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### THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTIVATION IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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#### Abstract

This article examines the role and significance of motivation in the process of learning English. In the era of globalization, English has become an essential tool for international communication, education, science, information technology, and professional development. As a result, the demand for learning English among students and young people is steadily increasing. However, language learning is a complex and long-term process that requires patience, consistency, and strong personal commitment. Motivation plays a crucial role in enhancing learners' interest, perseverance, and determination to achieve successful outcomes. The article discusses intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, goal setting, the role of teachers, the influence of the learning environment, and the contribution of modern technologies and practical activities to increasing learners' motivation. Furthermore, it emphasizes that highly motivated students tend to be more active, independent, and achievement-oriented in the language learning process.

**Keywords:** English language, motivation, language learning, intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation, students, educational process, goals, interest, independent learning, foreign language, communicative approach.

#### Introduction

In today's world, proficiency in English is considered one of the essential skills of a modern individual. As an international language, English is widely used in



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education, science, business, technology, tourism, and cultural exchange. For students, particularly those pursuing higher education, learning English is not only an academic subject but also a key factor that opens opportunities for future professional development, academic research, and international cooperation. The process of language learning extends beyond memorizing grammatical rules and expanding vocabulary. It requires continuous practice, the willingness to learn from mistakes, the application of newly acquired knowledge, and constant self-improvement. Within this process, motivation occupies a central position. Without sufficient motivation, students may begin learning a language but often struggle to maintain their efforts over time. In contrast, highly motivated learners continue working toward their goals despite difficulties and challenges. Motivation can be defined as the internal or external force that drives an individual to engage in a particular activity. In the context of English language learning, motivation is reflected in students' interest in lessons, their willingness to study independently, their efforts to acquire new vocabulary, their active participation in communicative activities, and their desire to improve their language proficiency. Therefore, fostering and maintaining motivation is considered one of the most important pedagogical tasks in effective language education. The purpose of this article is to highlight the importance of motivation in learning English, analyze different types of motivation, and identify effective strategies that can enhance students' motivation in the language learning process.

### **Main Part**

1. The Concept of Motivation and Its Role in Language Learning  
Motivation is one of the primary driving forces behind human activity. In the educational process, it encourages learners to acquire knowledge, engage in exploration, complete assignments, and achieve desired outcomes. In English



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language learning, motivation is particularly significant because mastering a foreign language is not a short-term undertaking. It requires continuous practice and the systematic development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students with a high level of motivation view learning English not merely as an obligation but as an opportunity for personal growth and self-development. They often engage in language-related activities outside the classroom, such as watching films in English, listening to English songs, reading articles, learning new vocabulary, and communicating in English whenever possible. Such learners generally place greater emphasis on independent learning and self-directed study. Students with low levels of motivation, on the other hand, may quickly lose interest in learning English, become afraid of making mistakes, or lose the desire to continue studying after encountering minor difficulties. Therefore, in addition to providing knowledge, it is essential to stimulate learners' intrinsic interest throughout the language learning process.

### 2. Intrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic motivation refers to a learner's desire to study English based on personal interest, enjoyment, and individual needs. In this case, students learn the language not merely to obtain high grades, pass examinations, or satisfy external expectations, but to enhance their personal development, broaden their worldview, and gain access to new opportunities.

For example, a student may be motivated by the desire to understand English-language films in their original form, read foreign literature, communicate with people from different countries, or work for an international company. Such goals contribute to the development of intrinsic motivation. This type of motivation is generally long-lasting because it is closely connected to the learner's personal aspirations and interests.



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Students who possess intrinsic motivation are often more inclined toward independent learning. They actively search for suitable learning materials, record and review new vocabulary, strengthen their grammatical knowledge, and willingly participate in speaking activities. Most importantly, they perceive mistakes not as failures but as a natural and necessary part of the learning process.

### **3. Extrinsic Motivation**

Extrinsic motivation refers to learning English under the influence of external factors. These factors may include obtaining high grades, passing examinations, earning language certificates, securing better employment opportunities, or meeting the expectations of parents and teachers.

Extrinsic motivation also plays a significant role in language learning. For instance, students preparing for international examinations such as IELTS, CEFR, or other proficiency tests often study consistently to achieve a specific target score. Similarly, learners who aim to obtain prestigious positions in the future may view English proficiency as an important tool for professional advancement. However, extrinsic motivation can sometimes be short-term in nature. For example, if a student studies solely to pass an examination, their interest in language learning may decline once the examination has been completed. Therefore, it is important to integrate extrinsic motivation with intrinsic motivation within the educational process. Students should perceive English not only as an academic requirement but also as a valuable resource for their personal and professional future.

