

Unit 4:

MAKING A LEARNING PLAN

This unit will help you put all your ideas together in a learning plan

In this unit you will:

- ☐ Learn the differences between **STUDY, USE, REVIEW** and **EVALUATE** activities
- ☐ Make a learning plan that helps you to achieve your goals
- ☐ Attend a workshop

I. Review

Before you start this unit....

- ☐ Did you read and reply to your learning advisor's comments at the end of the last unit?
- ☐ Did you write some strategies for your Big and Small Goals on your Learning Plan?

Name: _____		Advisor: _____		Advisor's comments	
		Target Situation: 1. Big Goal: What I WANT to focus on: 2. What I am INTERESTED in doing: 3. Small Goal: What skill I NEED :			
Resources: What will you use for your learning? Please write the Title(s) of the resource. Put the URL next to it.					
STUDY: Describe something to focus on and learn something new based on your small goal.		USE: Describe what you studied in a different setting based on your big goal.			
REVIEW: Look back on what you have studied before repeating what you studied (Repeat 3).		EVALUATE Language Gain: Describe progress you made in a while. Attach evidence to your learning plan.			
MOTIVATION: How do you keep your motivation high?					

2. Understanding SURE

In order to learn successfully you need to work step-by-step, week-by-week. To learn language, try to:

1. **CONNECT** your learning to your goals. Your **GOALS** should be at the **CENTRE** of your learning.
2. Make sure you have a **GOOD BALANCE** of **SURE**.



So, what is SURE? Can you guess?

Read the definitions and try to guess what **S – U – R – E** means. Talk with a partner.

S_____ **it!**

Choose something to **focus on** and try to learn something **new**.

U_____ **it!**

Practice what you studied in a different place or in a different way.



R_____ **it!**

Look back on what you have studied regularly so you don't forget it.

E_____ **it!**

Check your progress once in a while to see if you are achieving language gain.



3. Understanding Review & Evaluate

Review

If you learn 30 new words a week, or 5 new grammar or pronunciation points, how can you make sure you don't forget what you studied the following week, or the following month? The answer is to review what you learned.

How often will you review?

What will you do to review?

Evaluate language gain

How will I know if my plan is helping me to achieve my goals?

The answer is by **checking your progress**. Compare your level at the beginning of your plan with the level you achieve after you have tried your plan for a while.

Example: Ways that other students have used to check if their reading is getting better:

- Every week Yuka checks how many pages of a book she can read in 5 minutes (reading speed).
- Yuta writes a short summary of a text every week to show how much he understands (reading comprehension).

Things you might use to evaluate language gain:

- A notebook
- A watch
- Voice recorders / smartphone / iPad
- The Practice Centre
- The Writing Centre (online or in the SALC) or Writing Forum
- Microsoft Word Tools (word count, thesaurus, spell check, etc.)
- Something else _____

What can you do to evaluate your language gain?

How can you check you are meeting your goals?

How often will you check?

3. Exploring a Learning Plan

1. Read Nekomi's Learning Plan on the next page. Use the Checklist and write feedback for nekomi in the "Advisor's comments" box.

2. **Bring this to the workshop** and compare your ideas with other students.

Your 4-week Learning Plan

Name: Nekomi Nekamoto

Advisor: Satoko Watkins

Advisor's comments



Target Situation: Having discussions in English with friends in my club.

1. **Big Goal:** What I **WANT** to focus on:

Speaking skills for daily conversation.

2. What I am **INTERESTED** in doing:

Playing volleyball, music and movies.

3. **Small Goal:** What skill I **NEED**:

Vocabulary connected with my interests.

Resources:

What will you use for your learning? Please write the Title(s) of the resources that you will use.

I will use two books from the SALC: (1) TOEIC High Score Vocabulary List and (2) Topic Issues. I will use an IC recorder from the SALC.

STUDY:

Choose something to focus on and learn something new based on your small goal.

I will study one page of TOEIC book everyday.

I will record my voice and note down my mistakes.

USE:

Practice what you studied in a different setting based on your big goal

- (1) I will pick one discussion topic.
- (2) I will talk about the topic. using the words I studied
- (3) I will record the conversation.

REVIEW:

Look back on what you before regularly so that you don't forget it.

I will read TOEIC book once a week.

I will check my notes once a week.

EVALUATE Language Gain:

Check progress once in a while in achieving your big and small goals.

I will compare week 1 recording and week 5 recording.

I will read my notes to see if I make the same mistakes.

MOTIVATION:

How will you keep your motivation high?

I will practice having discussions with my friends when I have time.

I will watch TED.com to see how a good speaker gives presentations.

