

Ways to improve your English

English courses are often very expensive and sometimes impossible to combine with your au pair schedule. So, here are some ways to improve your English without paying a fortune.

- Surround yourself in English. Put yourself in an all English-speaking environment where you can learn passively. The best way to learn is through speaking. If you are in a group of mixed nationalities, please speak English so that everybody can always understand the entire conversation.
- Help out at your nearest school. Ask at the school office – they usually welcome volunteers to help for a few hours each week and it's a great way to practice your English.
- Visit your local library and get a membership card to borrow/rent English books and movies – reading children's books is a great start.
- Your local library may have book clubs and short English courses for non-native speakers. Some libraries may have regular guest speakers, and this gives you a great chance to listen to different native English speakers. Search library + your suburb.
- Your local community centre/community college may offer courses in Creative Writing, English Conversation or ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. Visit these in person or search the above + your suburb.
- Write an English diary, journal or online blog. Start by writing a few sentences a day and then get into the habit of writing more.
- Check out local TAFE college courses.
- Volunteering! There are 100s of opportunities to volunteer in Australia! Think about sports clubs, Little Nippers (surf lifesaving), local schools or an animal shelter.