

Strategies for Improving Your English for STEM Careers

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If you are pursuing university degrees for a career in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM), then I recommend the following strategies if you are genuinely serious about mastering the English of your target field.

1. Buy a large, reliable reference book on English grammar (written in your native language or written only in English) and begin reading through it page by page, everyday, until you fully understand everything in the book—focusing specifically on any English that you have recently encountered but do not understand.
2. Identify the **top** international journals in your field and read 50 or more articles per year—especially ones that have been written by the **top** professors and researchers in your field who work at the **top** universities in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, or New Zealand. Although there are excellent articles in excellent English written by professionals elsewhere, your chances of finding the best native-speaker-like English will be in the papers written by the most outstanding professionals in your field who are on the faculty of the very best universities in the countries listed above.
3. Identify the **top** scholarly books in your field that have been written in English (not translated into English) and read 10 or more a year.
4. Identify the **top** native-English-speaking professionals in your field and listen to some of their lectures or presentations that have been posted online (e.g., TED talks, conference keynote speeches, university lectures, interviews, etc.).
5. Create an excellent LinkedIn page, as well as pages on any academic website where professional in your field gather (e.g., ResearchGate), and then expand your network of professional friends and acquaintances weekly. Also, read some of the things that the **top** professionals in your field post.
6. Try to read intelligent English by highly educated adults on topics outside your field, too.
7. Seek to live bilingually. That means, try to read, write, speak, and listen to as much mature, intelligent English each day as you do in your native language.

Important Considerations

1. You will learn vastly more from careful observation of all the high-level English that you hear and read than you ever will from English language courses and workbooks.
2. Your value to other human beings, as well as your value to your field and to society as a whole, depends not only on your excellence in language use. Your value comes equally from your excellence in knowledge, professional skills, and personality, so it is advisable to continually improve yourself in all of these areas.

Your success at acquiring advanced expertise in the language and knowledge of your career path, will significantly improve your opportunities to work anywhere in the world for any organization you like. The world is filled with average and below-average professionals. But true global experts are extremely rare, so they always remain in high demand and get richly paid for their services.