere with a good internet connection. You will have to spend a lot of money in order to get the best internet connection.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
- 15) Lastly, be careful that you do not misuse the internet by visiting inappropriate websites rather than learning English.
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)