

**IMPLEMENTING NON-FORMAL METHODS  
OF SELF-EDUCATION IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING  
ENGLISH USING MOBILE APPLICATIONS  
AND INTERNET PLATFORMS**

These days English as a foreign language is a compulsory subject in the curriculum of the school of general education. The command of a foreign language is considered a necessary skill for those who want to become successful and have career-advancement opportunities in any field of activity.

Therefore, lots of students take a decision to start improving their knowledge of English not at their educational institutions only, but also using numerous Internet resources and apps for learning languages because it often happens that the school program does not provide all the necessary information for their needs.

**The aim of the research is** to highlight the effectiveness of non-formal learning of English with the help of mobile apps and Internet resources outside of school hours and acquaint our students with their opportunities of self-studying English.

**The objectives of the research are:**

- 1) to examine the definition of self-learning and figure out its main advantages;
- 2) to highlight the necessity and benefits of non-formal self-learning of English using online platforms and apps;
- 3) to consider the examples of usage of social media, mobile apps, websites, movies in the process of self-learning of the English language;
- 4) to make a list of the most frequently used mobile apps, platforms, websites, social media and share it with our students.

**Our hypothesis is the following:** we suppose that the process of learning English will become more effective if we investigate the best ways of non-formal self-education and acquaint our students with them.

Non-formal education of youth is understood as a purposeful activity which develops personal, social and educational competencies of a young person thus aiming to educate a well-developed personality, able to solve their problems responsibly and creatively and participate actively in the life of the society. [Law on Bases of Youth Policy, 2003; Non-formal Education in Lithuania, 2012]

Non-formal education is characterized by the lack of strict boundaries but it has clear principles and functions.

In this world of rapid technological development people are becoming successful making money and finding personal satisfaction through non-traditional means. Ideas have become more important than training; innovation is more important than credentials. The ability to educate oneself - to learn how to learn - is crucial. [Bach, 2011]

There are certain advantages of self-learning such as:

- 1) it helps students to broaden their thinking level;
- 2) students tend to build a sense of responsibility and they start accepting it;
- 3) students have no fear of criticism;
- 4) students study at their own desired time according to their own schedule;

Mobile applications and social media have become increasingly popular and experienced exponential growth since their introduction. It is worth considering how the uses of network and mobile technology which have been autonomously acquired by students and teachers outside the school context could be channelled towards new educational paradigms which combine formal and informal learning processes centred on accessing information and social interaction. [Trentin, Repetto, 2013]

A promising way to support autonomous learning is through the use of smartphone apps. Students appreciate them for their usability, accessibility, ease of downloading, and multifunctionality. The flexibility that mobile learning offers has great potential to support learners in becoming more efficient with their time.

According to the results of the survey it became obvious that 97% of the students consider non-formal self-learning a useful and effective activity, admit the progress in their English and are satisfied with the results.

The analysis of the survey results led us to the conclusion that there are some reasons for students' inability to self-study: lack of time/motivation (being overloaded at school), uncertainty in the accuracy of the resources for self-education. The majority of students are not satisfied with the level of reliability of information provided by different Internet sources and mobile apps. Some of the respondents have admitted that they cannot easily accept the unusual atmosphere of this way of learning; besides, high-grade language platforms are not always free.

Our main purpose is to help them with it. Our work and research include all the necessary information to start or continue self-learning so there is no need in searching for it in different places and it is possible to just read the article we placed on the website of our gymnasium. We have featured the newest trends in social media and information technology

which are taking foreign language self-education in new directions and that have been adapted for this era in global communication.

Summing up, it is necessary to mention the importance of self-education and admit that today it is one of the most effective ways to learn English or any other language. It is also very important to share the information about the best ways of self-learning so that everyone could have not only opportunities, but desire and enthusiasm for self-study as well.

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### **THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO LEARN PHRASAL VERBS IN ENGLISH**

In the Modern English language, the number of the Phrasal verbs is constantly growing. It is the evidence of many books and dictionaries devoted to Phrasal verbs and their applications. The term phrasal verb is commonly applied to two or three distinct but related constructions in English. Finding out the most effective ways to learn phrasal verbs is the subject that provokes many argumentations.

The importance of the paper is determined by the fact that there are hundreds of phrasal verbs and in order to reach a good English level we have to learn at least the most common ones. But the problem is that phrasal verbs are not an easy stuff to learn. The main purpose of the research paper is to explain the troubles that refer to the object of investigation and to give lists of Phrasal verbs, to explain their meanings and to give the best strategy to learn phrasal verbs.

It is not an exaggeration when we say that the items about Phrasal verbs are one of the main and important items of theoretical study and practical mastering of the English language.

Phrasal verbs are so difficult to learn because:

1. There are lots of them.
2. It is often difficult to guess their meaning.
3. One given phrasal verb can have different meanings.
4. Some phrasal verbs can be separated.
5. There are two words phrasal verbs (give back); there are also three words phrasal verbs (come up with).