

# The Role of Mobile Applications in Learning English

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## ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts to focus on the various methods of learning English with mobile. Now a days mobile has not remained only a device for communication but it has become a device for learning and teaching especially, English language. With the help of mobile, English learning and teaching activity has become very interesting and effective.

## 1. Introduction

Technology has become a boon for the modern age. This modern age can be considered as the golden age for the present generation. Technology has reduced the human efforts and made the works easy, effective and efficient. Many inventions have been made in the field of telecommunication. Mobile has become smart mobile and with the help of mobile we can communicate, send information in any form i.e. image, video, audio at the same time mobile can be used as a laptop or desktop. We can store and access any mobile based applications in smart mobile. It can be also used in the field of education. Many educational applications are available on the online platform. Traditional learning and teaching methods have many limitations but now we overcome with these limitations. Now learning and teaching especially foreign language i.e. English has become very easy and interesting. Learner and teacher can use mobile in many ways in order to learn and teach English effectively.

## 2. Mobile as a Tool of Education

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays vital role in the development of education system. It provides digital environment to the learners and teachers. The tools used are numberless; they range from video-conferencing, internet with hypertexts, interactive learning objects, audiovisual materials, forum, instant messaging, blogs, whiteboards, wikis, ipod etc. They all offer synchronous and asynchronous communication. But in recent time there has been a sort of 'revolution'. People are being more and more attracted by mobile phones; the majority of the people have got at least one mobile phone. Students use them, even at school, in the classroom despite school regulations against their use during lessons.

ICT in education covers a wide range in different education segments. The main areas of development are infrastructure development (connectivity and hardware), teacher training, technical support, content development, curricula and pedagogical approaches. Digital tools, such as laptops and

interactive whiteboards, are in increasing use in classrooms. Content has made the shift from replicating existing material in digital formats, to creating new types of content that maximise the format and align with curriculum and learning objectives. In short, ICT becomes transformative when it begins to change and enhance teaching and learning.

With the help of mobile, smartphone, netbook, tablet, Ipad students can access content or to interact with other learners and teachers in effective way. Mobile learning takes place anywhere at any time by anyone and it provides a more personalized and motivating learning experience. M-education now a days has become more popular, interesting and effective. Various paid applications and free applications are available on the internet platform.

## 3. Mobile Applications for Learning English

Various mobile applications for learning English are briefly discussed below. These applications are easily available on the internet and easily accessible in any android based mobile. English learners who want to learn or improve their LSWR skills can download and use these applications at their leisure time. There are many advantages of these applications.

### 3.1 Duolingo - Learn Languages for Free



Logo of Duolingo

This application is one of the highly recommended and easiest for the new English learners or beginners. This is one of the gamified learning systems for the beginners. One can easily

learn English by spending only twenty minutes a day. The beginners can easily download this app from the play store of their mobiles. In this app various lessons are designed in which at every stage of a lesson seven new words are taught. These words are based on the topic of the lessons. At the end of every lesson, skill points are awarded for completing the lessons. Thus, learners can evaluate their knowledge regarding the specific topics of English. Duolingo lessons adapt to the users learning style. Exercises are tailored to help the users learn and review vocabulary effectively. Duolingo is an excellent English learning app that helps cover a lot of material for English learners of all levels.

### 3.2 Memrise: Learn Languages Free



Logo of Memrise

Memrise helps the learners to increase English vocabulary in a systematic way. One can easily download this app in any android based instruments and can easily access this app in an effective way. One of the noticeable merits of this app is that it can also be used on offline mode. Once, this app is downloaded in any android based instrument, one can use this app for life time. There is no need of internet after downloading this app. Thus, a learner can easily download this app from the play store of their instruments. At the time of downloading this app, one must have internet connectivity in their instruments, for further of frequent use of this app, there is no need of internet connectivity. Memrise also have courses to learn the English Grammar in an innovative way.

