

4 Powerful Principles for Language Learning

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In this session, you will discover:

- about how you are approaching language learning and the challenges you experience.
- 4 strategies that will **facilitate** and **make enjoyable** the development of your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.



Where do these ideas come from?

Current research

Applied linguistics, cognitive psychology and educational neuroscience

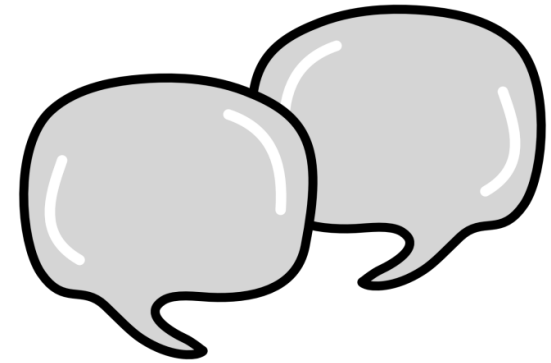
Experience

My experience as a language teacher, language learning strategies coach and language learner



What about you?

Your experience learning languages



1. Which language/s are you learning? What is your motivation?
2. What kind of strategies have you found useful for learning languages?
3. What do you find most challenging when learning languages?

Powerful principle 1



Formal learning activities

Fill in the gap grammar/ vocabulary exercises

Pronunciation drills

Reading and listening comprehension exercises

Role-plays

Info-gap exercises

Essay writing

Creating a vocabulary notebook

Making grammar summaries

Informal learning activities

Powerful principle 1

Formal learning activities

Fill in the gap grammar/ vocabulary exercises

Pronunciation drills

Reading and listening comprehension exercises

Role-plays

Info-gap exercises

Essay writing

Creating a vocabulary notebook

Making grammar summaries

Informal learning activities

Reading books, magazines, brochures

Watching video clips

Listening to music

Talking to native speakers

Watching films

Going to Spanish restaurants

Going to salsa lessons

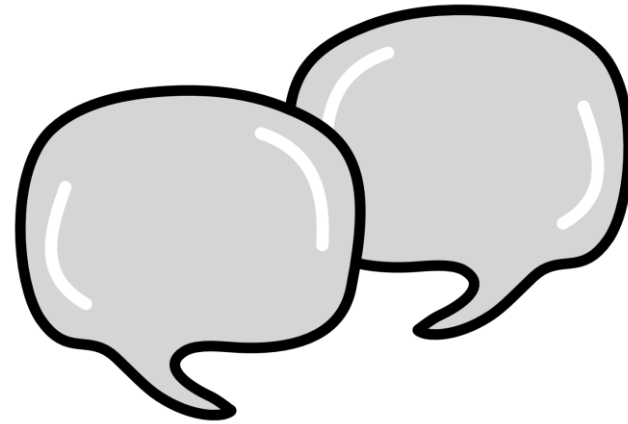
Interacting with Spanish friends on social media

Powerful principle 1

Combine **FORMAL** + **INFORMAL** language learning



What about you?



What **formal** and **informal** language learning activities are you doing?

Powerful principle 2

What are the **two language skills** that help you “to receive” the language?

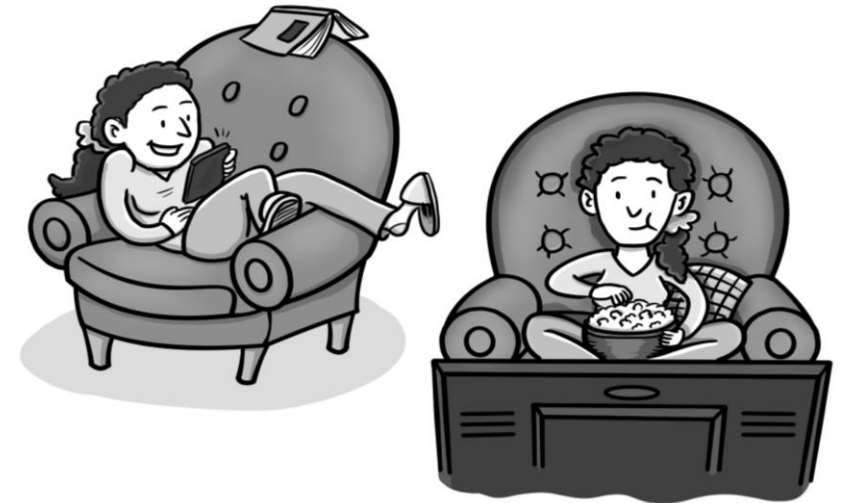
1 _____

2 _____

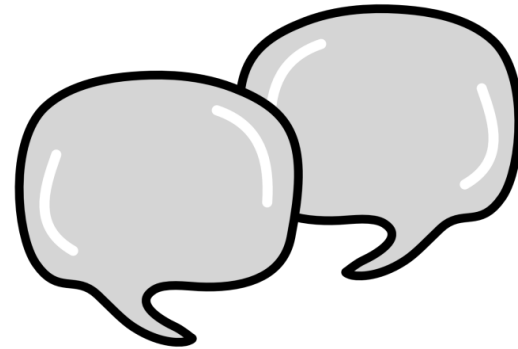


Powerful strategy 2

Get lots of **COMPREHENSIBLE** and **INTERESTING READING & LISTENING**



What about you?



