(1) Practising English outside the classroom:
* For practising English is mainly conversing in the language and for that vocabulary of English is important. And, for that I listen to news..hours.. on television. And, the most important thing that helps me ..you might feel find it very funny but it is Star Movies...So many people criticise Star Movies but for learning pronunciation that is important, I think. And, another thing that helps me in learning English is newspapers like The Times of India and the Indian Express – the editorial columns and the letters to the editor. I find them very important because the editors consider only those letters that are literary and written in very sophisticated language, not in very simple and general language and..I have such a group of friends who have been educated through English medium and they can converse very well in English. So, sometimes we speak in English...
* well...since I like ...reading and that is my favourite hobby, my favourite pastime I like to read English magazines like the Reader’s Digest, Competition Success Review and I am a regular reader and subscriber of these magazines.
* I practise English outside the classroom with my friends, family members and relatives. I get a ..vivid knowledge of the language by listening to news, views and reviews on Television and I read newspapers on regular basis. I also watch English movies for listening more and more.
* I practise English outside the classroom in many ways—by watching or listening to the news on the TV or radio, by watching English movies, by reading newspapers or magazines in English, by talking to people who know the language, by writing letters in English. (On being prompted the interviewee said this) I talk to my computer teacher in English and in this way I improve my pronunciations in English.

* To practise English outside the classroom..I generally prefer to read newspapers like the Times of India and the Indian Express. I also read novels, especially of English writers and I focus on their expressions. Besides, ..I listen to the English news on the Star TV and I prefer to watch English movies ..I make it a point to participate any programme where I have a chance to speak and practise English.
(2) *Using words and expressions in different contexts:*

* When I am very well settled with some new phrases or new words that are...that I find are harder than the previous ones then I ...when I know the complete meaning of them then I use them in my speaking, in my natural conversation.

* Whenever I have learnt a new word or expressions in English I do try to use them in different contexts. For example, I came across a word ‘nefarious’, I found its meaning, that is ‘evil’ or something that is evil- and I tried to use that word to describe a particular kind of person- “He is a very nefarious person” etc.

* When I learn new expressions and phrases in English I try to use them in different contexts. For example: the phrase ‘yeoman service- meaning-long and efficient service’. When I first learnt this phrase I used it on some or pretext while talking to my friends. As I said ...“My mother does a yeoman service by working in a charitable trust and educating the illiterate people”.

* I try to use new words and phrases learnt by me in different contexts. For example from one of my teachers I learned the phrase ‘not at all’. I like the way he spoke it and the context in which he used it. He told us when someone thanks you we should say ‘not at all’. I used this phrase with my friends whenever they thanked me for something.

* Once I learn English words or expressions I try to use them in different contexts. For example, ‘so kind of you’, I use this phrase in place of ‘thank you’ when some senior person does me a favour. Another example of this kind is- ‘no, thanks’. When somebody offers me a cup of tea and I don’t want it I use this phrase.
(3) *Forming mental pictures or images to understand words or expressions better:*

* I do try to form a picture or image in my mind to understand word or expressions in English. For ex. I came across the word –‘schizophrenia’- I tried to build (a mental) image of such a person and then I tried to understand it more better.

* I sometimes try to understand words or expressions in English by framing pictures in my mind. For example, I understood this quotation by this method. “In autumn, when the ripe leaves were falling from the trees, the green leaves were laughing at the ripe leaves. At that moment the ripe leaves taunted the green leaves and said –‘Today we but tomorrow you!’ ” To understand this expression I framed a picture in my mind to understand it clearly.

* When someone is talking about ..any particular thing or any ..then I try to make picture about it in my mind. For example, on the B B C I heard the word ..‘wordy speech’, I ..visualised a speech with so many words in it.

* I try to create an impression or image in my mind to understand a new word in English. For example, the word ‘castle’. What is a castle? A castle is a building, which has walls on four sides, there are trees around it .and the building is in the midst.
(4) Analysing structures, words etc. in terms of grammar rules:
* Going very deep in structures or grammatical rules or vocabulary constructions of any particular word or phrase is not important. So I never try to go deep in grammatical rules. First of all I don’t have much time to think (about grammatical rules) and when I come across a particular word that is new to me I often refer to dictionary and being in the computer field I have such word-processing software that has the dictionary, thesaurus and grammar everything within itself and whenever...sitting in front of the computer I can just go on and search the meaning of a new word.
* I often try to analyse sentences in English in terms of grammatical rules, structure or vocabulary constructions. For example: a sentence may be correct or incorrect. To say ‘In the eye of God all men are equal’ is wrong. It should be ‘In the eyes of God .. because God has two eyes and not one. Many people don’t understand this simple fact and make such small grammatical mistakes.
* I do not focus much on things like subject, object and verb. But I like to focus on things like past participles etc. Whenever I hear or read in English then I try to understand the tense of a particular sentence. Sometimes I try to change the tense of sentences as a way of practice. I also like to focus on prefixes and suffixes of different words- for example, from ‘appear’ we get ‘disappear’ by adding ‘dis’ to the word. Regarding pronunciations, I read my textbooks and study materials aloud. I think this improves my pronunciation.
* I don’t much like to try to understand English ..by applying grammar rules. I try to analyse and understand words or sentences as much as is necessary at times. But I don’t like to study grammar in deep.
Comparing English with mother tongue:

* No, I don’t think that English language should be compared with mother-tongue because you see, my mother-tongue is Bengali and we speak Bengali at home. And, as Hindi is our national language ..but I have so many friends who don’t know Hindi or Gujarati. So, I speak with them in English or ..but comparison can not be made. English stands somewhere else and Bengali stands somewhere else. English is used with particular group of people and Bengali is used with family members or family friends and relatives.

