Language Learning Tips

By Language Experts



- Don't worry about not understanding everything try and guess the things you don't know from context, and ask about or look up words that come up whose meaning you can't work out.
- 2) Try to use whatever language you know, without worrying about mistakes or looking foolish -play with the language, learn from your mistakes, and have fun.



- 1) Practice new sounds early - bad pronunciation can make you feel unconfident and keep you from speaking even if your grammar is perfect.
- 2) Practice/study for longer periods of time. 5 minutes a day is like 1 push-up a day. Speak for an hour with no English and make your brain melt.



- Accept that at the beginning, everything is going to be one big jumble that won't make any sense. Eventually you'll start to pick out bits and pieces and everything will fall into place. The more exposure you get to the language, and the more you slowly chip away at it, the more it all starts to click. It takes time, so don't feel discouraged if you don't understand or struggle to form sentences. You'll get there.
- 2) A little study each and every day is the best thing you can do for your learning. Consistency in language study is so, so important. It keeps everything fresh, prevents you from needing to do unnecessary review, and helps you continue to move forward. Studying fifteen minutes everyday is far more effective than studying for two or more hours one day a week.

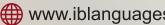


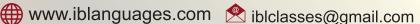
- 1) Slow down. When you start to speak another language, you can get in your head about speaking your new language as fast as your native language. Slow down and take your time. With more practice, you'll naturally get faster as the language becomes more familiar to you.
- 2) When learning new words or phrases, try to create a small story in your mind to help you memorize them. Using your brain's creativity will help you make connections and you will memorize material quicker.



- 1) Ignore the haters. People will always judge you by their own definition of fluency. Their opinions don't matter. All that matters is whether you can perform the function required of you in your new language.
- 2) Get over your pride. Make mistakes. Make a fool of yourself early and often. Pride prevents us from using a language in which we are imperfect. But humility allows us to learn more, and sooner.











- A language cannot be taught, it can only be learned. If you've come to this course, it means that you've made a decision to learn a language. So go through these days trying to pick up as much as possible. Let teachers help you, let fellow students help you, research some stuff yourself, don't let anyone deter you from your goal.
- 2) When walking around speaking your target language, note down all the words that you're missing and that you might need again very soon (words like "remember", not words like "embryo"). As soon as you have a chance to sit down, look up the translation of these words and try to memorize it. This will help you rapidly become fluent in "me-language", the 500 words that you personally are most likely to use.



I have two useful tricks.

- The first is to basically never stop practicing. Languages are skills, and like any skill, you get out of it what you put into it. Put in a lot, get a lot back. But get lazy, and you'll get lazy results! However, if you are feeling a bit lazy and/ overwhelmed, I happen to have a foolproof, guaranteed, 100% success rate trick, and that's my second:
- 2) Fall in love with someone who speaks your target language. There's no substitute for raging hormones to give you the push you need to get fluent, and fast! Be sure to fall for someone who doesn't speak your native language, though. That's the trick.



- Use content that you like. You are not going to learn a language by just 1) reading grammar books. Read and listen to content that is highly interesting for you, and everything will be easier for you. You like sports? Then read the news about your favourite team in your target language.
- 2) Do that everyday. Every day that you use your target language is a day you get better at it. Every day that you don't, is a day you get worse. The only way not to lose what you have learned is to keep studying everyday, even for just 10 minutes.



- 1) Define your "why" first. Similar to what Nietzsche said, with a strong enough why, a language learner can endure almost any how. Why do you want to learn? How do you want to use the language? How will it improve your life?
- 2) Spend most of your time in the language, not learning about the language. We acquire languages at a subconscious level when we get sufficient input and practice. This means actively listening to authentic content and with native speakers as much as possible.



- 1) Focus on mastering pronunciation as early as you possibly can. It will improve your ability to remember words and it'll minimize the amount of time you're practicing bad pronunciation habits. Seek out teachers to help you with this; it's really easy to tip into an American accent when students outnumber teachers.
- 2) Make flashcards that are 100% in your target language and involve pictures. You can do this using Fill-in-the-Sentences, either by hand or in a program like Anki. Flashcard tests like these are approximately five times more efficient for memorization than simply re-reading your notes.

