



English Through Social Media

PODCAST #S1E9: Welcome to this new episode of “The Deep Dive” In today’s episode, Dan and Mary will show you how to improve your language skills using social media. We hope you enjoy it!

D: Hey, everyone. Welcome back. Ready for another *Deep Dive*?

M: Always.

D: Today, we're looking at something pretty cool, actually.

M: Oh. Yeah.

D: It's all about using social media to learn English.

M: Interesting.

D: I know. Right? It kinda blew my mind too when I first heard about it.

M: Yeah. I mean, most people think of social media as, you know...

D: A distraction.

M: Exactly.

D: A time waster.

M: Totally. But it turns out those endless scrolls can actually help you level up your English skills. So whether you're, like, dreaming of finally taking that trip abroad and being able to chat with the locals or connect with people from different cultures online

D: Yeah. Yeah.

M: Or even just wanna understand all those hilarious memes everyone's talking about.

D: Oh, yeah.

M: We're gonna break it all down for you today.

D: Love it.

M: We're using this awesome guide called "*English Through Social Media*" as our road map today.

D: Okay.

M: It basically breaks down how platforms like Instagram, Twitter, TikTok...

D: Oh, wow.

M: Even Facebook can actually become your secret language learning weapons. So it's not just about, you know, passively scrolling through your feed anymore. You're actually using it to learn.

D: Exactly. And what's really cool is that social media gives you this real authentic exposure to English. Like, the way native speakers actually use it in their everyday lives.

M: Yeah. Yeah. The kind of stuff you won't always find in a textbook. You know?

D: Totally. It's like being dropped right into a conversation.

M: Exactly. You pick up the slang, the idioms, all those little cultural references that just bring the language to life.

D: Okay. So it's more than just memorizing vocab lists then.

M: Oh, yeah. Way more.

D: It's like you actually get to see how people use the language naturally.

M: Exactly. Think about it. Like, you might learn the word "expensive" in a textbook.

D: Right.

M: But on social media, you might see someone complaining about the extortionate prices at a cafe

D: Uh-huh.

M: Or joking about their bank account crying after a shopping spree.

D: Oh, I've seen those memes.

M: See? Those are the real world examples that actually make the language stick. You know?

D: That makes so much sense. But how can you, like, tell the difference between slang that's gonna stick around

M: Right.

D: And Internet jargon that'll be gone next week?

M: That's a great question. I think the key is to keep an eye out for patterns.

D: Okay.

M: Repetition.

D: Okay.

M: If you see a phrase or an expression popping up again and again across different accounts, different contexts. It's probably a good sign that it's gonna last.

D: Right. Makes sense.

M: And don't be afraid to use those social media dictionaries or translators to double check the meaning.

D: Wait. Hold on. Social media dictionaries?

M: Yeah.

D: That's a thing.

M: Oh, yeah. Lots of platforms have built in features, or there are third party apps that let you translate stuff right there in the post.

D: Woah. That's game changing.

M: I know. Right? It's super handy for figuring out those tricky idioms or slang terms.

D: Awesome. Okay. I'm starting to feel a lot more confident about tackling this whole social media English thing.

M: Good.

D: But, with so many different platforms out there

M: Yeah.

D: How do we choose the right one?

M: Well, it really depends on your own personal language learning goals. Like, are you trying to become fluent in conversation? Do you wanna improve your writing?

D: Yeah.

M: Maybe you're focused on mastering English for a specific exam.

D: Ah! So someone's studying for, like, the TOEFL or IELTS.

M: Exactly. They probably wouldn't be hanging out on TikTok too much. Right?

D: Yeah. Probably not.

M: They might get more out of Twitter

D: Okay.

M: Where they can engage with longer form discussions, read articles, stuff like that.

D: Right.

M: But if speaking is your main goal, TikTok's short video format could be perfect.

D: Yeah. Because it kinda forces you to think on your feed. Right?

M: Exactly. And you can practice your pronunciation through challenges or duets.

D: Speaking of TikTok, I've seen so many language learning challenges and trends popping up there.

M: Oh, yeah. Tons.

D: Is that something learners should, like, actively be looking for?

M: Absolutely. They're a super fun and engaging way to practice different skills.

D: Okay.

M: You know, you might find prompts for describing your day, sharing your opinion on something trending, even role playing a conversation.

D: Oh, that's fun.

M: And the best part is by participating, you're putting yourself out there and getting feedback from the community.

D: That's a great point, which brings us to another awesome advantage of using social media to learn English.

M: What's that?

D: The community aspect. It's like having this massive global network of study buddies right at your fingertips.

M: Exactly. Accounts like the British Council Learn English, Duolingo, ...

D: Oh, yeah?

M: They're great for that. They offer a real sense of community with their interactive posts, quizzes, even live sessions.

D: Oh, so cool.

M: And you can also join groups specifically for language exchange, you know, to practice speaking and writing with others.

D: That's awesome. But isn't there a risk of, like, learning incorrect grammar or slang from other learners?

M: Yeah. That's a valid concern.

D: Because everyone's learning. Right?

M: Exactly. And mistakes are part of the process.

D: Totally.

M: But the beauty of social media is that you can usually get feedback from native speakers in the comment

D: All true.

M: Or through direct messages.

D: So it's kinda like a self correcting system.

M: In a way, yeah. And it also helps you develop your critical thinking skills.

D: How so?

M: Well, if you see something that doesn't sound quite right. Don't be afraid to question it. Do your own research.

D: Good point.

M: You know? Double check with a trusted source.

D: Okay. This all sounds amazing, but let's be real for a sec. Social media is designed to be addictive.

M : Oh, yeah.

D: How do we avoid getting totally sucked into the scroll hole and actually use it to reach our language goals?

M: I think setting boundaries is crucial.

D: Okay.

M: Like, dedicating specific time slots each day for language learning on social media.

D: So treat it like a steady session.

M: Exactly. And be super intentional about the accounts you're following, the content you engage with, the activities you participate in.

D: So instead of mindlessly scrolling, you're actively choosing to learn and interact.

M: Precisely. Think of it as, like, transforming your social media time into a language immersion experience.

D: I love that.

M: You're surrounding yourself with English, engaging with it, using it to commute.

D: Amazing. So instead of feeling guilty about our social media time

M: Yeah.

D: We can actually make it work for us.

M: Totally.

D: Learn new words, connect with a global community.

M: And have fun while we're at it.

D: Exactly. And here's a final thought to leave you with.

M: Okay.

D: If you could design the perfect social media language learning experience, what would it look like?

M: Interesting.

D: What kind of content would you wanna see?

M: Yeah.

D: What communities would you join? What challenges would help you the most?

M: Those are great questions.

D: Keep those in mind as you start exploring.

M: Yeah.

D: And I think you'll be surprised by all the incredible resources out there.

M: Absolutely. There's a whole world of language learning waiting for you on social media.

D: So go out there and dive in.

M: Happy learning.

D: And we'll catch you in the next *Deep Dive*.

M: See you then.