What **comprehensible and interesting reading & listening** are you getting outside the lessons?

Powerful principle 3

What are the **three key elements** of any language?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



Powerful principle 3



1. Vocabulary

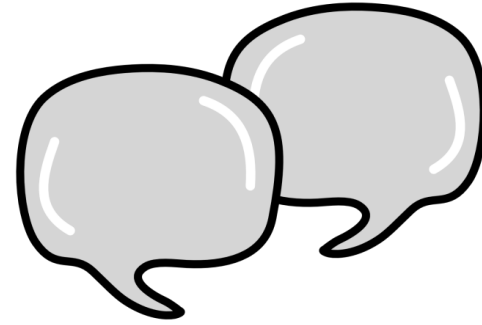


2. Pronunciation



3. Grammar

What about you?



What specific strategies are you using for improving your **vocabulary**, **pronunciation** and **grammar**?

Powerful principle 4

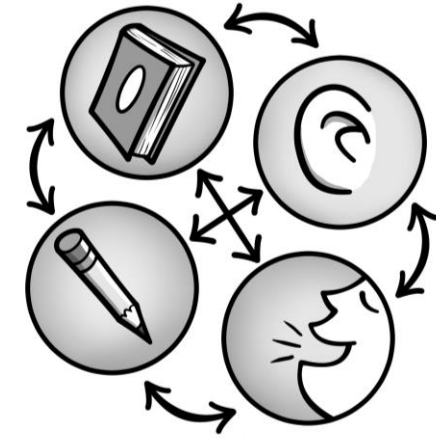
What **four language skills** do you need to work on to get good at communicating in a language ?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

In which way do they support each other?



Powerful principle 4

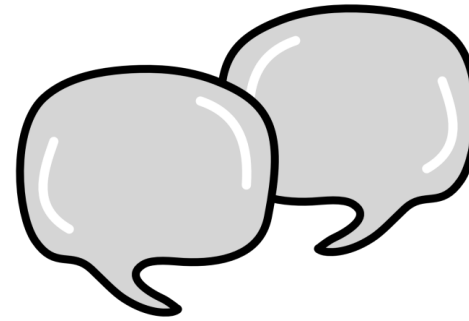


Take advantage of the four supportive skills:

listening, reading, writing and speaking

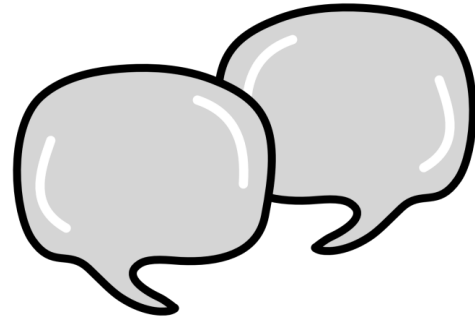


What about you?



Are you practising **listening**, **reading**, **writing** and **speaking**?

Key summary



What the are the **4 powerful strategies** we have discussed?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

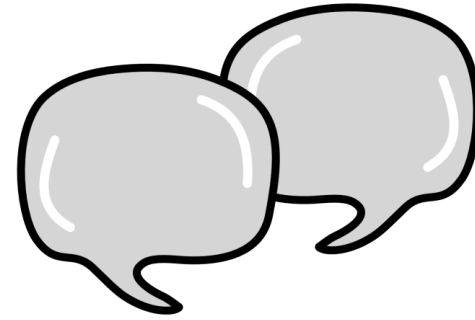


4 Powerful principles



1. Combine formal + informal language learning
2. Do lots of comprehensible and interesting reading and listening
3. Work on vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar
4. Take advantage of the 4 supportive skills

What about you?



Action plan

- What do you need to do to get better at implementing the 4 powerful strategies? Write down some action points.
- Discuss your action points with classmates.



Further resources

How to Learn Spanish: A guide to powerful principles and strategies for successful learning and self-empowerment (Hikari Press, 2021) is an inspirational, easy-to-read, and action-oriented guide to effective and enjoyable language learning.

How to Teach Language Learning Strategies: 4 simple steps for successful independent language learning (Lightwork Press, 2021) is written for teachers and coaches of languages interested in enabling their students to become skilful and confident independent language learners, self-regulate, and enjoy the language learning process. www.mariablancocoaching.com/books

For more materials for language learning strategies training and selected resources for Spanish please go to www.mariablancocoaching.com/useful-resources

