

## Seminar: Independent Learning

Time: 90 - 120 minutes

Level: \*\*\*\*\*[B1/B2/C1]

### Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' understanding of independent learning and improve their awareness of study skills. This lesson provides an insight into independent study in four universities and outlines the key areas of what is expected at university.

#### 1. Lead in

- Ask students (in small groups) to discuss what is 'independent learning'.
- Feedback ideas on the board.
- Explain they are going to watch / listen to four videos from four universities. Take notes on each video and these notes will be used for a discussion (seminar).

**Videos:** [preparation - A4 pad and pens] - Students listen and take notes. Ask the students to take particular attention in their notes to which university said what (this is important because students should refer verbally to the author in a seminar. E.g. University of Westminster highlighted that...).

**Independent Learner #1:** [give out worksheet] students summarise their notes on this sheet. Again using the code (UoL / UoW / NTU / UoE) to indicate who said what.

**Independent Learner Action Plan:** [give out worksheet] students should reflect on their independent study and fill in the action plan on how they can improve this.

**Seminar Questions #3:** Hold a seminar - students run & control a discussion using the questions.

#### **A Seminar**

- consists of 3-6 people.
- a set of questions.  
(give out questions at the beginning - students have two minutes to read through and formulate their answers).
- 25-30minutes discussion time.
- 5 minutes before the end - each student summarises a key point discussed.
- Students **CAN** use their notes.

More information go here: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/seminars>

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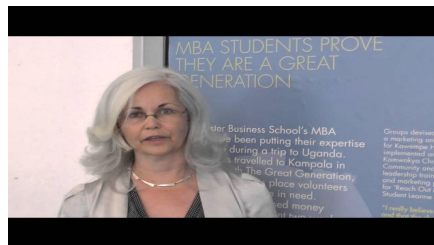
## An Independent Learner

Watch these four videos and take notes on what the speakers talk about.



**University of Leicester (UoL) - becoming a more 'independent learner' [4:44]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sflcMOMdpE>



**University of Westminster (UoW) - Independent Study [4:12]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr7H7HJGudM>



**Nottingham Trent University (NTU) - Independent Learning [2:45]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir8MZJkddIA>



**University of Edinburgh (UoE) - Independent learning at Edinburgh [2:57]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAZ6NnHLo>

## **Independent learner #1**

Summarise the key ideas and important points of the videos in this section.  
Refer to what each university said by using the codes (**UoL / UoW / NTU / UoE**).  
Be prepared to talk about what these universities said about independency.

## Independent Learner Action Plan

*The following questions can help you to gather together the information you need to develop an Independent Learning action plan for study.*

What area of your independent study would you like to develop?
What particular research, topics or questions would you like to explore?
What particular goals would you like to achieve with your independent study? e.g. I would like to have greater knowledge of ... / develop the ability to...
What strategies will you use to achieve these goals? (places / time / etc...)
How will you show that your goals have been achieved?
What might make it difficult for you to achieve these goals?
What time-scale do you have for achieving these goals?

## Seminar: Independent Learning Questions

- 1. Reflect on your approach to reading & listening.**
- 2. Define Independent learning (I.L).**
- 3. What types of I.L activities were discussed in the videos?**
- 4. Why is Independent Learning fundamental?**
- 5. What are the challenges for you implementing I.L?**
- 6. Discuss where you can study at this university?**
- 7. Discuss your goals, action plans and focus for the next couple  
of weeks.**