

# **EASY ENGLISH**

**SELF LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR G.C.E. (O/L)  
STUDENTS**



**English and Foreign Languages Branch  
Ministry of Education**

## Foreword

The concept of a Self-Learning Kit for under-achievers in remote schools was the brainchild of Mr. K.L. Premachandra, former Director/English, Ministry of Education. This concept became a reality in 2007 with the production of the book titled 'Self-Learning Kit', which was distributed among students in rural schools. The objective of the project was to improve student performance in the English subject at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination, to which a great deal of importance is attached. Feedback from teachers as well as education officers indicate that students have found this book a useful companion in preparing for the examination. I wish to thank Mr. Premachandra for his initiative.

It was decided to prepare and print 'Self Learning Kit – 2' for the benefit of students in schools coming under the "Thousand Secondary Schools Development Project" and the schools with low performance at G.C.E.O/L. In fact, both students as well as teachers of English may benefit from the book, which includes a variety of activities intended to develop the skills required to perform well in the English subject at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination.

It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I recollect the guidance provided by Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Hon. Minister of Education and Mr.W.M. Bandusena, Secretary Ministry of Education, in this endeavour. I am also thankful to Mr. H.U. Premathilake, Additional Secretary, Education Quality Development for his support. My special appreciation goes to Dr. Chandra Amarasekera for her committed guidance in compiling this resource book. My appreciation goes to all the resource persons for their valuable contribution to make this book a reality. I also thank the staff of the English & Foreign Languages Branch for their cooperation.

I wish to thank the 'Transforming School Education Project' of the World Bank which made this activity possible by providing the required funds.

I request all English language teachers to make the maximum use of this book. Your comments and suggestions for improvement of this book are welcome. I trust this book will help raise the standard of English in the country.

B.M. Weerasuriya  
Director/English & Foreign Languages  
Ministry of Education



### Guide lines to use this material

As the name suggests this self learning module consists of a series of Easy Activities in four categories as follows.

i.	Vocabulary	-	Page 1-11	-	22 activities
ii.	Structure	-	Page 12-21	-	17 activities
iii.	Reading	-	Page 22-30	-	13 activities
iv.	Writing	-	Page 31-38	-	16 activities

All these activities are constructed by an experienced group of resource persons, who engage in text book writing as well as G.C.E.(O/L) paper marking.

The activities are similar to the tasks in the G.C.E. (O/L) English Language paper aiming at providing practice avenues for students to score more marks in paper one. We expect that these activities will meet the requirements of the average level student or the student who is just below the pass mark, and will be useful as a supplementary material for the teachers as well.

Further, we have included a fewer number of activities to make it a less heavy task for the student to ensure his / her attempt in all the activities before the exam. Therefore, it is expected to have many copies of this book available in schools to address the needs of many students as much as possible.

The users of this Self Learning Kit are instructed to, read carefully the instructions of each activity first and then attempt the task. The number of blanks to be filled / number of questions to be answered / number of corrections to be done etc. will give you a hint of the time you have to spend on each activity and the approximate marks for each.

The activities go from simple to complex and the answer key will guide self correcting which again strengthen one's learning habits.

**Easy English** brings you **Easy Activities** to make you realize it is **easy to learn English** and **score more marks** in the examination.

At the initial stage, we find it impossible to furnish each student with a copy and the teachers are kindly requested to find means of copying the activities at school level.

**Enjoy Easy English ... and get through your English paper easily .....**

# VOCABULARY



**1 .Underline the correct word given within the brackets to make meaningful sentences. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

The Ministry of Health has (1) (launched / progressed / published) a special programme to control the spread of dengue. The dengue mosquito eggs can (2) (survive / continue / grow) up to one year in dry conditions. The life (3) (pattern / style / span) of an adult mosquito is around two to four weeks. The dengue mosquito (4) (lives/ breeds/ flourishes) in clean stagnant water. It is (5) (necessary/irrelevant/adequate) to cut down plants that have leaves storing water. People have to (6) (organise / find/realize) that it is their responsibility to clean their premises regularly.

