



# Way of Learning Additional Language

## COMMUNICATION

- 1 Learn the basic(grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, accents,)by using a book, workbook, CD program. Examples would be:
  - a. Learn vocabulary (pronunciation and spelling) for numbers, colors, fruits, vegetables, clothing, animals, body parts, weather, etc., paying attention to whether or not the target language has gender (masculine, feminine, neuter).
  - b. Learn basic greetings (hello, goodbye, my name is, what is your name, etc.)
  - c. Learn the alphabet and accents (are they stress accents or do they change how vowels or consonants are pronounced?)
  - d. Explore the notion of tone in the target language and how that affects pronunciation and meaning.
  - e. Learn how to conjugate a certain number of verbs in different categories (regular, irregular, etc.) with the goal of communicating simple activities, such as hobbies, school and weekend activities, etc.
- 2 Learn to speak the target language. Examples would be:
  - a. Using an equivalent language-learning program, listen and repeat words and sentences as pronounced.
  - b. Memorize simple nursery rhymes, poems, songs and recite to proposal team.
  - c. Work with a partner who is learning the same language and create a dialog to be recorded or performed for proposal team.
  - d. Attend a world language learning camp for a short or extended stay.
- 3 Learn to understand the spoken language (building listening comprehension). Examples would be:
  - a. Listen to and complete listening comprehension exercises in program (have a goal of completing a certain number of lessons within the program).
  - b. Listen to authentic examples of the target language. iTunes.com, for example, has free lessons for many languages. Lessons often contain authentic radio or television recordings with follow-up exercises. (Make a goal to complete a certain number of these lessons).
  - c. Listen to music sung in the target language online or on television or radio. Locate the lyrics for 1 or more of the songs you like. Learn any new words and then perform the song at a presentation event or for proposal team.

## CULTURE

Spoken and written fluency of a language is intricately linked to understanding of culture. This can include countless topics such as history, art, food, customs, holidays, etc. Projects covering culture are often the most enjoyable aspects of the language learning as they connect students to the people who speak those languages. Many "culture" projects will cover more than one standard area, such as world languages and social studies, WL and art, WL and math, etc. Examples would be:

1. Study the cuisine of a country that uses the target language. Pick recipes and learn the vocabulary to describe the ingredients and cooking/baking instructions. Then, prepare the food.
2. Prepare a typical meal that would be served in the target country. Invite family or friends to dinner and serve the meal in a culturally authentic way (is the table set in the same way that Americans set the table? Are there special utensils or dishes used to serve the food?) Photograph or record the preparation and/or eating of the meal, etc.

3. Study and report on the government of the target country. Learn the names of political parties and leaders. Prepare a poster with the information you find.
4. Pick an historical time period and study major events. Then, write a research paper to show what you've learned.
5. Study major historical figures from the target country and prepare a power point to demonstrate what you've learned. This figure could be an artist, scientist, musician, writer, mathematician, Nobel Prize winner, etc. Alternatively, once you have researched the figure, write and perform a play in character.
6. Learn and perform a song (sing or play an instrument) from the target country.
7. Study the artwork of an artist from the target country. Then, try to create art in the style of that artist (for example, Picasso, from Spain, or Frida Kahlo, from Mexico, modern Manga artists from Japan).
8. Learn about and present a slide presentation on holidays/celebrations of the target country. What foods are served? What songs/music associated? What are the traditional costumes worn? Learn some of the vocabulary associated with the holiday/celebration (i.e. Happy New Year! Etc.)  
Learn and report about the school system in the target country. Do children in those countries attend school every day of the week? At what age do they begin school? Finish school? Are there special exams required to obtain a high school diploma?

### Interdisciplinary Connections

Once a student has attained a higher level of proficiency in the target language, he/she can use the language to enhance understanding of other disciplines. Examples of projects to expand and make cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary comparisons would be:

1. Study the economy of the U.S. and a target country (China, Sweden, Columbia) and write a paper to show what you've discovered.
2. Study the system of rivers in the U.S. and a target country and then show how economic development was similar or different in those two countries. Prepare a poster highlighting your findings.
3. Study advertising in the different Spanish-speaking or French speaking, etc. countries to see how cultural differences affect the way products are advertised.

### Connecting to the wider world using world languages

From the beginning of a student's world language journey, connecting to the wider language community is desirable. In this way, a student will hear and use the language in the most authentic way possible. Examples would be:

1. Travel to a country where the language is spoken. Keep a journal to register not only new words and expressions learned during the trip, but impressions of cultural aspects (what gestures are used in the target country? What do these gestures mean? How do people sit and walk in the target country?)
2. Attend the Festival of Nations in St. Paul in May and do a photo essay of your experiences there, including performances you see, food you try, and art objects you purchase.
3. Visit an exhibit of art from an artist or musician who is a native speaker of the language you are studying. Report on what you saw and learned. If you can speak with the artist/musician, prepare an interview in the target language and conduct the interview with the artist/musician.
4. Get an online pal and correspond with him/her. Make an online album of discoveries you make via your friendship.
5. Attend FLIC to connect to other language learners and expose yourself to linguistic topics.

### Comparisons

1. Prepare a presentation showing gestures particular to the target country. How do these compare to gestures we use in the U.S.? (How do you wave? How do you express pleasure or displeasure? How do you gesture that you're hungry or thirsty or that something is expensive?)
2. Research what words we use in English that originate from the world language you are studying. Prepare a presentation where you list the words and explain how they have evolved or remained true to the original meaning of the word or expression.
3. Study the major religion(s) of the target country and show how these religions are similar or different to those practiced commonly in the U.S.
4. Make a list of vocabulary differences in 2 or more countries where the world language you are studying is spoken (for example, Spanish in Spain vs. Mexico; French in Canada vs. French in France). Study and compare how animal sounds are represented in the target country vs. the U.S. Prepare a presentation or video where you demonstrate the differences you find.

