



What would I like to do with my English next year that I can't do now?

Draw a Learning Map

It's easy to get lost when you learn a language so the best way is to start by making yourself a map. Eliminate uncertainty by setting clear objectives. Decide where you are now and where you would like to be at the end of the course.

Ask a teacher for help and develop a schedule in the same way that, for instance, your company draws a strategic plan. Set dates and partial objectives. Decide on the resources (time in class plus homework) that you've decided to invest.

Objectives can be expressed in many ways, though the most common are

Sample objectives

Have a short chat on the phone with a client before the summer.

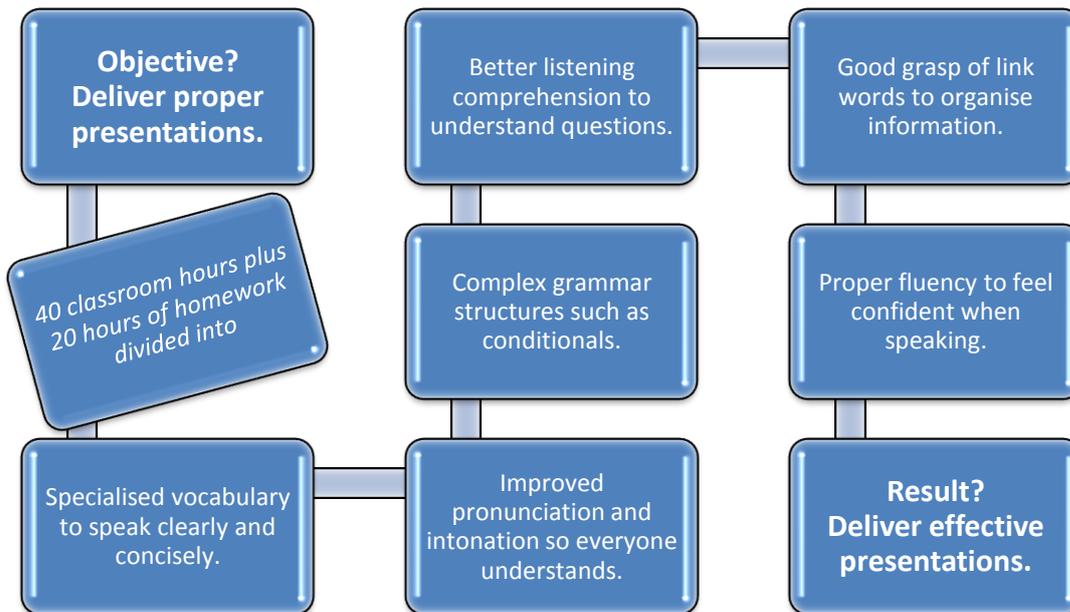
Learn one hundred words related to finance by the end of the course.

Write a report for head office in six months' time.

Understand the difference between either and neither by next week.

based on structures (learn conditionals), on listening comprehension (understand your boss), on vocabulary (memorise parts of the body) or on functions (learn how to ask questions at a meeting). Decide how you would like to set your aims, discuss them with your teacher, set a time frame and plan how to get there!

Here's an example of a learning map developed with a student who had to deliver a speech at a marketing congress.



Andrew's advice: if it's hard for you to define a goal, study towards an exam. It won't harm you to have the Cambridge Advanced Certificate on your CV!