**2. Study the picture. Select the most suitable word from the box to fill the blank.** (1/2 x 10 = 5 marks)

The first one is done for you.



people, pond, binoculars, walking, helping, grandmother, doll, rock, ice cream ,  
hopping, bench

This is a picture of a park. There are lots of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the park. There is a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ at the rare end. A boy is looking through the (3) \_\_\_\_\_. A girl is (4) \_\_\_\_\_ with her two dogs. A man is (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a child to ride a bicycle. A little girl with her (6) \_\_\_\_\_ is playing with her (7) \_\_\_\_\_. There are some rabbits (8) \_\_\_\_\_ around. A boy is sitting on the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the park. The girl sitting on the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ is eating an (11) \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Complete the set of instructions using the correct word given within the brackets. The first one is done for you. (5 marks)**

1. Do not block the entrance (block /. park)
2. Do not ..... water. It is precious. (reduce, waste)
3. Do not ..... It spoils the environment. (litter, throw)
4. Do not ..... others in the library. (disturb, shout)
5. Do not ..... late to school. (wait, be)
6. Do not ..... on the road. It is dangerous. (play, pay)

**4. Complete the following dialogue by selecting the most suitable word from the boxes. Write the letter of the answer in the space provided. The first one is done for you.**

Hashan : The exam will be over 1) (a) \_\_\_\_\_ month. What are you going to do after that?

a. next

b. during



Nizar : I thought of following an English course. Do you like to 2) .....in?

a. go	b. join
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Hashan : Yes, I do. But I want the 3) ..... free.

a. vacation	b. weekend
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Nizar : Why? Are you planning to do 4)..... important on Saturday and Sunday?

a. anything	b. nothing
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Hashan : Mm ... Yes I thought of 5)..... a course on IT.

a. following	b. passing
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Nizar : Then you'll be (6) ..... the whole week.

a. free	b. occupied
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Hashan : Yes that's what I call working hard.

**5. Use the relevant words to complete the following descriptive text. Underline the correct word that suits the blank. The first one is done for you.**

### **The Eiffel Tower**

There are many marvellous places in the world. We consider the Eiffel Tower as one of the most beautiful (1) ..... (skeletons/structures/figures) in the world. It is one of the (2)..... (famous/longest/unpopular) icons in the world. The tower was (3)..... (situated/located/designed) by an engineer, Alexander Gustave Eiffel , in 1889. To (4)..... (celebrate/honour/commemorate) the engineer , the tower was (5)..... (named/identified/recognised) Eiffel.



**6. Read the following sentences. Underline the most suitable word to fill in the blanks. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

1. The new ship was ..... (travelled/launched) from Colombo.
2. It is not easy to find ..... (solutions/questions) to all our problems.
3. Robert Scott's ..... (success/ambition) was to be the first man to reach the South pole.
4. The rich man gave a ..... (present/portion) of his land to the poor.
5. I have to ..... (complete/offer) my assignment today.
6. It's our responsibility to ..... (protect/produce) the environment.

**7. Fill in the blanks in the text using the correct form of the word given within brackets. The first one is done for you.** (1x5=5marks)

Do you think that we have a healthy lifestyle and good diet ? It is (1) interesting (interest) to find out that many people have a (2).....(tend ) to do exercises two or three times a week. You may be (3)..... (surprise) to know that we drink an average amount of 2.5 litres of water a day. But if we have not (4)..... (develop) good food habits, we are sure to get some kind of (5)..... (ill) sooner or later. The types of food we take have a (6).....(great) impact on our health. So our habits and lifestyles are equally important to have a long healthy life.

8. Fill in the blanks in the following short exchanges using words from the boxes.

Write the correct letters in the blanks. The first one is done for you.

(1 x 6 = 6 marks)

A: Raja's at the farm.

B: What's he doing?

A: He's (1) feeding the hens.

a) feeding

b) giving

c) putting

A: Look! Saman has a new (2).....

B: Yes, it looks very nice.

A: He's (3) ..... it very carefully.

a) car

b) bicycle

c) riding

A: Amali is (4) .....

