



NEWSLETTER

News & Info

Genesis - A Photo Exhibit

From 20 February to 10 May, La Sucrière in the Confluence district of Lyon is hosting an exhibit from Brazilian-born photographer Sebastião Salgado.

Travel the world through 245 exquisite black-and-white photos, the result of an epic 8-year expedition across the planet. For information about opening times and ticketing, click [here](#).

Did You Know?

The month of February got its name from *Februa*, the Roman festival of purification. And every four years February gets an extra day, which is known as a Leap Year (2020, 2024, etc).

*Synonyms for Free

When it's used to mean "given or available without charge", the word "free" has many synonyms. Here are some of them:

- Without charge
- Free of charge
- Complimentary
- Gratis
- At no cost
- Freebie
- On the house

Free English Essentials Pocket Guide

When "Free" pops up on your Internet page, do you react like the townspeople who heard the boy cry wolf one too many times? Or are you intrigued enough to click that button, only to wish you hadn't? Don't shy away from this offer because, courtesy of VO, this pocket guide really is free*. Read on for more details.

The Basics

Available now on the VO [website](#), the English Essentials Pocket Guide can be downloaded free of charge. In five succinct pages, the guide is a handy tool that can be printed or kept on your computer desktop for quick reference.

Imagine you forget the pronunciation of certain letters of the alphabet. It's all on page one, which also includes a reminder about the days of the week, months, and seasons.

Practical Language Tips

Page two of the guide offers some examples of common phrases that can be used for real-life situations, everything from greeting people and making introductions, to speaking about work and hobbies. This is followed by a clear chart which explains a typical sticking point for many — using the prepositions "in", "at", and "on" for expressions of time and place.

The rest of the English Essentials Pocket Guide includes a handy chart of irregular verbs, as well as useful language tips that can be used in a variety of professional situations, such as telephone calls, emails, and meetings.

Download Your Free Copy Today

To download your copy of the guide, navigate to the VO website and click on the "[Language Services](#)" tab. Scroll down the page and click on the button, then save as a PDF file.

For more tips and resources to improve your English, the article on the next page has some useful suggestions from those who really know what they're talking about — VO's trainers!

Your FREE English Essentials pocket guide:

[» CLICK HERE TO OPEN THE GUIDE «](#)

RESOURCES & LINKS

bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/

<https://www.newsinlevels.com/>

<https://www.talkenglish.com/>

learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/

ted.com/

lyricstraining.com/

duolingo.com/

podcastsinenglish.com/

breakingnewsenglish.com

player.fm/featured/topics

conversationexchange.com/

englishcentral.com/videos

wordreference.com/fr/

One final tip (from Jenny):

Practice speaking between lessons. A great way to do this is by joining Club Ace Anglais, "a fun and interactive way for non-native English speakers to practice and develop their spoken English."

Click [here](#) for more information.



Trainer Resources & Tips

We asked three of our English language trainers about their favourite tips and resources that could help students improve. Here's what they had to say.



Helen

I've been teaching English with VO since 2016, and what I find again and again is that the same words come up often from one lesson to another. So my tip? Revise new words as often as possible.

I'd have to say my favourite resource is the British Council Learn English website. The content is good, and they have some interesting audio, video and grammar exercises.

Bunmi

Before listening to an audio file, read the transcript (preferably) out loud. I find this helps improve listening comprehension.

Or, listen to the audio first and explain what you've understood. Then read the transcript without listening to the audio. Finally, listen to the audio again without the transcript.

I also recommend writing a dialogue for a situation that you have not yet experienced in English. It gives you the incentive to search for vocabulary and expressions.



Jenny

My top tip is to write sentences using the vocabulary and grammar from each lesson. At the very least, come to each class prepared to make sentences verbally. Do the same for audio files: listen to a podcast and summarise it in writing or be prepared to summarise it verbally. Basically, do homework between lessons, it really helps!



My favourite website for listening (B1/B1+) is ted.com. Use subtitles if needed. For lower levels, I like Breaking News English because you can choose between five different listening speeds and six levels.