### 3.3 Learn Languages Busuu



Logo of Busuu

Busuu, an app which is designed on the CEFR language framework. In this app, various vocabulary, lesson dialogues, writing practice etc are taught in a funny way. The learner gradually advances the next step of the various lessons as he passes the last stage of each lesson. It is also free android based app so learners can easily download this app in any android based instrument and can learn English in a very easy and funny way. Teachers give assignment to their students to learn vocabulary, dialogue writing, role-play, group discussion etc. With Busuu, one can talk with native English speakers to

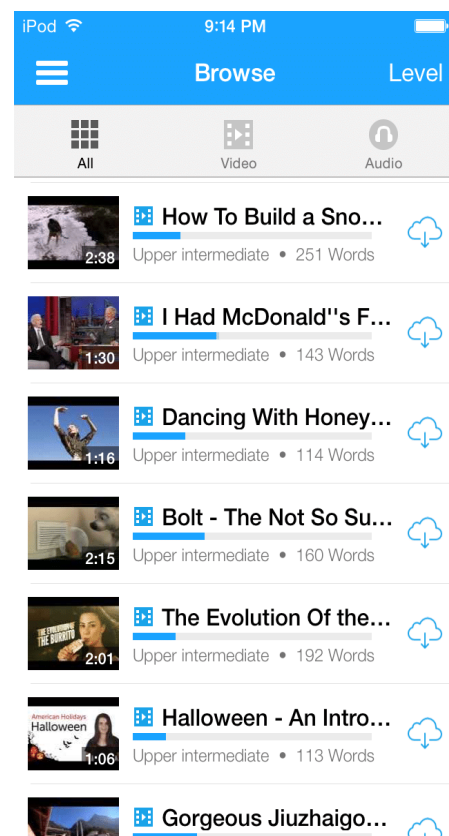
practice English speaking and it's a great way to practice your speaking.

### 3.4 FluentU



Logo of FluentU

It is an android free mobile application, easily available on internet. One can download it from play store of the mobile within few minutes. It contains many real videos on various topics like popular talk shows, music videos, and funny commercials too. The learners can listen these talks at their leisure time. They can listen any talk as many times as they want. Few examples of these videos are as below:



Source: <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/best-apps-learning-english-esl-students/>

Unlike traditional apps, FluentU uses a natural approach that helps the learners ease into the English language and culture over time. So the learners will learn English as it's spoken in real life. It is very true that to learn any language, one has to listen as more as one can. There is a proverb in English that; The more you listen, the more you can learn. Thus, this app may be helpful for the English learners and teachers too. Teachers can also teach English with the help of this application. Teacher can discuss with students on any topic in English and he makes the students to listen these videos in their mobile at students' convenient time.

### 3.5 Awabe

It is also an android based app, one can easily download it from play store without any payment. If once it is downloaded, there is no need of internet to run or use this app. It contains more than 4000 common phrases and vocabularies. The app offers translations, audio and video lessons, and a bunch of language learning games. Users or learners also get daily speaking, listening, and memorizing tests that ensure skills stay fluent. Thus, learners can learn many new words and phrases every day and improve their vocabulary.

### 4. Pros and Cons of these Applications

It is said that every coin has two sides in the same way these mobile applications have their own pros and cons which are listed below:

#### 4.1 Pros

- These applications are totally free and easily available on internet.
- One can easily download and run the applications in their instruments.
- These apps do not require more space so these can be stored either in phone memory or in memory card.
- Most probably these apps have auto updation system. If new version of these apps is available, comes notification on the screen of the mobile.
- Through these apps one can develop and improve four skills i.e. Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading.

- These apps do not require net connectivity for daily use of these applications.
- In some of the mentioned applications, one can evaluate his knowledge at the end of the stage.
- Some apps have audio-visual lessons, so at the same time learners can learn more things from these audio-video lessons.
- Learners can use these applications anywhere, anytime, anyplace with android based instruments.

#### 4.2 Cons

- Without internet connectivity, one cannot download any applications of learning English.
- Though there is internet connectivity, one cannot download the application if learners do not have android mobile, smart mobile or tablet.
- Every application has their own limitations.
- These applications are used in mobiles or tablet, so it may be harmful for the eyes.

### 5. Conclusion

To conclude it may say that the role of mobile in education field is very immense. People can learn or improve English with the help of these mentioned applications. Teachers can also take the advantages of these applications and can also teach their students in an effective way.

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