B: Do you know why?

A: She has lost her (5) .....

a) crying

b) wrist watch

c) laughing

A: Why is Neela carrying a (6).....?

B: She wants to take some flowers.

A: Is she (7)..... to the temple.

a) basket

b) getting

c) going

**9. Complete the following dialogues selecting the most suitable word from the boxes. The first one is done for you. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)**

(1) Sunil : How was my speech?

a) given

Sarath : A little fast, but it was clear.

b) fast

(2) Upul : Can I register a letter?

a) require

Post office : Yes, you ..... to pay 35 rupees.

b) need

(3) Mother: Let's go to the (3) ..... quickly. The visiting time is  
5 to 6

a) bank

b) hospital

Son : It's already five. We have to hurry.

(4) Supun : Our class will go on a .....

a) picnic

Saman : Really? Where to?

b) trip

Supun : We are going to Sigiriya.

(5) Children : Oh! Look at these beautiful flowers!

a) pick

Gardner : But, don't (6) ..... them.

b) break

**10. Fill in the blanks in the following short exchanges using words from the boxes.**

**Write relevant letters in the blanks. The first one is done for you. (1 x 5 = 5 marks)**

Kumudu : Where's Nimal?

Sita : He's sitting by the (1) a

Kumudu : What's he doing?

Sita : He's (2) ..... a book.

(a) lake

(b) road

(c) swimming

(d) reading



Sarath : Did you watch (3) .....last night?

Saman : No, I couldn't Sarath. Why?

Sarath : There was a nice film.

Saman : When was it?

Sarath : At (4) .....

- (a) half past nine
- (b) television
- (c) news
- (d) the evening

Thilak : Can I help you sir?

Sampath : Yes, I'm looking for a (5) .....

Thilak : Do you need a short sleeved one?

Sampath : No, I need a (6) ..... one.

- (a) trousers
- (b) long sleeved
- (c) shirt
- (d) sleeveless

**11. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the word given. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 10 = 10 marks)

The difference between a photograph and a (1) painting (paint) is more than just the surface (2) ..... (appear) of things. With each stroke of the brush, the (3) ..... (art) expresses his own (4) ..... (person) and feelings about the subject. This (5) ..... (apply) particularly to water – colour (6) ..... (paint) in which every brush (7) ..... (mark) remains visible and therefore (8) ..... (become) an integral part of the (9) ..... (finish) image. (10) ..... (Begin) have a tendency to be rigid and inflexible in (11) ..... (they) brushwork.

**12. Underline the most suitable word in the brackets. The first one is done for you.**

(1 x 5 = 5 marks)

One market day, a fruit seller pushed his hand-cart to (1) (tell / sell / get) his mangoes to the people who had (2) (come / arrival / gone) to the market. He (3) (told / found / sold) a good place by a very busy street and there he (4) (walked / wrote/ began) to call out to the people who were (5) (coming / gathering / passing) by. After he had (6) (been / be / being) there a little while, a whole line of people gathered. They had come to buy mangoes.

**13. Underline the most suitable word from the words given and complete the following passage. The first one is done for you.**

(1/2 x 10 = 5 marks)

It was a holiday. Early in the morning I received a call. Then only I remembered it was my (1) (birthday / holiday). I decided to invite a few of my (2) (strangers / friends) out to dinner with my family. I chose a (3) (restaurant / house) in a quiet part of the (4) (country / town). It was one of my favourite restaurants, because the food was good and the (5) (waiters / attendants) were friendly. It was hardly ever crowded. It was not usually necessary to book a (6) (desk / table). In any case (7) (Thursday / that day) was not a busy evening as a rule.

When we entered the restaurant, I was (8) (surprised/pleased) to find it completely full. I looked around – but not a single table was free. Waiters were busy with a party of (9) (tourists / singers). They had ordered enormous quantities of (10) (water / food). So we



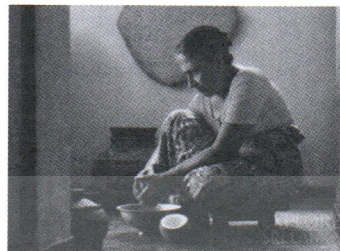
decided to go to the nearest (11) (home for elders / park) and help them instead of having a party.

