



10

*Learning how
to learn*

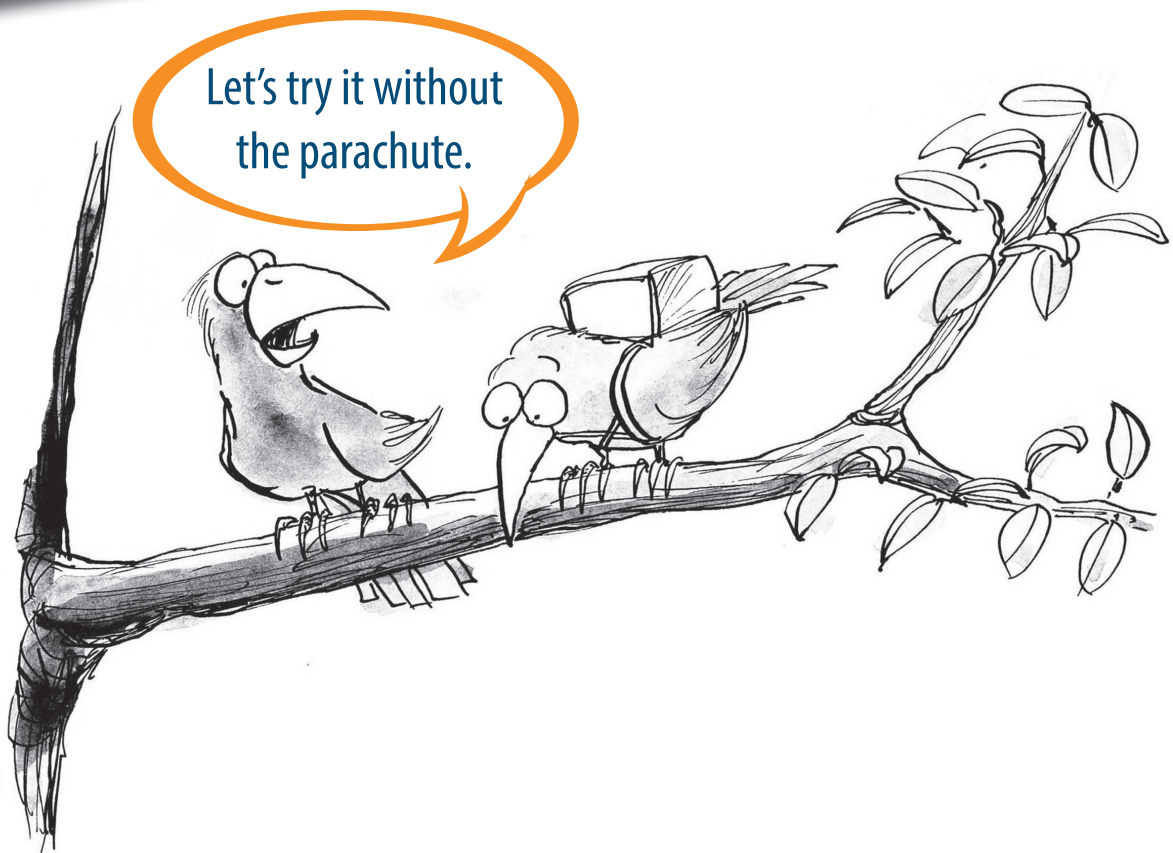


Getting Started in TTO



A

Learning the smart way!



In TTO you will learn many new skills for lots of new subjects. At first this can be hard, but your teachers will be there to help you.

In this section, you can find tips to help you get started. Learning the smart way takes less time!

B

Looking ahead



Make sure you've got a good idea of what you must learn:

- Get the general idea of the text: look at the title, introduction, smaller headings (*kopjes*) and concepts (*begrippen*)
- Study the text in more detail: look at the aims
- Just pick out certain information

TIPS

- 1** First think what you already know about the subject.
 - It's easier to remember new information if you already know something about it.
 - Share your ideas with a classmate or your teacher.
 - Check if what you know already is correct. You might learn more about the subject this way.
Bonus: you can practise your English at the same time!
- 2** Have you come across (*tegenkomen*) the subject before? If you have, then you will find it easier to understand.
- 3** Look carefully at what the chapter or section is teaching you. Do you understand what you should know and be able to do at the end? If you are unsure, then discuss this with a classmate or teacher.



Get to work

Once you know what the chapter or section is about, you can get to work.

- Start by reading the text and then look to see if there are any pictures.
- In the sections *Reading strategies* and *Watching and listening*, we talked about strategies that you can use. You can use them if you get stuck.



In BRICKS we focus on points that are important in TTO:

- Language boxes give insight into language, for example, by showing differences between English and Dutch.
- Different view boxes show you how to look at the subject through the eyes of another person. In this way you can relate better to other people.
- Talking points challenge you to have a conversation in English. In this way you learn to voice your opinion and get to know what other people think. You also practise your English!



