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Verb confusion 1 – courses and study

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a I don't know where the library is.
b I don't understand where the library is.
- 2 a Last summer I studied with you on the course.
b Last summer I learned with you on the course.

- *Know* is used to show that you have memorised something or that you are certain of something: *I know all of the irregular verbs*. *Know* describes a state, not an activity (not ~~I am trying to know my irregular verbs~~.) and we cannot use it in the continuous form (not ~~I am knowing my irregular verbs~~.)
- *Learn* describes an activity. We *learn* facts when we try to memorise them: *I am learning irregular verbs for the test*. We can also *learn* a skill: *I am learning to play the piano*. We cannot use *learn* by itself (not ~~I am learning for the test~~.)
- *Study* is usually used to talk about a whole subject area rather than individual skills or facts: *My daughter is studying economics at university* (not ~~I am studying how to play the piano~~.) We can use *study* by itself: *I am studying for the test on Friday*. Note that we can say *learn about* but not *study about*: *We're learning about World War I this term*. (not ~~we're studying about~~.)
- *Take* can be used in a similar way to *study* to refer to a subject area: *I am taking a course in marketing*. It is also used to refer to the individual subjects within a course: *I have to take at least 3 marketing subjects to get the diploma*.
- *Enrol* is used to say that you are listed in the official records for a course. *I have just enrolled in an art course*.

2 Correct the mistake below.



We would like

We would like to learn in an
English language course.

3 Choose the correct verb to complete the sentences below.

- 1 We're *learning* / *studying* about Ancient Rome this term.
- 2 I've decided to *enrol in* / *learn* a photography course this summer.
- 3 I can hum the tune but I don't *know* / *learn* the words.
- 4 In high school you *know* / *study* many different subjects.
- 5 Before you can fly a plane, you need to *learn* / *study* how to land.
- 6 Jane is *learning* / *studying* in London this year.
- 7 Do you *know* / *learn* the telephone number for the school?
- 8 I can't go out on Friday. I have to *learn* / *study* for my end-of-year exams.