

# Stories from Romania

A film by Daniel Emmerson presented by EnglishClub.com



## Activity 1

How much do you know about Romania? Test yourself with this 'true or false' quiz!

1. Romania is in the European Union.
2. Bucharest is the capital city of Romania.
3. Romania has a population of approximately 21 million people.
4. Romania is landlocked.
5. The official language of Romania is Russian.

## Activity 2

You are going to watch a video about learning English in Romania. The interviewees in the video answer the following two questions. Read the questions below and discuss what you think they might say in response. Then watch the video once to find out if your ideas were right.

1. Why do young Romanians speak English so well?
2. What tips and advice do Romanians have for learners of English?

## Activity 3

Read the following statements about Part 1 of the video and decide if they are true or false. Then watch Part 1 again to check your answers.

1. Schools in Romania used to teach English in a very traditional way.
2. Modern Romanians are more fluent than in the past.
3. All teachers of English in Romania have English as their mother-tongue.
4. The interviewees seem very self-motivated to learn English.
5. Romanian bands usually sing in English.

Read the following statements and tick the ones which you think are mentioned in Part 2 of the video. Then watch Part 2 again to check your answers. Be careful: there are two answers on the list below which are not mentioned in the film!

6. Go at your own pace.
7. Buy a good dictionary.
8. Try to speak like native speakers.
9. Persevere.
10. Learn ten new English words a day.
11. Do what you like.

## Activity 4

Watch the whole video again and circle the speaker or speakers in each case.

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Who says they started learning at approximately ten years old? | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 2. Who says they spent a couple of years in England?              | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 3. Who mentions making videos in English for language practice?   | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 4. Who says they taught themselves English?                       | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 5. Who read two or three books a week in English?                 | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 6. Who thinks that songs in English helped them to learn?         | Joanna Alex Sergiu Alecs        |
| 7. Who advises learners to be open-minded?                        | Joanna Roxanne Christina Sergiu |
| 8. Who thinks you learn a lot from native speakers?               | Joanna Roxanne Christina Sergiu |
| 9. Who suggests watching TV in English without subtitles?         | Joanna Roxanne Christina Sergiu |

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## Activity 5

*Discuss the following questions.*

1. Are English lessons in your country based on the traditional translation method or are they more interactive and based on speaking activities? Which type of learning method do you prefer? Why?
2. To what extent do you agree with Joanna when she says that students who study English with the traditional Grammar Translation method have difficulty speaking fluently and students who have more modern interactive lessons have difficulty with grammar? What do you have difficulty with?
3. Sergiu says he read two or three books a week in English when he was at college. In what ways do you think this benefited him? How often do you read in English?
4. Sergiu and Alecs mention studying on their own. How often do you study outside class? Do you think it is possible to learn a language successfully without a teacher?
5. Sergiu and Roxanne mention watching television in English. How often do you watch films in English? Are any TV programmes in your country broadcast in English? If so, which ones do you like best and why?
6. Alecs says he was 'dedicated' to learning English. How important do you think self-motivation is when learning a language? How self-motivated are you?
7. Joanna advises learners to be as open-minded as possible when communicating in English and making friends with English speakers. Why do you think she advises this?
8. What other questions do you think the film should have asked?
9. What interested you most about the video?

## Activity 6

*Imagine you are making a film like 'Stories from Romania'. Interview your partner, using the questions below.*

1. How long have you been learning English?
2. Is English taught in a traditional 'translation' way or a modern 'interactive' way in your country?
3. How common is it for singers from your country to sing in English rather than their own language?
4. How useful is the Internet for learning English?
5. How well do people in your country speak English?
6. What tips and advice can you offer to other learners?

The information, statements and answers used in this worksheet are taken from the film in question and interviewees' responses. They are not necessarily true for the whole country, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of the filmmaker or of EnglishClub.com.