**14. Study the pictures. Fill in the blanks of the following sentences, using the words from the given box. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

a) biscuits	b) clothes	c) coconut
d) stamps	e) butterflies	f) computer

1. My grandmother is in the Kitchen.

She is scraping (1) coconut



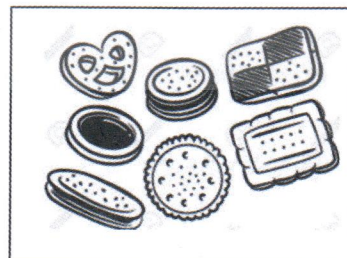
2. My hobby is philately.

These are some of the (2) ..... I have collected.



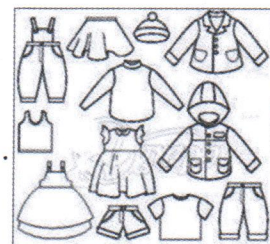
3. I'm hungry.

Let's have some (3) .....



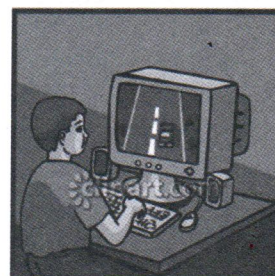
4. These are our friends.

They like different types of (4) .....



5. I like to play badminton.

My friend likes (5) ..... games.





6. When I'm free, I go to my garden.

It's very nice to see colourful (6) .....



**15 . Underline the most suitable word in the bracket. The first one is done for you.**

(1 x 5 = 5 marks)

One evening I (1) (saw / sow ) a big brown (2) ( hair / hare ) in my backyard. Its (3) (eyes / ice ) were as red as hot (4) ( call / coal ). It was staring at me. Suddenly, a big fat (5) ( sew / sow ) came there with its piglet (6) ( which / witch ) disturbed all. Then only I realized that I had been day-dreaming while reading a story book.

**16. Choose the letter of the correct word to complete each sentence and write it in the blank. The first one is done for you.**

(1 x 5 = 5 marks)

(1) Everyone knows ..... up an onion gives you a runny nose and smarting eyes.

(a) cutting (b) putting (c) making

(2) Thank you for your note that you ..... me last week.

(a) send (b) sent (c) took

(3) He gave me this ..... and told me to follow it to reach the lagoon.

(a) chart (b) picture (c) map

(4) My neighbour offered me a ..... to watch the drama.

(a) bucket (b) pocket (c) ticket

(5) The person next to me on the ..... is from Australia.

- (a) plan                      (b) plain                      (c) plane

**17. Fill in the blanks in the letter below with the words given in the box. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

view / along / whole / although / far / see
---

Dear Sumudu,

Can you imagine where we are? We are spending a nice time in Anuradhapura.

(1) Although the hotel where we are staying is not very comfortable, it is not (2)

..... from the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi. We have a wonderful (3)

..... of the paddy fields from our bedroom. Yesterday we climbed

Mihinthale and spent the (4) ..... day there. Tomorrow we are going to

(5) ..... all the ruins around the place. Today we have planned to go for a walk

(6) ..... the bund of the near by tank. I'll send you some photos.

Bye for now.

Your loving friend,

Meenu

**18. Form the correct words by adding a suitable suffix to the words given within the brackets and fill in the blanks. The first one is done for you. (5 marks)**

Eg:- The teacher advises (advise) her students whenever she sees a weakness (weak) in their work.

1. The ..... (manage) asked the secretary to design a good ..... (advertise) to be published in the newspaper.
2. The ..... (cultivate) were disappointed to see their ..... (cultivate) damaged by the heavy rain.
3. The instructor for agriculture gave the necessary ..... (instruct) to the ..... (participate) about the new weedicide.
4. Water is one of the most essential ..... (require) for man. .... (waste) water can be taken as a crime.
5. His ..... (poor) wasn't a barrier to his ..... (generous)

**19. Complete the set of instructions using the words given below. The first one is done for you.**

(make, remember, follow, keep, read, practise)

**Enhance your Vocabulary**

1. Make it a habit to listen to news.
2. .... English novels written by well known writers.
3. ....the grammatical rules well.
4. ....the language functions whenever you get an opportunity.
5. ....the instructions given by your English teacher.
6. ....a separate book to write the meanings of new words.



