

Success in English

Helping your child at home

What are the key skills needed to be successful at GCSE English?

Reading	Writing
Comprehension	Adapting writing for audience and purpose
Interpretation	Vocabulary
Analysis	Imaginative, interesting & detailed ideas
Evaluation	Whole text structure
Synthesis	Sentence structures
	Accuracy of spelling and punctuation

What are the key stumbling blocks to success in English?

Weak vocabulary

Weak accuracy

Lack of general knowledge

Poor imagination

A lack of realisation of the importance of English skills in exams ... and in real life

The importance of general knowledge

- *This extract is from the opening of a novel by Daphne du Maurier. Although written in 1936 it is set in the past. In this section a coach and horses, with its passengers, is making its way through Cornwall to Jamaica Inn.*

It was a cold grey day in late November. The weather had changed overnight, when a backing wind brought a granite sky and a mizzling rain with it, and although it was now only a little after two o'clock in the afternoon the pallor of a winter evening seemed to have closed upon the hills, cloaking them in mist. It would be dark by four. The air was clammy cold, and for all the tightly closed windows it penetrated the interior of **the coach**. The leather seats felt damp to the hands, and there must have been a small crack in the roof, because now and again little drips of rain fell softly through, smudging the leather and leaving a dark-blue stain like a splodge of ink.



The importance of a wide vocabulary

We need to know 90-95% of the words in a text in order to understand it ([Nagy & Scott 2000](#).) This may seem high, but 5% would be about 10-15 words a page.

The chief place of resort in the daytime, after the public-houses, is the park, in which the principal amusement is to drag young ladies up the steep hill which leads to the Observatory⁴, and then drag them down again at the very top of their speed, greatly to the derangement of their curls and bonnet-caps, and much to the edification of lookers-on from below.

Dickens

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Dickens

The solution!

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The positives of reading

Maths advantage for pupils who read for pleasure

By Katherine Sellgren BBC News
education reporter
11 September 2013

**Reading for
pleasure 'boosts
social relations'**
BBC 3 August 2015

Evidence from National Literacy Trust Study

Table 1: Enjoyment of reading and reading attainment in 2013 (N = 12,690)

	<i>Below expected level %</i>	<i>At expected level %</i>	<i>Above expected level %</i>
Very much	2.8	61.1	36.2
Quite a lot	4.1	85.3	10.6
A bit	14.2	79.7	6.1
Not at all	32.8	57.5	9.1

Table 2: Reading frequency and reading attainment in 2013 (N = 12,960)

	Below expected level %	At expected level %	Above expected level %
Every day	3.9	68.2	27.9
A few times a week	6.7	83.2	10.1
About once a week	10.7	81.9	7.4
A few times a month	10.2	83.0	6.8
About once a month	17.7	75.0	7.3
Rarely	20.3	72.9	6.8
Never	35.4	59.5	5.1

How long should my child read outside of school?

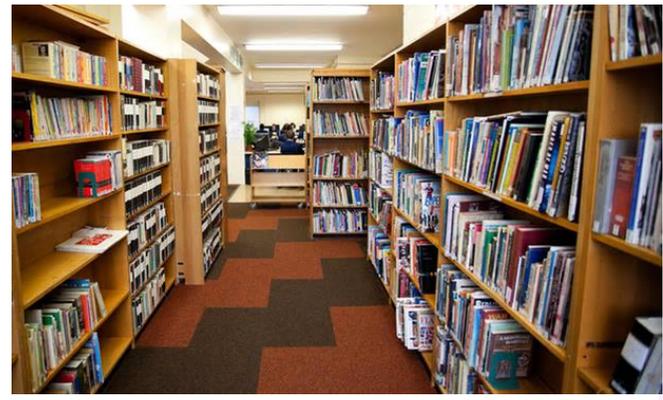
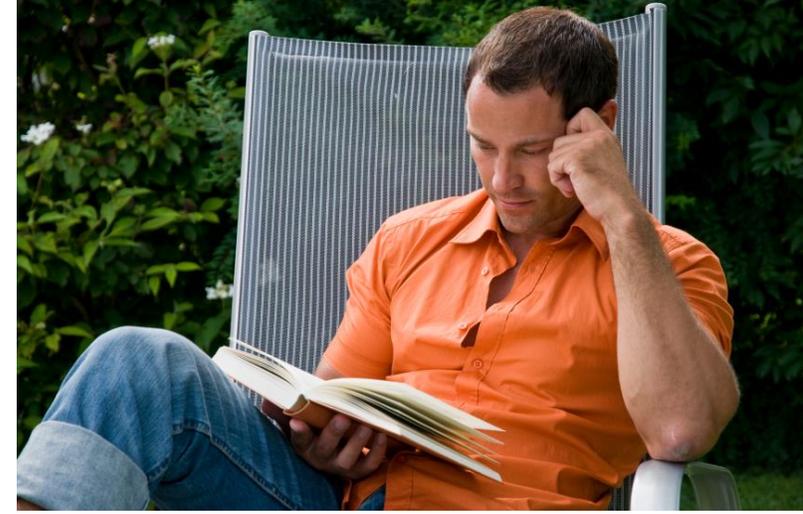


Daily time spent in class = 300 minutes

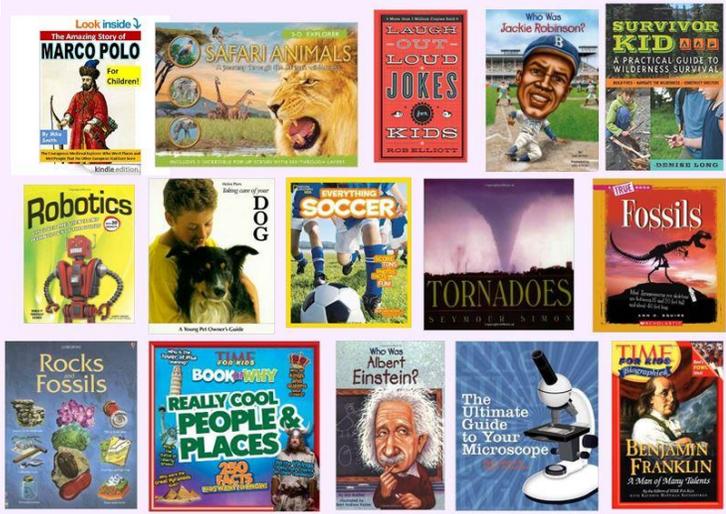
Minutes reading a day	Total minutes spent reading a year	Extra class time
20 minutes	7300	24 days
5 minutes	1,825	6 days
1 minute	365	1 day



Tips



Desirable Non-Fiction Book Topics



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