

05 Making general statements

It is very useful to know how to start sentences with the word "it" in English. You can use "it is" at the beginning of a sentence to make a general statement about something.

- ⚙️ **New language** Introductory "it"
- Aa **Vocabulary** Talents and abilities
- 🧩 **New skill** Expressing general truths

5.1 KEY LANGUAGE INTRODUCTORY "IT"

Certain set phrases beginning "it is" can be used at the start of a sentence. "It" is the subject of the sentence, and can be used to express a general truth or belief.



"IT" CLAUSE

INFINITIVE CLAUSE

It is easy **to** make mistakes in a new language.

Some "it" clauses are generally followed by a "to" infinitive.

"IT" CLAUSE

"THAT" CLAUSE

It is a shame **that** so many people give up.

Some "it" clauses are often followed by "that" clauses.



5.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES INTRODUCTORY "IT"



It is important **to** be relaxed about making mistakes.



It is essential **to** give yourself time to study regularly.



It's true **that** being able to speak a second language is useful.



It's unlikely **that** you will be comfortable speaking aloud at first.



It is difficult **to** remember new words if you don't write them down.





5.3 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

It's important to have the skills to communicate globally.

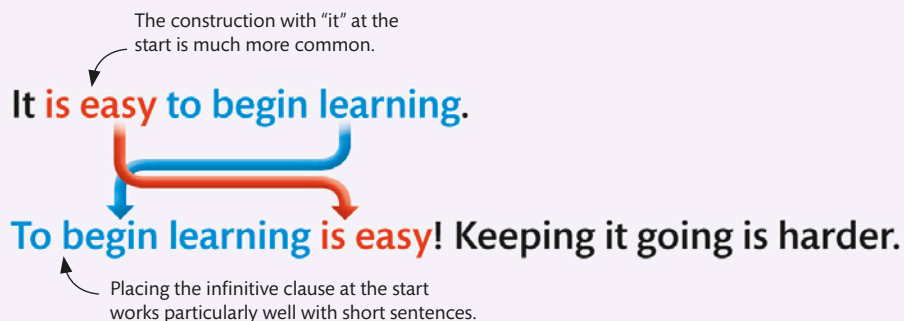
- ① With busy work and social lives, it's _____ most people have little time to study.
- ② Languages are so useful. It is _____ so few people learn a second language.
- ③ Learning doesn't have to be expensive. It is not _____ spend a lot of money.
- ④ Try internet study groups. It is _____ meet other language learners online.
- ⑤ Don't worry if you need time. It's _____ you'll be able to speak fluently quickly.

easy to a shame that unlikely that essential to ~~important to~~ true that



5.4 KEY LANGUAGE LEADING WITH AN INFINITIVE PHRASE

When you want to emphasize the contents of the infinitive clause, you can put it at the front of the sentence.



5.5 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

It is worth working hard. **To** / ~~That~~ / ~~It~~ give up now would be a shame.

- ① Remember, it's important **to** / ~~that~~ / ~~it~~ be relaxed about making mistakes.
- ② With so many options, it's no longer difficult **to** / ~~that~~ / ~~it~~ find language courses online.
- ③ **To** / ~~That~~ / ~~It~~ take the exam now would be a waste of time. She hasn't studied at all.
- ④ **To** / ~~That~~ / ~~It~~ is unlikely that he will finish the class before the end of the year.
- ⑤ Don't give up! It's true **to** / ~~that~~ / ~~it~~ the more you study, the better you will become.





5.6 READ THE FORUM POSTS AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Who is learning a language which involves clicking?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☒

- 1 Who finds their language lessons a little boring?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☐

- 2 Who can speak a number of different languages very well?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☐

- 3 Who was encouraged to learn a language by someone else?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☐

- 4 Who thinks they have a natural ability for learning languages?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☐

- 5 Who is conducting research about learning languages?

Alice ☐ Dave ☐ Mei ☐ Sam ☐

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'Lingo-net'. The website has a blue header with the title 'Lingo-net' and navigation links: ABOUT | NEWS | FORUM | CONTACT. Below the header is a section titled 'ARE YOU A LANGUAGE LEARNER?'. It features four forum posts, each with a colored silhouette icon and a text block.

Alice: I'm working on a TV program and am looking for people to share language learning experiences. Do you have a hidden talent or even a complete inability to learn languages? Get in touch!

Dave: I'm trying to learn Native American Pawnee. I don't have any natural ability and most words have at least 10 syllables! The lessons drag on a bit but I'll keep on doing them until I'm fluent.

Mei: I think I have an aptitude for language-learning. I'm fluent in four languages. I'd love to learn Sentinelese but it's impossible because no-one knows what it sounds like!

Sam: I've only ever spoken English, but one of my professors has a remarkable capacity for languages and speaks Xhosa (a South African language with click sounds). He asked if I'd like to learn it, and I took him up on the offer. It's very difficult, but he's shown me some online videos to help.

Aa

5.7 FILL IN THE GAPS TO CREATE COLLOCATIONS USING THE PHRASES IN 5.6

I was never good at learning languages, but I discovered a hidden talent after I left school.

- 1 I am surprised that my son an aptitude for copying accents.

- 2 Unfortunately, I have a inability to remember vocabulary.

- 3 Some people appear to have a natural to speak a number of languages.

- 4 My father had a remarkable to memorize lists of words.



5.8 RESPOND TO THE AUDIO, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

Do you like learning new languages?

It isn't easy to learn a new language, but I find it a lot of fun.

1 Why do you think learning languages is important?

It is important to _____

2 What advice would you give to new learners?

It's best to _____


3 What is the hardest thing about learning languages?

It is difficult to _____

05 CHECKLIST

 Introductory "it" ☐

Aa Talents and abilities ☐

 Expressing general truths ☐

REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 1-5

| NEW LANGUAGE | SAMPLE SENTENCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UNIT |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------|
| PRESENT TENSES | I usually cycle . Today I'm walking instead. I've just started a job. I've been meeting people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1.1, 1.3 |
| ACTION AND STATE VERBS | The chef is tasting his soup. This soup tastes disgusting! | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2.1, 2.2 |
| COLLOCATIONS | He has a low opinion of the film. There was light rain forecast today. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3.1 |
| ADJECTIVE ORDER | What a nice, friendly little cat! | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4.1, 4.3 |
| INTRODUCTORY "IT" | It is easy to make mistakes in a new language. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5.1 |