Student: Nekomi Nekamoto

LEARNING PLAN CHECK LIST

Goal

- ☐ Big Goal is specific and related to the target situation
- ☐ Small Goal is specific (e.g., vocabulary to talk about the campus life)
- ☐ Small Goal helps her/his achieve big goal

Resources

- ☐ It has the information about the resource (e.g., Glee Episode 1, English Central in the speaking booth)
- ☐ The resource(s) is appropriate for the goals

Study

- ☐ It explains how s/he will study
- ☐ It explains how s/he will use the material/strategy
- ☐ It explains when s/he will study
- ☐ The activity is appropriate for the Small (and Big) Goal

Use

- ☐ It explains how s/he will use what s/he has studied
- ☐ It explains when s/he will use
- ☐ The activity is appropriate for the Big (and Small) Goal

Review

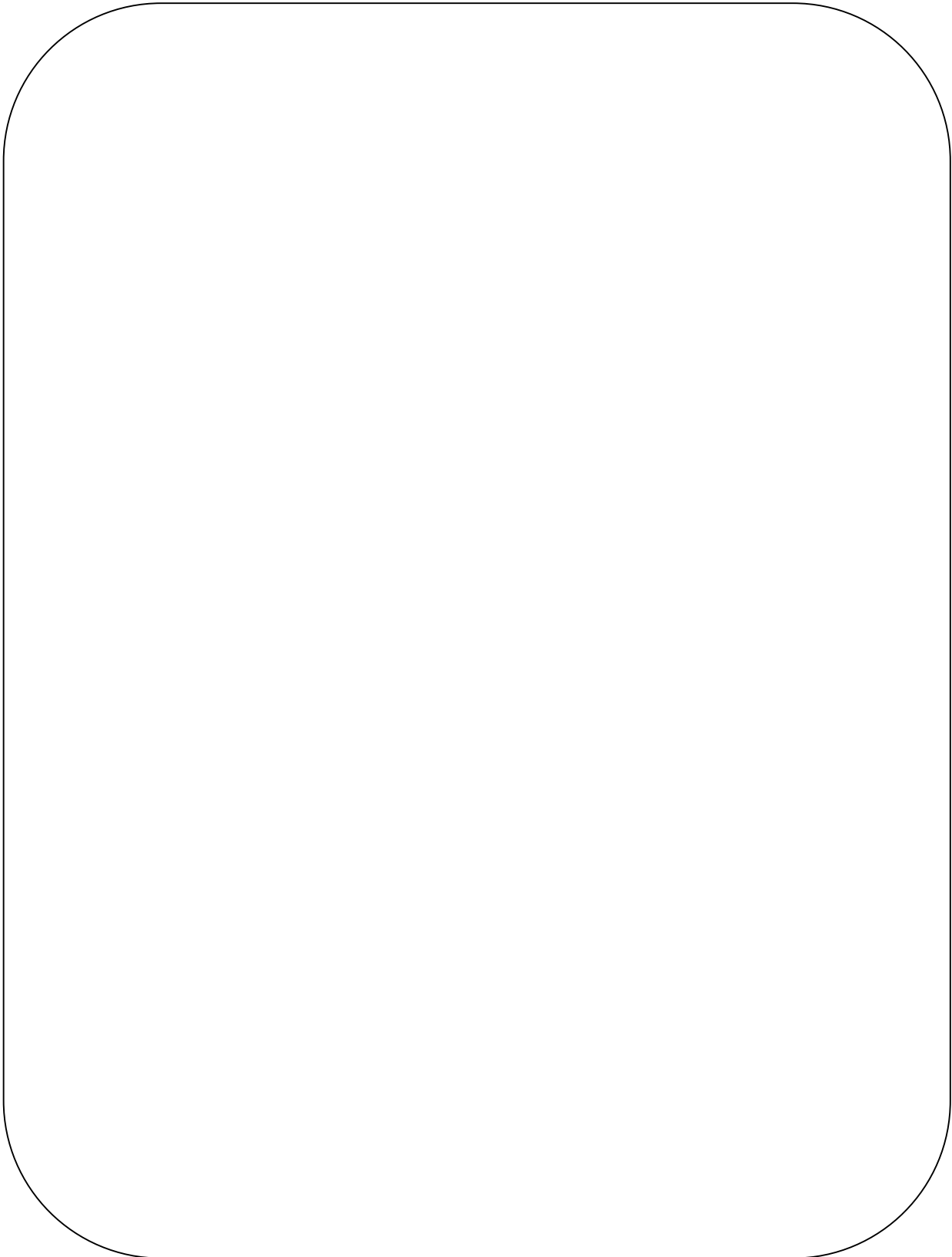
- ☐ It explains how s/he will review what s/he has studied
- ☐ It explains when s/he will review

Evaluate

- ☐ It explains how s/he will check the language improvement
- ☐ It explains when s/he will check the language improvement

4. Finish your 4-week Learning Plan

Thinking about your goals, write some possible SURE activities you can do to improve your skills. Write down any ideas you have below. You will talk about them with a partner in the workshop. When you have finished, update your Learning Plan.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing down ideas for SURE activities.

5. Reflection

I. Which part of SURE + E do you think you will find most challenging? Why?

Comments and questions from your Learning Advisor

Write answers to your advisor's questions.