### **4. Goal Setting as a Factor in Strengthening Motivation**

Establishing clear goals significantly enhances motivation in English language learning. Without well-defined objectives, learners may not fully understand the



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purpose of their efforts, which can lead to frustration, fatigue, or loss of interest. In contrast, students with specific goals are more likely to organize their learning activities effectively and remain focused on achieving measurable outcomes. Goals may be classified as short-term or long-term. Short-term goals may include learning ten new words each day, reading one English text per week, or mastering a particular grammatical topic within a month. Long-term goals may involve achieving fluency in spoken English, obtaining a high score on an international language examination, gaining admission to a foreign university, or using English effectively in a professional context.

To be effective, goals should be realistic, specific, and measurable. For example, the statement “I want to learn English well” is too general. More effective goals would be “I will practice listening for fifteen minutes every day for one month” or “I will learn five hundred new words within three months.” Such clearly defined objectives help learners monitor their progress and maintain motivation.

### **5. The Role of Teachers in Enhancing Motivation**

English language teachers play a crucial role in shaping and sustaining students’ motivation. Teachers are not only providers of knowledge but also guides, facilitators, encouragers, and sources of inspiration. Their attitude, teaching style, support, and confidence in students can directly influence learners’ interest in studying English.

The way teachers interact with students during the learning process has a significant impact on motivation. When learners feel supported, respected, and encouraged, they are more likely to participate actively and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. If teachers focus solely on criticizing students for their mistakes, learners may become reluctant to speak and participate in classroom activities. In contrast, when teachers correct errors in a supportive and



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constructive manner while encouraging students to continue learning, learners become more confident in expressing their ideas. It is particularly important for students to understand that making mistakes is a natural and unavoidable part of the foreign language learning process.

Teachers can further enhance motivation by organizing engaging lessons, relating topics to real-life situations, involving students in pair and group activities, and incorporating modern technologies into classroom instruction. In addition, recognizing and celebrating students' small achievements can significantly strengthen their self-confidence and encourage continued effort.

### **6. Creating an Engaging Learning Environment**

The learning environment plays a crucial role in enhancing students' motivation. If lessons are monotonous and consist solely of theoretical explanations and compulsory tasks, students may gradually lose interest in learning English. Therefore, language classes should be interactive, engaging, and rich in practical activities.

The following strategies can be used to create a motivating learning environment:

- organizing role-playing activities;
- showing short videos related to the lesson topic;
- conducting discussions in English;
- assigning collaborative group tasks;
- incorporating game-based learning activities;
- creating dialogues based on real-life situations;
- introducing topics that match students' interests.

For example, if students are interested in sports, technology, travel, films, music, or the internet, incorporating these topics into English lessons can increase their participation and engagement. Learners tend to become more actively involved in



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language learning when discussing subjects that genuinely interest them.

### **7. Independent Learning and Motivation**

Successful English language learning cannot be achieved solely through classroom instruction. Students must also engage in independent learning activities outside the classroom. Independent learning is closely connected with motivation, as motivated learners are more likely to invest additional time and effort in improving their language skills.

Effective forms of independent learning include:

- learning new vocabulary on a daily basis;
- reading short texts in English;
- listening to podcasts and audio materials;
- watching videos with English subtitles;
- keeping a personal journal in English;
- practicing through mobile learning applications;
- speaking aloud in English to develop fluency;
- completing online exercises and tests.

Consistency is one of the most important factors in independent learning. Studying for fifteen to twenty minutes every day may be more effective than studying for several hours only once a week. This is because language acquisition requires continuous exposure, practice, and repetition.

Modern technologies have made the process of learning English significantly more accessible, effective, and engaging. Today, students have access to a wide range of educational resources, including mobile applications, online dictionaries, video lessons, electronic books, testing platforms, and artificial intelligence tools.



