



How to..



# Sound super smart



Holly King-Mand

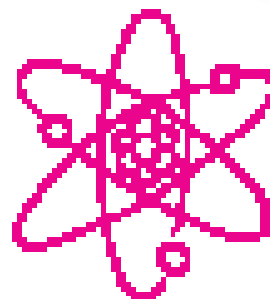
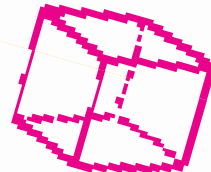
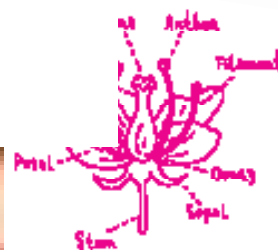
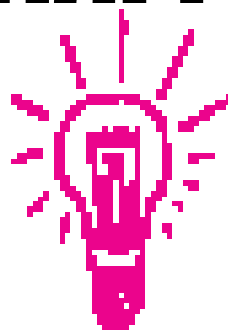
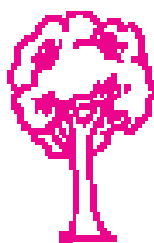
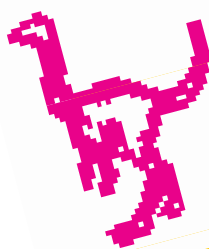
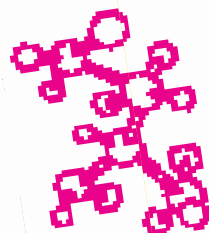
Holly King-Mand is the nation's favourite English teacher – thousands of young people joined her free online lessons during lockdown. Reading, etymology (the history of words) and Shakespeare are some of her favourite things.

If you want to sound super smart, she has shared some top tips with you here. You can find even more advice at [hollyclassroom.com](https://hollyclassroom.com)

## 1 Carefully pick your vocabulary

All English teachers will tell you the same: word choices, in your writing and speaking, are incredibly important.

Vague words with a broad meaning such as "amazing", "big", "happy" and "bad" can be exchanged for more precise words to give clarity. Make sure your vocabulary really makes your meaning understood.



**HOLD THAT THOUGHT**

A recent study found that humans have more than 6,000 thoughts every day.

## 2 Extend your sentences

Conjunctions such as "however" and "in addition" are great ways of extending your ideas and showing critical

thinking skills. Adding clauses to your sentences can add detail, ideas, self-reflection, alternative perspectives, and a range of other things that will make you sound super smart.



## 3 Listen!

Nothing will make you sound less smart than not actually listening to the person you are talking to. Don't just patiently wait for your turn to talk, listen to what other people are saying and try to understand the point they are making.



## to change your mind

Learning is a lifelong journey and if you learn more on a topic than you knew before, it's ok to say, "I've changed my mind in light of new and more reliable information and research." People will respect your honesty and your ability to assess and use new information you have gained.



"To be or not to be, that is the question."  
**William Shakespeare**

"The true sign of intelligent knowledge, but imagination."  
**Albert Einstein**

"I think, therefore I am."  
**René Descartes**

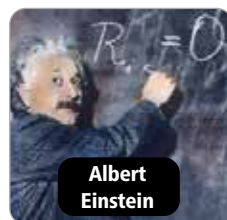
## 7 Read, read, read!

The ultimate tip for sounding smarter and really improving your vocabulary and intelligence is to read more. You can read autobiographies, blogs, newspapers, novels, poetry – anything. Try to use the new words you learn from reading in your everyday life and this will transfer them into your active vocabulary.



## 4 Do your research

If you have a chance, research the topic you are talking or writing about. It's super smart to think about fake news and false information – make sure what you're reading is from a reliable source (such as *The Week Junior*) and ask a trustworthy adult for help if something doesn't sound or feel right.



Albert Einstein

## 6 Quote the greats

Being able to quote great writers, philosophers (someone who studies ideas about reality), and scientists of history in your conversations will give you the "super smart" edge! Try these popular ones:

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