20. Look at the following pictures and complete the words as appropriate to the context. One dash (-) stands for one letter. The first letter of the word is given.

(1/2 x 10 = 5 marks)

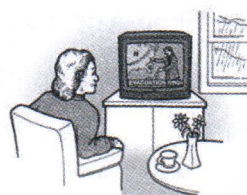


The boy is reading a (1) book. There is a (2) boy behind him.

Mrs. Perera never misses news. She sits in front of the (3) television at 8 o'clock. She generally sits on an arm (4) chair. She keeps her tea on the (5) coffee table.



This is a building site. The mason has built a (6) wall. Now he is on a (7) ladder painting it.



School (8) playgrounds are generally close to schools. We can often see (9) children playing there. Usually they play cricket or (10) volleyball. Sometimes they play (11) football too.



21. Fill in the blanks in the following paragraph using suitable words from the box. Write the relevant letters in the blanks. The first one is done for you.

(1 x 5 = 5 marks)

A: cricket      B: firewood    C: garden    D: hot  
E: playing      F: clothes

It is a sunny day. Children go out in to the (1) C. Little boys are seen (2) ..... with bats and balls; they are playing (3) ..... It is the best time to gather (4) ..... It is also good weather for washing; (5) ..... dry well in the (6) ..... sun.

**22. Complete the following dialogues selecting the most suitable word from the boxes. The first one is done for you.** (1 x 5 = 5 marks)

(1) Sunil: Good Morning! I wasn't (1) reading too fast, was I?

(a) reading

Nimal: Not Really, I remember everything you said.

(b) relating

Do you want me to relate the story?

(2) Salesman: Good Afternoon! Can I help you madam?

(a) box of crayons

Ms. Perera: Yes please, I want to buy a (2) .....  
for my son.

(b) boxes of pencils

(3) Son: Mother!, I have a severe headache.

(a) bank

Mother: Let's go to the (3) .....

(b) hospital

(4) Students: Good Morning teacher!

Teacher: Good morning! Why didn't you (4) ..... the  
classroom today?

(a) sweep

(b) wash

Students: Sorry, we were punished by the principal for being late  
to school.

(5) Passenger: Two (5) ..... to Kandy please.

(a) toffees

Counter clerk: 2<sup>nd</sup> class or 3<sup>rd</sup> class?

(b) tickets

(6) A: What is the meaning of enhanced?

(a) catalogue

B: Haven't you looked up the (6) ..... ?

(b) dictionary

**23. Complete the following dialogue by selecting the most suitable word from the box. Write the letter of the answer in the space provided. The first one is done for you.**

(1 x 5 = 5 marks)

a) exercise b) study c) digest d) important e) feel f) doctor g) regularly h) headache i) busy  
j) start

**Hashan** : Hi, how are you today?

**Nizar** : I am going to the (1).....(f).....

**Hashan** : What's the matter?

**Nizar** : I don't feel well these days. I always get a (2) ..... I never feel fresh.

**Hashan** : Do you do any (3).....?

**Nizar** : No. I don't find time. You know I am (4) ..... with my studies. I (5)..... all the time.

**Hashan** : That's why you don't (6)..... well.

**Nizar** : What do you mean?

**Hashan** : Exercise is very (7)..... for health. When the Exam is near the students study all the day sitting at one place. The food they get does not (8)..... properly. They fall ill.

**Nizar** : You may be right.

**Hashan** : Take exercise (9)..... either in the morning or in the evening.  
It is better in the morning.

**Hashan** : Ok. From tomorrow morning, I'll (10) ..... taking exercise.

**Nizar** : That is a good thing. Good bye.

**Hashan** : Good bye.