

Hello and welcome to MPSI1 class, Lycée Thiers Note that the number of hours of English is limited to 2 hours a week (on Thursday mornings). Here are some guidelines to help you start the year in English.

1. Consolidate vocabulary and grammar

Dictionaries: you can use online dictionaries (such as *wordreference* and *reverso*), but you can also get one of the paper dictionaries. **Suggestions=** Robert & Collins **or** Oxford-Hachette.

Revise **grammar**, most notably:

- **tenses and aspects:** present simple / progressive; past simple / progressive; present perfect simple / progressive; past perfect simple / progressive; expressing future (present progressive; be going to; will; will be + V-ING) and conditional (present: would; past: would have + EN)
- **active and passive forms** (*they gave him a watch vs. he was given a watch*)
- **questions:** how to ask questions in English (place and tense of auxiliaries, etc.) + **indirect questions** (*I don't know what I'll get for my birthday vs What will you get for your birthday?*)
- **modals** (present and past: can / could; may / might; must; shall / should; will / would)
- **definite and indefinite articles:** a / an; Ø ; the
- **quantifiers:** little / a little; few / a few; much / many; most (of the)
- Revise **irregular verbs**. Here is a list of the 100 most common irregular verbs, with French translations. <http://gretaenglish.free.fr/supports/100virreg.htm>

Useful links to revise grammar and vocabulary :

- <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish> (vous pouvez choisir selon vos difficultés plusieurs niveaux : lower-intermediate ; intermediate ; upper-intermediate)

Suggestions*: *Grammaire Pratique de l'Anglais*, BERLAND-DELEPINE, Ophrys, 2000.
La Grammaire Anglaise par le Thème, Y. MANNHEIMER, Ellipses, 2003.

****We will use *mémo ANGLAIS B2-C1 (Classes prépas/Ens. Supérieur)* by Elise Peizerat on a regular basis. You can order it when it's available again.**

2. Keep up to date with current affairs

Consult the **press** on a weekly/daily basis (internet/printed press) and note down lexis/ ideas/ examples in connection with the following topics:

AI and New Technologies/ the New Space Race/ The European Union & the UK (the consequences of Brexit)/ The British Monarchy (and its future with the new king) The US Presidency (Biden's administration + upcoming 2024 elections) Gun Violence in the US/ Race relations in the US.

Compare viewpoints from *The Guardian* <http://www.guardian.co.uk>; *The Independent* <http://www.independent.co.uk> ; *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com> ; *Newsweek* <http://thedailybeast.com/newsweek.html> , *The New York Times* <http://www.nytimes.com> etc...

Do pay particular attention to the power of the Supreme Court in the US, the consequences of Brexit on the UK and the EU, but also topics related to science and new technologies.

Listen to the radio and watch online videos. You can also podcast some radio programs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0299wgd/episodes/downloads>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/news/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/video>

www.theguardian.com/video

3. Watch your favourite series in English with English subtitles

Suggested films and TV series:

(NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

- One or two films by Ken Loach, for instance *Bread and Roses* (2000); *The Navigators* (2001), etc.
- One or two films by Stanley Kubrick, for instance *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) and Quentin Tarantino, e.g. *Django unchained* (2012) etc.
- Some episodes of *Mad men*, *House of Cards*, *Black Mirror* etc.

You can also read a few novels and short stories in French or English (available in bilingual editions)

Suggestions: *1984*; *Animal Farm* (G. Orwell); *Brave New World* (A. Huxley)...

(Non-exhaustive list)

In the meantime, enjoy the holidays!

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**suggestions = not required reading, only suggestions.*