

# PERSONAL ENGLISH PORTFOLIO

## IBIS

DAAN VAN DER WAL, 1C – STUDENTNR. 564699

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

English, a very interesting subject in my personal life to talk about!

Before I give all the information required for this personal English portfolio I would like to tell something about my level of English before I started with International Business & Innovation Studies and in particular with the lesson English term 1. In my opinion this is necessary for giving a good reflection about the things that I have learned from the English lessons this first term.

Like every Dutch student my lessons of English started very basically at primary school, continued at secondary school and contained mostly learning words from a book and making boring exercises. That those exercises were boring doesn't interest me that much and isn't important for this portfolio however it is meaningful to notice that such a classic way of learning didn't bring me a lot and in my opinion you can't learn a language by sitting two or three hours every week in class and making exercises.

Because I wanted to be good at English I chose to go abroad and hopefully to improve it that way. It did and a couple of weeks staying in Ghana and travelling through Europe definitely improved my English and the only reason why it was, was because I constantly was surrounded with it and had no other choice than speaking English.

Of course this is mostly about speaking and listening and doesn't contain writing but the one thing I know is that the classic way of teaching didn't help me that much to improve my general English and thus also writing skills.

### 2. VOCABULARY BANK

Below in my vocabulary bank there are some words that came across during the first term and are interesting enough to mention here in my portfolio.

Those words came from the book and the English lessons but also a lot of them did I noticed in other classes, during working on the homework for IBIS and in my daily life.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Example of use</b>	<b>Extra learning information</b>
Bring about	One mistake will not bring about the apocalypse	generate, make happen
Incite	Incite them to rebellion	trigger, encourage
Prompt	She want to prompt Ewoud on the phone	Instant, immediate
Odious	Occasionally they appear in odious positions	Disgusting, abominable
Repulsive	I'm sorry the idea is so repulsive to you	Hateful, nasty, ugly
Dreadful	I'm sure she got that dreadful disease	Terrible, terrific
Reign	The last ten years of the reign of John III	Regime, dynasty
Jurisdiction	We have jurisdiction on kidnappings	Authority, supervision
Inflicted	She wanted to inflict pain	Expose
Dereliction	Dereliction of duty	desolation
Examined	Examined the common phenomenon	Inspected, tested
Allotted	Returned after the allotted tour	Distribute, appoint, earmark
Sentries	His sentry duty at the barn	guard
Cunning	In this world one has to be cunning and cruel	Smart, keen
Unsuitability	The unsuitability of the foundation	incorrectness
Splendid	She thought this was a splendid story	Impressive, brilliant, bright
Liaison	To fulfil the role of a liaison, you must be able to communicate	communication, connection
Entailed	It will entail monetary sacrifices on my part	lead to, require
Despair	They can turn despair into hope	sorrow, trial, misery
fencing	Their fencing in Die Another Day	swordplay

### 3. GRAMMAR BANK

To be honest I didn't really learn new grammar this first term but I hope that this will change in the next terms. I know that grammar isn't my strongest skill in the English language but there weren't new things for me this first term. The only thing I would like to mention was something new, that I have learned in class. Not a real grammar lesson but a mistake that I common made before. First I always said : " something meets your expectations" in class I learned that this isn't the right way of saying this you want to say. The right way of saying this is : "something fits you expectations"

You have used some good vocabulary and expressions Daan however there seem to be careless mistakes such as 'where' instead of the verb! Where do you use 'a' and where 'an'? It is also slightly short. Please write an improved version and then put this version with feedback and the improved version into your portfolio.

---

### 4. ENGLISH ACTIVITIES

In point 1: background information of this personal portfolio I wrote about some activities where my use of English played a great role, before I started with International Business & Innovation Studies. Not only then but also in this first term I made use of extra English activities outside the English lessons which helped me improve my English.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to travel in this first term to Ghana or to make a roundtrip through Europe and to improve my English in the way I did before but because of the fact that English is important to me and I definitely want to become good at all the different skills I realized that I needed to do something extra next to the English lessons.

The best way for me to learn is by doing and for that, I need intrinsic motivation. All the English activities that I did this first term and that wasn't directly linked to the English lessons or even the International Business & Innovation Studies where based on interests to get to know something or to dive deeper into a subject.

One of those things is about the American election, this really interests me and I'm looking forward to 2016 when the real elections will take place but the campaigns already started and the debates are really great to watch.

Especially because of that billion-dollar populist clown, who's still leading the polls. He really makes me laugh every time he talks about politics but I do have respect for him as a business man. I try to follow all the highlights about the presidential elections of 2016 but there is often to much news. The extra English activities that helped me improve my English where watching recent

interviews with Clinton and Trump but also the first republican presidential debate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yITZS6HNqho>

Another extra activity is listening to BBC news podcast on my iPhone. This is a daily broadcast but I listen to it once in a while (maybe once a week) when there is an interesting topic. Here I also combine my interests and learning English in a way I like and that helps me to improve my English. A third way was reading an English book in the end of August and begin of September. This book, named "The Commandant of Auschwitz", I bought when I visit the Auschwitz concentration camp during my European road trip and is an autobiography from Rudolf Hoess the commandant of Auschwitz. A very interesting book but written by Rudolf Hoess himself and more focused on his youth and the beginning of the war then his actually crimes. Interesting to read when you're fully aware of the context but I got stocked on half of the book and didn't read it further. This didn't have to do anything with the content but more with the way of writing and storytelling which is very slow.

<http://www.bol.com/nl/p/commandant-of-auschwitz/1001004000907310/>

Further my extra English activities were mainly bases on the IBIS course and all the homework that goes with it, for example, more listening and reading by watching and reading articles for the International World of Business lessons. A last extra English activity I would like to mention is that I translated a large part of my personal LinkedIn to English (first it was Dutch) here I definitely improve my writing skills because I tried to make it as professional as possible and didn't want to use the same words again and again so here I search for synonyms.

<https://nl.linkedin.com/in/daanvanderwal>

## 5. REFLECTIVE JOURNAL

When I keep in mind everything written above about my background information, my extra English activities and the assessments combined with the vocabulary and grammar bank I definitely would say that I have learned some new things and for sure I have the feeling that I improved my English during the last few weeks.

But when I think critical in order trying to give a good reflection I need to answer the questions "what exactly did I learned?" and "how did I learn that?".

The thing I have learned in term 1 of International Business & Innovation Studies is not really about grammar despite the vocabulary list but is more based on listening, reading and speaking. The reason for that is partly because my extra English activities were all based on that but mainly because of the IBIS course. Since the beginning of September thus the start of IBIS I talk almost every day a lot of English, I listen even more to other people how are talking English to me and everything I read for IBIS, which is a lot, is all in English. This is the best way for me to really learn something just by doing.

I described it also in the first point of this portfolio: background information. I learn by doing and not by the classic way of teaching a language. So if I'm very critical I would say that I absolutely improved my English because of IBIS but not because of the English lessons. Of course this isn't about the teacher but it's just my personal learning style and based on a critical view, trying to give the best reflection as possible that's my conclusion.