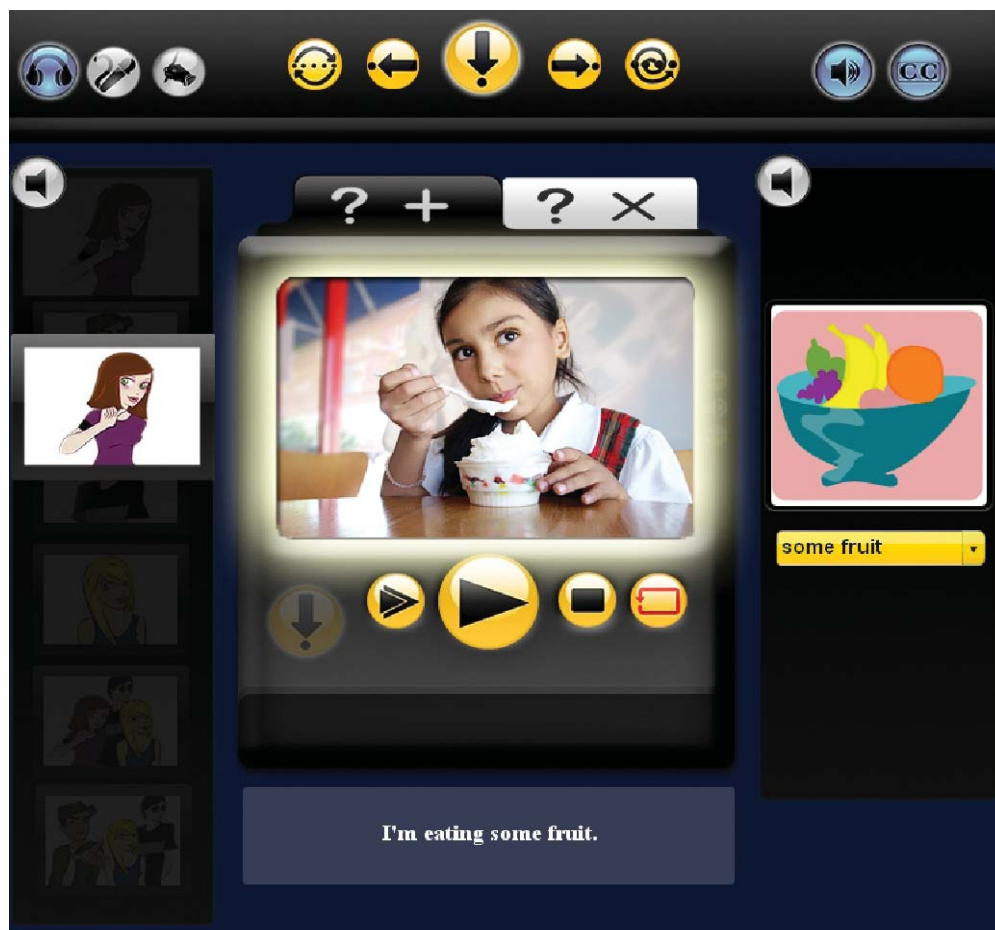


See Say English Online Program

Annual Subscription: \$42.00
www.seesayenglish.com



See Say English is an interactive course that teaches the basic verb structure of English through the use of pictures and symbols. These pictures and symbols are designed to indicate to students what is being said so that they will understand what they are learning and repeating. The program is composed of 50 regular and 50 irregular verbs with approximately 1000 vocabulary items in context, and its goal is to enable students to learn these verbs, nouns, and prepositions in the five basic verb tenses of spoken English.

The basis of the program is author Yves Jacot's refreshing assertion that English grammar is comparatively simple thanks to the minimal need for verb-subject agreement unlike most Latin languages. Jacot also recommends that students use the program in daily bursts of just 15-20 minutes rather than sitting at the computer for a couple of hours once a week.

The fully illustrated format shows students exactly what is being said. From looking at the format on the screen, students know WHO is doing WHAT action to WHOM or

WHAT. SIGNAL CARDS... etc. tell students the time frame (verb tense) of the utterance. By using the computer mouse, students control which verb they want to learn and in which time frame. They can then listen to the sentence in each of several tenses by selecting different arrows. After which, they can record themselves repeating the phrases and replay their own renditions.

It is difficult to explain how simple and intuitive the system is without being at the actual computer, suffice to say that anyone with even the most basic computer skills will find it easy to navigate around the program.

Although the program is mainly used as a personal interactive program, it also has a component that allows for a live teacher to interact with students in order to evaluate their progress. In any school system, evaluation is, of course, important. So this aspect of the language program allows teachers to orally interact with their students to evaluate their progress of lessons they have had a chance to learn. The teacher, by engaging them in a dialogue, can evaluate how well a student has learned a particular verb in a particular time

frame, for comprehension, fluency, and mastery.

This evaluation can also be done in written form, and a prototype worksheet is provided and can be printed for individual or classroom use. However, students will find the oral interaction with a teacher to be more tasking and rewarding because it will demonstrate for them their competence in the new language.

The evaluation session can take place once a week or whenever a student feels she can challenge mastery of the verb she has been studying. Students who are able to answer questions fluently, logically, and grammatically correct pass the test.

Through simple illustrations, clear icons, and extensive repetition, See Say English achieves its objective of enabling even a technophobe to use an online program to learn English verb structures and basic vocabulary. M. Jacot's innovative approach is effective and the program will help all ELLs to improve their sentence construction. ❧

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