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LOCATE LANGUAGE SAMPLES | **PART 2** OF THE iLEAP CYCLE

ACTIVITY 1

Different types of samples are good for studying different features of English. For example, using print samples is good for studying vocabulary and grammar, but not for studying pronunciation. Listening to an academic lecture can help you learn vocabulary and pronunciation, but may be less effective for studying popular culture and grammar.

This exercise will help you learn what kinds of samples can help you study each feature of English (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and culture).

Which features can the sample help you study? Circle one or more for each sample.

www.cbc.cz	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A TV drama	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A country music song	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A news magazine	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A romance novel	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A home improvement flyer	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A grocery store cashier	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
A radio show	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
Someone at the bus stop	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture
Another English student	Vocabulary	Grammar	Pronunciation	Culture

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ACTIVITY 2

Different people learn differently. Although you should try to use a variety of samples when you are trying to reach your goal, you should also focus mostly on samples that match your learning style.

In week 1, you completed a survey to find out what kind of learner you are. Now, list the types of samples you think would be most effective for you.

Here are other possibilities:

Visual	Auditory	Kinaesthetic
Books Magazines TV Movies Diagrams Advertising Websites Karaoke	Songs TV Movies Radio shows English speakers Karaoke	English speakers Karaoke Role plays Drama Clubs, sports teams, Volunteering

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ACTIVITY 3

Remember our friends from the last week's activities? Review their goals and the sample they found. Decide if the sample will be effective for them. Finally, suggest another sample that might be helpful.

Nadia:

I work at an insurance company. I can do my job effectively with my current level of English, but when I'm in the lunch room, I fall silent. It sounds like my colleagues are speaking another language...it certainly doesn't sound like English! I want to learn four common informal reduction rules in English so I can talk with colleagues. I found a book called "Better English Pronunciation in 2 Weeks".

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

What do you suggest?

Wei Ming:

I have three children in elementary school. My oldest child has a parent-teacher conference coming up soon, and it's mandatory for me to attend. However, I don't know what happens at these conferences, and so I don't know what I will need to talk about. I want to ask a neighbour about what I can expect during a parent-teacher conference.

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

What do you suggest?

ACTIVITY 3 (cont.)

Remember our friends from the last week's activities? Review their goals and the sample they found. Decide if the sample will be effective for them. Finally, suggest another sample that might be helpful.

Priya:

I came to Canada because I want to be a filmmaker. I filled out a grant proposal, and mailed it away. Now, the Arts Council of Canada has sent me an acceptance letter! I'm very happy, and I want to thank them. However, I don't know how to do this in a culturally acceptable way: Do I send money? Do I buy them a small gift? Do I send a letter? Do I do nothing? I want to call a colleague to make an inquiry. I found a song that has a lot of questions in it, and I want to use it to study the grammar of question formation in English.

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

What do you suggest?

Ederlyn

I have a job I love, and I speak conversational English well. I love to go to the movies with my English-speaking friends and talk about the films over coffee, but I feel like I say "It was so good!" way too often. I want to learn 8 vocabulary words and expressions to talk about movies. I collected a few movie review pages from the newspaper over the past few weeks.

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

What do you suggest?

ACTIVITY 3 (cont.)

Nadia:

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

This probably won't be effective because Nadia needs to practise listening and pronunciation. A book might help her begin to understand pronunciation, but it can't truly help her learn to understand and produce reductions.

What do you suggest?

You might suggest a video in which people are having informal conversations, a radio show with a laid-back DJ, or practise with a volunteer or native speaker.

Wei Ming:

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

If the neighbor has children, this could be a very effective sample.

What do you suggest?

You might suggest a print sample or website about parent-teacher conferences to learn more vocabulary relating to the topic before speaking to the neighbour.

Priya:

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

This probably won't be very effective, unless the song has very formal lyrics. Usually, lyrics in songs use an informal register, and this might not help Priya to make formal inquiries to her colleagues. However, it might be helpful for studying the intonation (pronunciation) required when asking questions in English.

What do you suggest?

You might suggest a website on the subject of making inquiries politely, a volunteer to offer advice, or another learner to practise in a role-play.

Ederlyn:

Will this be effective? Why or why not?

This could be very effective because it's related to her goal, it has the vocabulary she's looking for, and it's within her reach.

What do you suggest?

You might also suggest watching a television show like "Entertainment Tonight" for pronunciation practice.

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