

Learner Diary – a teacher’s guide

The learner diary can be used by students on their own or under the supervision of a teacher. It can be used as an individual activity for personal development, or in group activities in which students share their ideas about what they have learnt.

If the learner diary is used after each module, it will serve as a record for students to analyse their progress as they proceed through the course. The advantage of using the learner diary is that by reflecting on what they have learnt, students are encouraged to become more responsible for their own learning. The learner diary can also boost students' confidence as it asks them to think about what they CAN do rather than what they cannot do in English.

There are various ways of using the Learner diary as a classroom resource:

- As a silent class activity. Students reflect alone over what they have been learning.
- Students complete the diary alone, either in class or at home and hand it into the teacher as a form of communication.
- In pair students ask each other the questions to fill in the diary.

The first time students complete their Learner diary, they will probably need some guidance. Here are some tips:

Module number/ Title:	Students write the number of the module and the corresponding title for their records.
Learning aims:	On the first page of each unit there are 5 aims in the box in the top left-hand corner. Students write each of these aims in the diary and tick how well they completed the related tasks.
Topic:	Students assess how interesting they found the overall topic of the module.
Favourite Unit- Why?:	Students look through the Units of the specified module and decide which one they liked best and give reasons for this.
New vocabulary/ grammar/ skills:	In this category students write exactly what they have learnt, they may need to refer to the contents page for a summary of what was covered.
My learning progress:	Students can comment on the pace of their progress eg. I am learning fast; or the areas they would like to progress with more eg. I would like to make more progress with my written work.
My problems:	Students may find it useful to focus on a problem they are having, especially if the diary is being used as a form of teacher-student communication.
Problems I have solved:	It is useful for students to recognise what they have overcome by writing it down in

	their records.
My contacts with English outside school:	Students can reflect on other contact they have had with the English speaking world be it through film, music, pen pals or trips abroad.
What I have learnt about English culture:	Students decide which parts of the module were related to English culture. This could involve a follow-on discussion.