

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE TO LEARN ANOTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7875625>

Abstract. *Make realistic, specific goals You have decided to learn another language. Now what? On our recent live chat our panellists first piece of advice was to ask yourself: what do you want to achieve and by when? Donavan Whyte, vice president of enterprise and education at Rosetta Stone, says: “Language learning is best when broken down into manageable goals that are achievable over a few months. This is far more motivating and realistic.”*

Keywords: *practice regularly, Immerse yourself in the language, use technology, take a class.*

Learning a foreign language can be challenging, but there are several ways to improve your language skills. Here are some tips to help you improve your proficiency in a foreign language:

- Practice regularly: Consistency is key when it comes to language learning. Try to practice every day, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- Immerse yourself in the language: Surround yourself with the language as much as possible. Listen to music, watch TV shows and movies, read books, and speak with native speakers.
- Focus on the basics: Start by mastering the basics of the language, such as grammar and vocabulary. Once you have a solid foundation, you can build on it to improve your fluency.
- Use technology: There are many language learning apps and websites that can help you practice and improve your skills. Some popular options include Duolingo, Babbel, and Rosetta Stone.
- Find a language exchange partner: A language exchange partner is someone who speaks the language you are learning and is trying to learn your native language. This can be a great way to practice speaking and get feedback from a native speaker.
- Take a class: Enrolling in a language class can be a structured way to learn a language. You can receive feedback from a teacher and practice with other students.
- Travel to a country where the language is spoken: Immersing yourself in the culture and language of a country where the language is spoken can be an effective way to learn and improve your skills.

Remember, learning a language takes time and effort. Be patient with yourself, practice regularly, and enjoy the process!

To improve your ability to learn a foreign language, you can consider the following strategies:

- Develop a consistent study routine: Consistency is key to language learning. Set aside dedicated study time each day, even if it's only 15 minutes. This will help you make steady progress over time.

- Learn actively: Don't just passively absorb information. Engage with the language actively by speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Practice using the language in real-life situations, such as ordering food in a restaurant or having a conversation with a native speaker.

- Focus on high-frequency words and grammar: Learn the most commonly used words and grammar structures first, as they will form the backbone of your language proficiency. Once you have a solid foundation, you can start to learn more complex vocabulary and grammar.

- Use a variety of resources: Use a combination of textbooks, audio recordings, videos, apps, and language exchange partners to help you learn the language. Different resources can help you practice different skills, such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- Find a language learning community: Join a language learning community or language exchange program to practice speaking with other learners or native speakers. This can help you gain confidence and improve your ability to communicate in the language.

- Immerse yourself in the language: Try to immerse yourself in the language as much as possible. Listen to music, watch movies or TV shows, and read books or articles in the language. This can help you develop a feel for the language and improve your listening and reading comprehension.

- Stay motivated: Language learning can be challenging, so it's important to stay motivated. Set realistic goals, celebrate your progress, and focus on the benefits of learning the language, such as being able to communicate with people from other cultures or traveling to new places.

Remember, learning a new language is a long-term process that requires dedication and perseverance. By using these strategies, you can improve your language skills and become more confident in using the language.

How to learn a new language

Oy vey! We get it — learning a new language is challenging, frustrating, and sometimes just downright difficult. And figuring out the best way to learn a new language? That seems nearly impossible. Different science, theories, and learning styles are all over the place, and truthfully, some languages are easier to learn than others. Maybe you're great at conversing in French, but can't write in Spanish to save your life. Despite the difficulties, multi-language acquisition is rapidly growing in popularity around the world and bilinguality is becoming more of a highly-desired resume addition.

With so much out there in terms of best ways to learn a language, it can be hard to zero in on what language learning tactics would be especially helpful for you personally. In order to revive and renew your drive in learning a foreign language or to improve upon the impressive skills you've already achieved, here are some fresh ideas on the best way to learn a new language:

Best Ways to Learn a New Language

Keep some of these in mind and you'll be ready to find an intensive language program before you know it!

1. Make New Friends

If there's a community of people who speak the language you want to learn in your city, start attending events! Friendship is one of the best ways to learn a foreign language, and the easiest way to get comfortable with the slang, intonation, and mannerisms. You can casually chat with your friends in local cafés, bars, and restaurants and slowly build a foundation on the language you want to learn. The great part about making friends who already speak the language (or are

learning right along with you) is that you will be able to practice freely without feeling self-conscious or on the spot!

2. Copy Elementary School Kids

Remember pen pals? Just because you're an adult now doesn't mean you can't partake! Find an international pen pal and trade language expertise and knowledge. Edit each other's letters (keeping what you both originally wrote), so you can see the correct format and spelling. You'll help each other learn, your skills for writing in a foreign language will increase tenfold, and you may even have someone to visit abroad when you're ready to put those skills to use!

