



Multilingual

Learning languages: tips & tricks

Languages give access to whole new worlds! You can speak with and understand many more people, have access to much more information and see things from new perspectives. The challenge is learning them! Get some ideas on **how to learn languages in an efficient and fun way!**

Discipline area	Languages
Topic	Language, Cultures
Estimated time	2h
Learning goals	<p>If you go through this unit, you will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know how many languages and alphabets there are in the world • learn some tricks to learn languages • learn new words

Warm-up

Let's start with a quiz! Do it together and... have fun!

1. How many spoken languages are there in the world?

- a** around 70
- b** around 700
- c** around 7000

2. In 100 years, how many languages will exist according to UNESCO?

- a** 1500
- b** 3500
- c** 7500

3. What are the 10 languages most spoken in the world? Put them in order.

Arabic - Bengali - Portuguese - Indonesian - Spanish - Russian - English - French - Mandarin - Hindi

4. How do you write Europe in following writing systems? Connect the words on the right column with the name of the writing system in which it is written.

Arabic	ทวีปยุโรป
Persian	Europa
Hebrew	אֶרֶץ-יִפּוּט
Thai	اپورا
Japanese	אירופה
Cyrillic	यूरोप
Greek	Ευροπα/Ευροπα
Latin	ابوروا
Hindi	Ευρωπη

5. What other writing systems do you or other people around you know?
Write down Europe in that writing system/let them write it down for you!

Learn

1

It is impossible to learn all languages but certainly possible to learn some of them!
You just need to follow some tips and tricks!
Read them together and see if you already know some of them!

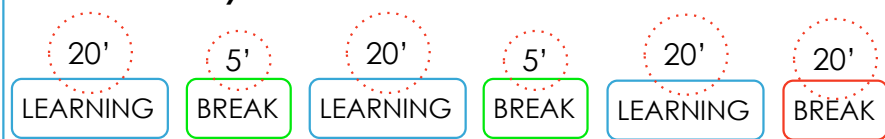
1. Learn when you can concentrate well

At what time can you more easily concentrate?
Learn at that time!



Tip: review what you have learnt once again before sleeping!

2. Learn with rhythm



Tip for your break:
nor smartphone or television but sport and fresh air!

3. Activate all senses

Human beings remember in average:

10% of what they read

20% of what they hear

30% of what they see

50% of what they hear & see

70% of what they say themselves

90% what they feel



Tip: You might be someone who remembers more visualising things or hearing them, but the more senses you activate, the easier it will be to learn!

4. Use mnemonic strategies

For example, help your mind to remember new words by connecting them to words which sound similar or grammatical rules putting them in a rhyme or using acronyms!



5. Talk to yourself

That might sound crazy, but it is not... indeed it is useful!

While talking to yourself, you practice the words you have learned and you get used to pronouncing them.

Doing so, you will also notice what words you don't know yet! So you will know what words you should learn next!

6. Play with index cards

Take some slips of paper and write on the front the word in your language and on the back the word in your target language.



Ready to play? Take the pack of cards you have created and check one after the other which words you already remember. Put every card you guess at the back. Otherwise put it in the middle of the pack. You win your game when you know all of them!

7. Sticky notes ALL OVER!

How do you say bed, lamp, toothpaste, glas... ?

Put the translation, written on a sticky note, on the objects you have at home so that you will see them frequently and will be able to practice!



8. Associate words with pictures

It is easier to remember new words, if you associate them with some images... you can visualize them in your mind or – even better – make some simple drawings yourself or make a collage with images taken from old magazines.



9. Let art support you!

Have you ever listened to music while learning? Try with different kinds of music, maybe you find the right vibes for you! Another art-related technique? Sketching random things, while repeating words out loud!

10. Increase your contact with your target-language

- **Speak** with people who speak it, without feeling ashamed for possible mistakes or mispronunciation! Who cares, you are doing your best! Let's take it easy and take them as a chance to laugh together!
- **Listen** to songs (learn the lyrics and sing them), podcasts, series and movies (try with subtitles in that same language)
- **Read** the news, comics or books



Did you know any of these tips? Which ones would you like to keep in mind and try out? Share your ideas with your buddy.

When you are done, tell each other what languages you know and which ones you want to learn or improve.

Do you want to learn the same language?

Then think of ways you can support each other!

Do you want to learn/improve your proficiency in the language that your buddy speaks?

Become a tandem! That is: you meet regularly and you speak half an hour in one language and half an hour in the other.

2

Do you want to have some fun time together?

Decide on one language (one that none of you knows or one that one of you knows).

Now find a song in that language.

Either one of you teaches it to the other or you choose one on the Internet (typing for example "Finnish Reggae", "Vietnamese Hardcore"....) and find its lyrics.

Have great fun singing it together!

If you prefer, you can look for poems, old proverbs, tongue twisters...

Correct answers

1. C

2. B

3. English - Mandarin - Hindi - Spanish - French - Arabic - Bengali - Russian - Portuguese - Indonesian

4. Arabic: أوروبا - Persian: اپورا - Hebrew: הפוריא - Thai: โปร์เออร์ชา - Japanese: ヨーロッパ - Cyrillic: Европа/Европа - Greek: Ευρώπη - Latin: Europa - Hindi: यूरोप

Create

Create a small visual dictionary in your target language(s). How? Choose one or more topics which you both are interested in, e.g. means of transportation.

Depending on what is your proficiency level on the topic, you can:

1

Draw as many pictures as words you want to translate (one with a car, one with a bike, one with a cargo bike, one with a donkey, one with an aeroplane...), placing the terms beside them.

2

Draw a detailed picture and connect its different parts to the different technical terms (e.g. bike: pedal, saddle, handlebar...)

Reflect

In order to speak in another language, you need some courage and above all self-irony!

Who cares if you don't pronounce it correctly or if the grammar is wrong! Let's be happy that you are trying hard and let's have fun laughing about the funny or absurd situations which might develop...

What do you think about this suggestion?

Discuss with your buddy and reflect on what hinders and helps your language learning process!