24 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 ..... .

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS