



Tips & Techniques for Learning a Language Outside of Class

READING

- Pick a book you read as a child or any book you know REALLY well and read it in your target language a few paragraphs at a time.
- There are also a ton of readers that are classified by level of difficulty. You can find them on Amazon and other places online.
 - Try to figure out phrases'/words' meanings by using context clues.
 - Look up unknown words/phrases and write them down if you can't figure it out.
 - If you have a Kindle, you can download the book and simply press and hold the word, and a definition will pop up.
 - Don't trust Google Translate!! The best site to use is: www.wordreference.com.
- Don't overwhelm yourself! If there are too many words to look up, it might be a good idea to go to a lower level reading. YOU SHOULD ENJOY THIS!!
- If a book is too daunting, consider going to news sites and reading articles in that target language.
- Duolingo has a new feature called Stories which is helpful to get conversational language practice. However, Duolingo should be considered supplemental.

LISTENING

- Start putting on music from your target language as you go about your day.
 - Watch YouTube videos in your target language.
 - Listen to audiobooks in your target language.
 - Try listening to podcasts in your target language.
- Watch authentic movies or TV shows on Netflix/Hulu/Amazon Prime/etc.
- Alternatively, watch something you know and love but with audio/subtitles.
- My personal strategy for audio/subtitles when I was learning Spanish was:
 - First, watch with English audio and Spanish subtitles.
 - Then, watch with Spanish audio and English subtitles.
 - Next, watch with Spanish audio with Spanish subtitles.
 - Finally watch with Spanish audio without any subtitles.

SPEAKING

- Start trying to think in your target language!
 - Then move on to thinking out loud.
 - If you are reading in your target language, read out loud.
 - Practice speaking to yourself in a mirror or even record yourself.
- Focus on the fluency of your speech rather than getting the grammar correct.
 - Try some tongue twisters!!
- Repeat phrases and words you hear as you watch TV/movies in your target language.
 - Learn some songs in your target language.
 - Find a native speaker friend to practice with!
- Try to do voice-to-text on your smartphone with the correct keyboard to see if you are pronouncing things correctly!

WRITING

- Start a diary/dream journal in your target language.
- Summarize TV episodes/movies/books you've seen or read in your target language.
- Text with native speakers or someone who can speak the language. I just found out about an app called HelloTalk which looks promising.
 - Look up writing prompts and try to write at least 3 sentences.
 - Post on social media in your target language. YouTube comments get wild LOL.
- Try writing first and then checking your grammar. (Google Translate is *decent* for this.)
- Be wary of accent marks and other nuances now so that it doesn't become more difficult later!

We hope that these tips and techniques are useful for you as you continue to learn a language!

- The Enjoyable Languages Team

