

2013 to be great for English students

2nd January, 2013



The year 2013 will without doubt be a great year for many of us wondering what's in store for us. Expert forecasters are predicting it will be one of the best years ever. It will be one of

those years when record numbers of people will stick to and keep their New Year's resolutions. That means millions of smokers will quit smoking and the overweight will make a more conscious effort to trim their waistlines. It should also be an easier year on the pocket as the world economy recovers slightly from its recent shocks and downturns. In technology, all eyes will be on Apple to see if it will launch another revolutionary product. Industry insiders say rumours are spreading of an Apple television.

There is also good news for those hoping to make gains with their English. An abundance of great new tools will hit the shelves of both online and traditional stores throughout the year. These will provide students with an unprecedented variety of products to help them in areas they want to improve on. The Internet will also see a lot more sites aimed at providing students with ways to interact with others around the world in English. More and more learners will study English in cyberspace from a growing army of online teachers. 2013 will also see record numbers of people studying abroad, but not just English - millions will start learning Chinese, as China grows increasingly important in business.

Writing

The start of a new year is the best time to make changes in your life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

2013 / a great year / predicting / resolutions / quit smoking / overweight / rumours / gains / abundance / traditional stores / improve / interact / cyberspace / Chinese

True / False

- Many people are wondering what stores will have in 2013. T / F
- More people than ever will keep their New Year's resolutions. T / F
- The article predicts that our financial situation should improve in 2013. T / F
- A new television made by Apple will hit the shelves in mid-2013. T / F
- There will only be one or two new learning tools for English students. T / F
- More students will turn to the Internet to learn English. T / F
- Many teachers will not be needed and so will join the Army. T / F
- Millions of people will start learning Chinese. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. in store | a. progress |
| 2. expert | b. reduce |
| 3. stick | c. innovative |
| 4. trim | d. plenty |
| 5. revolutionary | e. coming |
| 6. make gains | f. communicate |
| 7. abundance | g. specialist |
| 8. hit the shelves | h. increasingly |
| 9. interact | i. adhere |
| 10. evermore | j. be on sale |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the phrase 'Happy New Year'?
- Are you full of optimism about 2013?
- What are your New Year's resolutions and will you keep them?
- What could happen for this year to be the best ever?
- How was 2012 for you?
- What have been the best and worst years of your life?
- What do you think is in store for us this year?
- Do you think you'll be financially better off by the end of this year?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 2013 will without | a. store for us |
| 2. wondering what's in | b. of online teachers |
| 3. a more conscious effort to trim | c. spreading |
| 4. all eyes | d. gains with their English |
| 5. rumours are | e. doubt be a great year |
| 6. good news for those hoping to make | f. of products |
| 7. great new tools will hit | g. will be on Apple |
| 8. an unprecedented variety | h. important in business |
| 9. a growing army | i. their waistlines |
| 10. China grows increasingly | j. the shelves |

Discussion – Student B

- What kind of gains are you hoping to make with your English this year?
- Are you a good student?
- How do you use the Internet to study English?
- What do you think of using the Web to interact with others in English?
- Is online learning better than studying in a classroom?
- What's the best site to use to study online?
- What do you think of the idea of having an online teacher?
- What do you think of studying abroad?

Spelling

- without tduob
- Expert ceerostsfra
- New Year's lotsnusiore
- make a more cscniouso effort
- trim their aenissltwi
- another ruorontyilave product
- An naecabudn of great new tools
- rtuohghuto the year
- an cndrpeenedetu variety
- ways to cinatrte with others
- study English in bearepyscc
- studying dbarao

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. g	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. j	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Student A - You are sure 2013 will be great for your English. Tell the others three reasons why. You are very excited about learning English more via the Internet, especially with online teachers. Tell the others why the Internet is better than English classes. Give the others advice on how to study online.

Student B - You are worried about your English level. Tell the others three reasons why. You studied a lot last year but your ability hasn't changed. You think people cannot learn English on the Internet. You really need to join an English class. You don't believe anything the online teacher says.

Online teacher - Learning online is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. Studying English in a classroom is old-fashioned and does not work well. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell Student B his/her English will improve quickly if he/she learns with you.

Class teacher - You are worried that so many students are studying online and not in class. You think studying in a classroom is the best way to learn English. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't believe what the online teacher says. Tell both students they will learn more quickly in class with you.

Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| • punctuation | • politics vocabulary |
| • essay writing | • reading books in English |
| • pronunciation | • English presentation skills |
| • listening | • e-mail writing |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.