

DynEd® Frequently Asked Questions Regarding DynEd Study

REPETITION	
<i>Why do I have to repeat the same sentence over so many times?</i>	We have two types of memory - short-term and long-term, or automaticity. To achieve automaticity in a language, your brain creates a connection between the linguistic concept presented and the language that communicates it. The only way to create this connection is to repeat the language over and over again so that it becomes easy to say and is remembered automatically. Like learning a phone number - we repeat the numbers several times until we remember.
<i>This program is so repetitive...</i>	Although there seems to be a lot of repetition, actually the software modifies the exercises according to your answer. The reason it seems repetitive is that you are expected to return several times to the same exercise - you're not finished because you've done it once. The program is designed for you to spend no more than 5 minutes in an exercise, jumping back and forth between exercises which are all at the same level. As a matter of fact, if you do more than 20% of an exercise in one day, you don't get credit for the time you spent.
<i>Teacher, we always have to repeat the same thing, how boring!</i>	Answer 1: English is a skill. To learn any skill, you need to repeat words or chunks of language over and over again for the brain to make the necessary connections between the neurons. These connections allow us to remember and are strengthened every time we repeat something. When you learned to ride a bike, you had to practice a lot before being able to ride comfortably.
	Answer 2: Did you have to take a (student's language) course to learn how to speak (student's language)? Obviously, you DIDN'T. You learned (student's language) by imitating and repeating what you heard others say. You repeated it until it became automatic and you could say it easily. It's the same thing with English. You have imitate the native voice and repeat what you hear until it becomes automatic.
STUDY SCORE	
<i>How can I increase my Study Score?</i>	It's easy to increase your Study Score. All you have to do is use the buttons on the toolbar in an efficient manner. The most effective way to study is follow this sequence: listen to the native voice a couple of times using the repeat button, record your voice imitating the native voice, listen to your recording for errors and then compare it to the native voice again. Comparing your voice to the native voice is very important because that's where you can recognize any mistakes that you may have made. If you do this, you're clicking on the repeat button a total of 3 times for every time you record your voice and listen and monitor. In addition to using the tools effectively, using the speech recognition well, studying frequently, answering the comprehension questions correctly and performing well on your Mastery Tests all help increase your Study Score.
<i>Why is having a positive study score so important?</i>	A positive Study Score is important because it reflects how well you are studying. If you're taking full advantage of the program, using the tools, etc., you are learning better and more quickly. The higher your Study Score, the faster new material is introduced and the faster you will get your Certificate.

<i>Friday, my Study Score was 5. Monday, it's only 3. Why did it go down?</i>	The system will analyze your frequency of study in the last 14 study days. If you haven't studied frequently enough, when you do go in and the system synchronizes, the points will have gone down to reflect the lack of study. As soon as you start studying regularly again, it will go back up.
<i>I was on vacation for a few weeks and my Study Score, that had been 4, is now -3. What do I have to do to raise my Study Score?</i>	Because you haven't studied for a while, your frequency level went down and you lost points related to frequency. But, don't worry. What you need to do is study actively for the next few days. Since the Tutor checks on frequency and study time in the last 14 days, the fact that you're studying again will help raise your score. Remember that frequency is one of the most important components to developing your language skills. Now that you're studying again, remember to listen to the native voice, record what you heard and compare it to the native voice. Not doing this will ensure a negative score. If you follow these suggestions, your Study Scores will improve dramatically.
OPENING MORE MATERIAL	
<i>Why isn't the next unit open?</i>	It's not open because you haven't yet completed the required percentage. When you've completed 50% of a unit, the next one will open automatically. When you've completed 80% of the required units, your Mastery Test will open. How quickly you open a unit depends on how well you're using the tools (Repeat, Record, Listen, Speech Recognition). If you don't know why a unit or Mastery Test is not opening, go to your Study Records and double click on the red lock for that unit or test. It will tell you exactly what you have to do.
SPEECH RECOGNITION	
<i>Why is Speech Recognition strict with certain words but not others?</i>	The speech recognizer focuses on key words or structures, depending on the type of lesson. For example, in some lessons the speech recognizer will focus on the difference between "live" and "lives". In other lessons, the focus will be on word order and not on individual words. If a key word is incorrect or not recognized, even if the pronunciation of the other words in the sentence is correct, the recognizer will evaluate the sentence poorly.
<i>Why does the speech recognizer show a question mark at the end of a sentence even when the word was pronounced?</i>	Some people's voices fade at the end of a sentence. In many cases, the recognizer is trying to confirm that the sentence was indeed completed. So, if the last word is not clearly heard, the rest of the sentence may not be recognized even if it was clearly pronounced.
<i>I like doing Speech Recognition exercises because I get immediate feedback, but I find it really frustrating sometimes.</i>	You are working at a level that should be challenging for you, where the language is new. While Speech Recognition is a very powerful tool to help you progress in your pronunciation of English, it requires you to be familiar with the key language to do it well. Only after you have studied in the presentation exercises and feel comfortable with the new material should you do Speech Recognition exercises. When you feel ready, set an evaluation goal for each time you enter into the lesson. The first time, you may want to set the yellow level evaluation as your goal. That shows that you are pronouncing some sounds clearly enough to gain points, but that more work is needed. The next time you go into the same lesson, you should be able to reach the three green bars. That's good, but indicates that a key word could have been pronounced more clearly. So the next time, set your goal on the 4 green bars. Following this technique will prevent you from being frustrated. If you get frustrated, you are not learning. During a Speech Recognition exercises you also need to practice listening to the native voice, recording what you heard and monitoring your recording against the native voice. Yes, even in Speech Recognition exercises!

	Remember that you need to have practiced the key language a lot before you are ready to do Speech Recognition exercises.
<i>Does the speech recognizer give points for intonation and stress patterns?</i>	These speech patterns vary considerably and are difficult to detect. The recognizer does not focus on these characteristics when it is set on the default mode, which is beginner. It is looking for the correct pronunciation of key words within the sentence. If you require more challenge, try setting the level at intermediate or advanced. There, it IS looking for correct intonation and stress.
<i>Why does speech recognition work poorly in certain cases or with certain computers?</i>	In order to do well in Speech Recognition exercises, you need a good microphone and minimum environmental noise. The microphone needs to be located to the side of the mouth, about a finger's width away, to avoid distortion of sound due to aspiration, for example. Other problems can include audio configuration of the computer or microphone volume. If you are having difficulties, make sure to contact the technical support people so they can help you.