* I consider my mother-tongue that is, Gujarati and English as two different languages. I do not try to compare them. I never compare them.

* Yes, I try to compare English with my mother tongue. My mother tongue is Gujarati. And it ..is easy to understand English with the help of..a Gujarati word. Sometimes only English becomes difficult to understand I am in First Year. For example, one day my sir told me “Could you lend me your copy for a day?” I tried to translate how I can say that in my... Gujarati.

*I compare English with my mother tongue Gujarati. In Gujarati sentence pattern Object is followed by Verb. English sentence pattern in Subject + Verb + Object. So, the sentence pattern is different in English and Gujarati. For example, in Gujarati ‘Lata (Subject) git (Object) gaycche (Verb= third person singular in simple present)’ becomes ‘Lata sings a song’ in English. (Brackets added).
(6) Testing one’s knowledge of English:

* Very often I try to test my knowledge of English and I am more interested in increasing my vocabulary, especially in increasing my knowledge of different words and whenever I come across such sections in magazines such as ..for instance, there comes a section in the Reader’s Digest that is- How to Increase Your Word Power, or IT PAYS TO ENRICH YOUR WORD POWER. I test myself in that area and then increase my knowledge of words.

* I occasionally try to test my knowledge of English. For example: I read the newspaper and I am very keen to read editorial columns. I try to write in the same style on different topics related to politics, literature and art etc. In this way I test myself whether I can write in such fine language or not.

* I occasionally try to test my knowledge of English. I often take the help of grammar books. I do the exercises given in these books, for example, Wren and Martin, David Green, and Thomson and Martinet and so on. Then I show my answers to my sir. I always take care to not to make the same mistakes again.

* Yes, I often test my knowledge of English. Sometimes I write a letter first in my mother tongue and then try to write it in English. I try to use the same rules that our teacher teach us. Then I show my letters to my sir.
(7) Suitable techniques for learning English:
* Learning English is .. the techniques that can be used is .. one that is the newspapers as I said earlier- the editorial columns and the letters to the editor by the people that are important and another is hearing news on television Star news or other .. whatever you like .. and trying to imitate their pronunciation...
* I have several techniques which are useful for me .. and which are suitable for me to learn English. For example, when I come across certain words in a conversation or may be while reading or listening to English I put them on a piece of paper, I jot them down and then find its meaning and may be, remember it and I also exchange several words with my friends. I have my own group of friends who are more interested in learning English. We exchange certain words and that we come across daily and thus increase our vocabulary.
* The most suitable technique I find to learn English is that to read newspapers and magazines in English and to watch English movies. It is easy to learn from these media because .. you can pictures, and expressions, and get examples, views of great thinkers and writers. I like to read cartoons of R K Laxman and articles of Shobha De.
* I like only two ways of learning English- reading and watching or listening to the news on TV or radio.
* The most suitable technique for me to learn English .. I like to communicate in English and improve my knowledge of it. I use English in real life situations as much as is possible and I never lose any such opportunities. We may have happy or sad moments or embarrassing situations .. and I try to use words effectively in these situations. I also observe others how they express themselves in similar situations.
(8) Deciding in advance what one wants to learn in English:
* I never actually decide in advance what I want to learn in English. Maybe I learn what comes in my way.
* I usually decide in advance what to learn in English. I mostly decide to read which books I want to read in a year. I know we get knowledge by reading and it is limitless.
* I sometimes decide that I have to know at least a few things in English for speaking without mistakes. I do not follow a time table but I have some idea of the thing I want to learn in English.
* When I want to learn a new item in English for example, passive voice, I would first try to find important books and discuss with my friends and teachers. I would decide my weak points and work to overcome them.
(9) **Trying to contact people who speak as their mother tongue English:**

* Yes, I do want to contact people who speak English as their mother tongue ..but I don’t get much chance for it ..for meeting them. Once I met an Englishman at Diu but he did not respond to me.

* I don’t think it is ..absolutely necessary to meet them to improve our speech. Many people in my ..our place good English. And they generally avoid talking to us when these people come to visit India.

*Yes, culture is very important part of a person. When I see Europeans or Americans I want to speak with them to ..say something about India and to know something from them. This way I come to know about their culture.
Rewarding oneself for learning some aspect of English successfully:

* When I have come across a hard topic or hard word and I don't find the meaning of it in dictionary or thesaurus...whatever it is...then I try to analyse and when I have got a clear picture in my mind then I feel satisfied. But I don't think there is a need to reward oneself for such a small success.

* In fact, I don't think of learning English in terms of success and failures. But, on certain occasions,...when I pass my test in English with good marks, I do go to movies with my friends or buy a good book for me...may be as a reward for good result in English.

* When I learn any new aspect of English language I do not reward myself for it as such. But I am really satisfied when I learn a thing in English which I decided to. That satisfaction is my reward. No, I do not reward myself in any special way for successful learning of any aspect of English.