

ANALYSING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

- Determine the areas you want to evaluate yourself in.
- Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses.
- Identify ways to improve your weaknesses.
- Set realistic goals.

A You are going to evaluate your abilities in English. Look at the areas of English in the table below and think of two more to complete the list.

B Evaluate your abilities in these areas of English. What things do you find easy and what do you find difficult? Tick the appropriate column in the table. Then look at the table as a whole. Which areas are strengths for you? Which are weaknesses?

	Very strong	Strong	Average	Weak	Very weak
Listening					
Speaking					
Reading					

Grammar					

Pronunciation					

C Complete the table below to help you identify activities to improve your English.


- Tick (✓) Column 1 for activities that are easy to do in your town, city or country.
- Tick (✓) Column 2 for activities that you enjoy.
- In Column 3, write the letter of the skill that the activity helps you improve. Write L (listening), S (speaking), R (reading), W (writing), G (grammar), V (vocabulary), P (pronunciation).
- Many of the activities give practice in several areas, so Column 3 can have more than one answer.

Things that can help your English	Easy to do in your area?	Enjoyable?	Skill(s) it improves
Reading magazines/articles in English			
Watching TV/DVDs without subtitles			
Talking to people from other countries			
Forming a conversation group			
Travelling to other English-speaking countries			
Listening to songs / the radio in English			
Chatting online to international friends			
Writing emails in English			

Self and Society

Work and Career

Study and Learning

D  Work in groups. Compare your answers in Exercise B. If necessary, change your answers.

HOW TO SAY IT

I think ... is easy to do.

Which things are easy in our area?

What do you like doing?

Chatting online can improve your speaking.

E Look back at your evaluation in Exercise B. Use the ideas for activities in Exercise C as well as your own ideas to make an action plan for improving the weak areas of your English.

Goals for improving my English

Areas I want to improve	Things I'm going to do	How often
Listening	Watch DVDs without subtitles	Once a week

F  Work in groups. Explain your plan from Exercise E. Your group can ask questions or make suggestions.

I want to improve my listening and my speaking.

I'm going to watch DVDs without subtitles at least once a week.

I'm also going to ...



When you make a plan, don't try to plan too much. It's better to start with a few goals and then increase your goals little by little.

HOW TO SAY IT

Are you going to ...?

No, because ..., but I'm going to ...

Why don't you ...?

Yeah, and you can also ...



REFLECT ... How can the skill of analysing strengths and weaknesses be useful to you in Self and Society and Work and Career?