



David Walley's English School

info@dwenglishschool.com WhatsApp: +7-926-062-40-37

Learning English by Skype - FAQs

People have been using Skype to communicate across the world for over 10 years. Its value as an educational tool was quickly realized and now students around the world use Skype to learn a variety of foreign languages.

Finding a good teacher can be hard, but Skype has removed geographical restrictions to doing so. Furthermore, a wider world of opportunity has opened up - as well as offering complete locational flexibility, groups can even be formed with students in different countries.

Most importantly, your lessons will still follow my two most important beliefs - they should always be useful, and they should always be enjoyable.

If the idea of learning English by Skype is still a bit of a mystery, here are the answers to some common questions that new students have. And if your question isn't here, send me a message and I'll add it to the list!

I want English lessons by Skype - what should I do?

First of all, send us an email to info@dwenglishschool.com or WhatsApp us on +79260624037. This can be in English or Russian. We'll arrange a free placement test and 'get to know you' on Skype, where we'll:

- Find out your English level
- Ask you about why you want to study English and whether you want general, business or exam English, or something more specific. We'll also make your individual plan
- Ask you when and how often you want lessons, and arrange your first lesson

This will take 15-30 minutes and is absolutely FREE. For young learners, we'll discuss the logistics with a parent/nanny but test the student. See our young learners guide for more information.

You don't need to pay for a full month before your first lesson - see if you like it first (we're sure you will!) Then, you can either pay lesson by lesson or on a monthly basis (see below).

What does a Skype lesson look like?

A Skype lesson is similar to a typical individual or small group communicative method lesson with a NATIVE SPEAKER - you have the opportunity to speak a lot in English, learn and practice new grammar and vocabulary in a fun and practical way (not with a boring teacher giving you hundreds of lists and charts to remember), and listen to modern texts and dialogues. All lessons are INDIVIDUALLY PLANNED, taking into account YOUR needs.

Your teacher will contact you via the chat function a minute or two before the lesson start time, and will call you if you are ready. This can be a video call, as recommended, or with you keeping your camera switched off (so don't worry about bad hair days :) The lesson will proceed through a mixture of conversation and lexis/grammar exercises, and will always feature practice with the new material. Files and links can be exchanged throughout and the lesson should always be fun, dynamic and above all, useful.

Do I need any special equipment?

Just a laptop, the Internet and the Skype program, which can be downloaded and used for free. You can also use your phone or tablet. Most gadgets have a built-in camera, but even this is not essential. You don't need any other equipment. Your teacher will have a HD camera and fast Internet. The faster your Internet, the better, but anything over 25mb/sec should be enough. Some students prefer to use a headset, but this is up to you.

Who can learn English by Skype?

We are happy to teach any level and any age - even if you don't yet know a single word of English. We are trained to teach anyone, and believe that everybody should have the opportunity to learn a language. We've taught all kinds of people, from legal professionals to schoolchildren. Age and location are no barrier!

For young learners, we have a special guide in order to maximize their lessons and keep them safe online. In short though, from the age of about 7 (and with a few minutes of helping them understand about exchanging files), kids can study with confidence. We have already found that ages 10-15 tend to be the most proficient Skype users! For students under 10 we recommend a parent is on hand to help out, just in case. Of course, everyone is different and we're happy to discuss the different options with you personally. In any case, you'll be sent a short report after every young learner lesson, letting you know exactly what your child studied in the lesson and any homework. Communication is key and we are always ready to discuss things with you.

