


UNIT 7D

SKILLS

2 A Read Ann's blog post, ignoring the blanks. Then match headings a–d below with tips 1–4 in the text.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a Work hard | c Establish concrete goals |
| b Choose something you care about | d Get a good teacher |

B Which tip seems most useful?



Learning a new skill

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There are a lot of reasons why you might want to learn a new skill. Maybe you're trying to get a promotion. Perhaps you want to keep your mind active. Or you might just be looking for a new challenge. No matter what you want to learn and why, these four tips will help you.

1 _____

Even if you want to learn three sports, pick one you're truly passionate about. If you choose a sport you're not really interested in, the chances are you won't be very good at it! (a) _____, you'll find it hard to keep yourself motivated. Trust me – I've quit soccer practice three times!

2 _____

It's easier to accomplish goals that are realistic. When I learned Portuguese, instead of saying, "I want to learn Portuguese," I told myself, "I want to be able to communicate in everyday situations when I go to Brazil." (b) _____, I gave myself a deadline ("in six months"), which helped.

3 _____

You can learn a new skill on your own, but it's easier when you have someone guide you. For example, you can create a professional-looking website by watching online tutorials, but a teacher helped me speed up the process. (c) _____, he or she will give you feedback, which is a good thing.

4 _____

Research shows that talent has less to do with your genes and more with your attitude. For example, I'm taking art lessons, and I'm not naturally good at drawing or painting. (d) _____, I'm making good progress, and people seem to like my work. My secret? Two hours of practice every day.

Lastly, here's my most important piece of advice for you: keep in mind that making mistakes is a normal part of the learning process. As an adult, you're good at lots of different things, and it's difficult to be a beginner again. (e) _____, we all need to learn to start over and get things wrong before we get them right. Good luck!

Posted by Ann

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Skill writing a set of guidelines

Guidelines or tips that give advice on how to do something should be easy to follow, friendly, and interesting.

- Organize your tips into short paragraphs.
- Give each tip a title summarizing the advice.
- Make sure each tip includes the reason why it's important.
- Include examples or personal experiences to help you make your point.
- "Speak" to the reader directly, using "you" and "your."

- 4** Read the Skill box. Then read tips 1–4 in Ann's blog post again and underline ...
- 1 the reason behind each of Ann's four tips.
 - 2 Ann's personal experience.
- 5** Choose the correct option for three additional points for the Skill box. Check your answers in Ann's blog post to help you.

- Write a ¹short / detailed introduction explaining the purpose of your post.
- Write ²one / two tip(s) per paragraph. You ³can / shouldn't number the paragraphs.
- Decide where to put the most important tip. You ⁴can / can't include it in the conclusion.

Text builder linkers to add ideas

We use the linkers **besides**, **in addition**, and **moreover** to connect similar ideas:

Practice helps you play better. **Besides**, it can boost your confidence.

I'm fluent in Spanish. **In addition**, I speak very good German.

It's a good idea to watch YouTube tutorials. **Moreover**, reading on the subject is useful, too.

Look! When the words in **bold** in the sentences above connect two independent clauses, always start a new sentence:

I'm a skilled drummer. **In addition**, I can play the guitar quite well.

NOT ~~I'm a skilled drummer, **in addition**, I can play the guitar quite well.~~

- 6** Read the Text builder. Choose the correct linkers for blanks a–e in the blog post.
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a Besides / Although | d Besides / However |
| b Moreover / Though | e In addition / However |
| c In addition / Despite | |