- 1** This may sound unnecessary, but we're going to say it anyway: pay attention in class! Your teacher will explain the most important parts of the lesson. If there's anything you don't understand, dare (*durf*) to ask questions. Don't worry about making mistakes when you speak in English, it's fine! Getting answers to your questions will help to make things clear. You will understand the subject quickly and you won't have to spend so much time on your homework.
- 2** Actively engage:
While reading, watching and listening, you should make notes. By picking out the important points in a text and writing them down, you activate your brain. This helps you to remember them better and at the same time, it will activate your learning process.
- 3** Keywords are the most important words in a text, they give you a framework (*kapstok*).
In BRICKS, the keywords are found at the end of each chapter. By reading them and their meanings regularly (*regelmatig*), you will remember them better. You can do this in BRICKS Biology (and soon in BRICKS Geography) with the keyword trainer.
- 4** Read your notes and summaries regularly. This will help you link up information from one lesson to the next.

In general, studying works best if you learn a little at a time and then repeat it; in this way you will remember things better. This is called 'spaced learning': studying with pauses (*tussenpozen*) between the learning moments makes sure the information 'sticks' (*blijft plakken*) in your mind.

D

Active Learning

In BRICKS we focus on active working methods:

After you have studied the theory in a text, it is useful to work on related exercises. We ask you to work with what you have just learned. By doing this, you remember information better. For instance, you learn to link ideas and manage concepts (*begrijpen*) and check if you have understood what you are learning.



TIPS

- 1** Two heads are better than one!
Work with a classmate as often as possible:
 - Swap (*uitwisselen*) information, give each other feedback
 - Learn from each other
 - By talking together, you practise your English
- 2** In each BRICKS chapter, there is a key to the exercises.
Compare your answers to those in the key. Doing this you'll learn more about the chapter you're reading. You'll also learn to use the English language properly.
- 3** Do you often make the same mistakes? Talk about it with your classmate or your teacher. They'll surely be able to help you.
- 4** When you need to write, speak or have a discussion, look again at the step-by-step plans which you saw earlier in Getting Started in TTO.

E

Homework

You don't want to spend too much time on your homework. Remember: if you pay attention in class, you won't need to!

TIPS

- 1 Start doing your homework on the day you get it, while the information is still fresh in your mind.
- 2 Don't spend too long on your homework in one go. After about 20 minutes, take a break and do something else which doesn't need much concentration. Come back to your homework with more focus.
- 3 Don't do all of your homework all at once. Do it in small chunks (*brokjes*) and spread it out over the whole week. You'll remember the lessons better and you'll be better prepared for your test. Spread out the learning of the key words and concepts during the week. It's better than trying to cram (*stampen*) them into your head all at once.

F

Preparing for the test

Often, when you have finished a chapter, it will be followed by a test. How do you prepare for that?





- 1** Be sure you've made a good summary (*samenvatting*) of the information and think about the following:
 - a** Your summary should include questions (and your answers). Base them on the headings and sub-headings (*kopjes en subkopjes*) in the text or on the learning objectives (*leerdoelen*) which you started with. Your answers will then form the summary of the most important subject matter (*leerstof*).
 - b** Use the practise questions at the end of each BRICKS chapter to test your knowledge of the important points. If you cannot answer all the questions, read parts of the chapter again.
 - c** Include the learning objectives of the chapter in your summary. If you can do what is in these objectives, you know you have understood the most important points of the chapter.
 - d** Use the keywords and definitions at the end of the chapter. Make a mindmap or use the keyword trainer.
 - e** Link ideas and facts:
 - People and places
 - Concepts and people
 - Concepts and places
 - Dates, places and peopleIt's a bit like putting all the pieces of a puzzle together to form one picture.
- 2** In BRICKS, there is a self-test at the end of each chapter to check if you have understood the important points of the chapter and/or section. If you haven't understood everything, you can:
 - Check the answers to the questions
 - Read the section/chapter again
 - Read the notes and summaries on that section/chapter again
- 3** If you start studying well before the test and learn small chunks at a time, you'll remember the information better.
- 4** Work with a classmate so you can:
 - Learn with and from each other 😊.
 - You can test each other (*elkaar overhoren*) and discuss the main points.

G

Feedback and feedforward

After the test, you'll get your mark. If you've done well, this shows that your learning strategies have worked. If you haven't done so well, then this is what to do for the next time:



TIPS

- 1 Look at the test: what went well and what could you have done better? For example:
 - You managed to write down the facts, but you couldn't make the link between them. Next time, spend more time on this.
 - If you were completely wrong about a subject, then it's useful to spend more time studying the facts.
- 2 Ask for feedback from your teacher:
 - Can he/she tell you what they noticed about your understanding of the subject?
 - You can also ask for feedback from your classmates: what did they notice?
 - Have your classmates and/or your teacher got any tips for you?
- 3 Check for yourself: How did you prepare for the test?
 - Did anything go wrong in your preparation?
 - Did you pay attention properly in class?
 - Did you spread your learning out over a longer period of time?
 - Perhaps you didn't make a good summary or the aims of the task were not clear for you. If you know where you went wrong, you can keep that in mind for next time.
- 4 One last top tip: if you think your teacher can explain the subject to you in a way that you understand it better, then ask him/her to do this.