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For example, resources such as Duolingo, Quizlet, Anki, BBC Learning English, British Council LearnEnglish, and Cambridge Dictionary can serve as valuable supplementary tools in language learning. These platforms enable learners to complete exercises appropriate to their proficiency level, review vocabulary, listen to correct pronunciation, and assess their progress. Technology enhances motivation by making the learning process more interactive and personalized. Students can monitor their achievements, identify their weaknesses, and improve their skills independently. Nevertheless, technology should be used purposefully and effectively. The use of language-learning applications alone cannot guarantee language mastery; meaningful progress is achieved only when technological tools are combined with listening, speaking, reading, and writing practice.<sup>9</sup> **Overcoming the Fear of Mistakes and Building Self-Confidence**

Many students are afraid of making mistakes when speaking English. This fear can have a negative impact on their motivation. When learners think, “Others may laugh at me if I speak incorrectly” or “My pronunciation is not good enough,” they often avoid speaking opportunities. As a result, their speaking skills develop more slowly.

In reality, making mistakes is a natural and inevitable part of language learning. When acquiring a new language, learners may make grammatical, pronunciation, or vocabulary-related errors. What is most important is the ability to learn from these mistakes and gradually improve through continuous practice. Teachers and the learning environment should foster students’ confidence and encourage them to express their ideas freely. Learners tend to make greater progress in an atmosphere where they are not harshly criticized for their mistakes. As students become more confident in their abilities, their motivation to learn English also increases.



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### 10. Professional Goals and the Need for English

Explaining the importance of English for future professional development is an effective way to increase students' motivation. In today's globalized world, English proficiency provides significant advantages in many professional fields. English-language resources, software, research publications, and international experiences are widely utilized in information technology, medicine, economics, engineering, education, tourism, and numerous other disciplines.

For example, students studying information technology can benefit from access to programming documentation, technical articles, international courses, and professional forums if they possess adequate English language skills. Similarly, students in the medical field can gain access to foreign scientific publications and the latest research findings. In the field of education, English enables teachers and future educators to explore innovative teaching methodologies and international best practices.

Therefore, when students perceive English not merely as a subject or examination requirement but as an essential tool for their future careers and personal development, their motivation becomes significantly stronger.

### **Results and Discussion**

The analysis presented above demonstrates that motivation is one of the key factors influencing success in English language learning. Motivation directly affects students' attitudes toward learning, their willingness to engage in independent study, their ability to acquire new knowledge, and their readiness to apply language skills in practical situations. Highly motivated learners participate actively in the learning process, are not discouraged by mistakes, and consistently work toward achieving their goals.



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Several factors contribute to the enhancement of learners' motivation. First, students should clearly understand why they are learning English and how it relates to their personal and professional aspirations. Second, the learning process should be engaging, interactive, and practice-oriented. Third, teachers should provide encouragement, support, and confidence to their students. Finally, modern technologies and independent learning resources should be utilized effectively and purposefully.

Practical observations indicate that students learn English more effectively when instruction incorporates topics that genuinely interest them. For instance, learners who enjoy watching films in English are often more motivated to improve their listening skills. Those who aspire to study at foreign universities tend to focus on academic English, while students seeking better employment opportunities often prioritize professional English. These examples demonstrate that motivation becomes particularly powerful when it is connected to learners' personal goals and interests.

Furthermore, recognizing small achievements during the learning process can significantly enhance motivation. When students begin to understand texts that were previously difficult, successfully create short dialogues, or express their ideas in English, their confidence increases. This growing sense of achievement encourages them to continue learning and strive for even greater progress.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, motivation plays a vital role in English language learning. It shapes students' attitudes toward learning, encourages them to explore new knowledge, and helps them overcome challenges and difficulties. Since language learning is a long-term process, it requires patience, determination, consistency, and strong internal commitment. The findings presented in this article indicate that intrinsic



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and extrinsic motivation complement one another. While intrinsic motivation is associated with learners' personal interests, curiosity, and individual needs, extrinsic motivation is related to grades, examinations, certificates, and professional opportunities. The most effective learning outcomes are achieved when these two forms of motivation work together in harmony.

To enhance students' motivation, teachers should organize engaging and practice-oriented lessons, provide continuous encouragement, help learners overcome their fear of making mistakes, and take students' personal goals into consideration. Furthermore, the effective use of modern technologies, independent learning strategies, real-life situations, and communicative activities can significantly improve the effectiveness of English language learning. Therefore, motivation should not be regarded as a secondary factor in learning English; rather, it serves as the primary driving force behind the entire learning process. Students with strong motivation are more likely to engage in continuous self-improvement, apply their knowledge in practical contexts, and ultimately achieve successful language proficiency.

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