3. Watch a Movie

For the people who want to take advantage of one of the best ways to learn a language from the comfort of their own home, put on a foreign movie in another language — without subtitles if you can! Not only is this one of the best ways to learn a foreign language, but you will also get a greater sense of that language's culture as well! If you don't know enough of the language to turn the subtitles off, keep a list of new vocabulary words you hear and what you think they mean. Look them up later. Come on, looking up words is fun! (sidenote: If you feel ready and want to "level up" your language learning, commit to going out to a theater and watching a foreign flick in public!)

4. Pretend You're at a Restaurant

Read a menu in your target language and pick a dish you would order every day — then look up what it means. The names of your food choices will stick with you! Plus, if you end up choosing something that translates to "dog" or "sheep intestine," you'll know to steer clear of them when you're abroad (unless those are your favorite foods). By the time you head abroad, you'll have an appetite for both the food and the language for sure!

5. Seek Out Online Resources

The internet is a truly magical place. If you're looking for the best ways to learn a foreign language, look no further! You can fall back on ol' reliable Google Translate, but why not utilize helpful browser extensions like Toucan?

What else can you do to learn a language online? You can connect with other language learners via online chat groups, watch YouTube videos, and read articles. The internet is ready to help you reach your foreign language learning goals.

6. Try Online Courses (like Lingodeer and Italki!)

For online language courses, you can check out LingoDeer. LingoDeer will take your language learning to the next level. Choose from Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, French, and more! Their curricula is built by language teachers, and the app provides a built-in flashcard function. Plus, since mastering a new language requires you to actually **speak** it, LingoDeer provides stories for you to read and speak so you can master your skills more quickly! You can also take a crack at Italki, another language provider that connects you with language teachers online.

7. Teach Yourself

The key to this one is small steps of dedicated research — and while obvious, remains one of the best ways to learn a new language. Take a little bit of time every day to write out a sentence you would like to know how to say in your target language. Look up each word/section and try to construct the sentence yourself. If you have a language partner, have them double check your

sentences when you meet up. This is a great trick to keep yourself in check. Making small goals to attain every day will keep you moving onward and upward on the language learning track!

8. Break it Down

Nope, we're not talking about break dancing here — sadly those crazy moves will most likely not help you learn a language (anything is possible, though!). Instead, focus on vocabulary for one area or topic each week (i.e., transportation or food items), and then move onto another topic the next week. Just like teaching yourself new sentences and passages, this organized routine will make learning vocab and other important keywords more manageable and you'll begin to be able to group things together.

9. Listen to the Radio

Similar to watching a foreign movie, try listening to a radio station in your target language either in the car, on a podcast, or online. Try to see how much you can understand, and write down words that you recognize but do not understand to look up (Pro tip: listening to the news in another language is an incredible and really intense way to start learning vocab and conversational structures fast!).

10. Go Abroad!

One of the best ways to learn a foreign language is to visit a country that speaks your target language and live with a host family that doesn't speak your native language. You'll be absolutely amazed at how much information you can communicate and how quickly you pick up a language when you don't have any other option. This full-on immersion style training will have you speaking fluently in months. Honestly, what could be better? You could even learn MULTIPLE languages abroad if you choose your country right!

Last-Minute Ways to Learn a Foreign Language

When it all comes down to it, there is an infinite number of ways to learn a foreign language. Because learning styles vary between every individual, there will be certain things that you'll find that will work really well for you personally; however, here are a few universal, last minute tips that can work for all language learners:

Be patient with yourself. Nothing is more frustrating than feeling like you're stuck in a rut and not making any progress. It is imperative to keep in mind that learning a language is like stepping into an entirely new world, and it's going to take some time (this is the dirty truth about learning languages abroad). Trust your experiences and the knowledge you've gained so far, and let them propel you further forward in your foreign language journey.

Commit to speaking in the target language. No matter the ways you choose to learn a new language, make a promise to yourself from the beginning that, when you are studying, you are only speaking/writing in the target language. Especially if you can't go abroad right away and fully immerse yourself in the language, this tip will ensure that you are doing everything in your power to fully engage yourself with your target language. Don't sell yourself short — you can do this! eign language learning goals!

Make friends with native speakers. While having friends or study buddies is always a great idea, if you know someone who is a native speaker of the language you are trying to learn, take your education one step further and involve yourself with this person! Native speakers are great teachers (and the best way to learn a language) because they know all the in's and out's of the language, they are experts in conversational speaking, and they can teach slang, jokes, and references that you may otherwise not be privy to.

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