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Tips To Succeed In Learning Conversational Foreign Languages

PRACTICE DAILY!

You cannot learn a language without immersing yourself in it.

(Imagine trying to learn how to swim if you never get into the water – impossible!)

Commit to a minimum of ONE HOUR A DAY speaking the language you are trying to learn. You can do this in a variety of ways:

1. Use the CD that comes with the book - at home or in your car.
2. If you have family members who are interested, teach them what you learn and practice with them. Incorporate the language phrases into your daily greetings and conversations. (Buenas dais, Como esta, adios, etc.)
3. If you have a co-worker who is taking the class, speak the phrases and words you have learned during your workday, in passing conversation.
4. Get some children's books in the language or K-8 elementary level books (after all, you are a beginner!) Borders Books, second-hand stores, the library, www.bookhq.com (type in *Spanish, German, French, Italian, etc.* as a keyword)
5. Read paragraphs **out loud!** This will help you feel comfortable with the words and help loosen muscles in the mouth and jaw in that you don't normally use.
6. Search for resources on www.about.com Click on Education, then Spanish (or whatever language you are learning.)
7. Some DVDs and cable services give options for the movie to be in Spanish, French, etc. with English captions, or in English with Spanish, French captions. Try this and, if using Italian, Spanish, French language captions, pronounce the words out loud.
8. Try an online course. Go to <http://www.ed2go.com/ua>
9. For atmosphere, try listening to Spanish/Latin music or other music from the country you are studying. Have a Mexican meal night (or French, Chinese, Arabic, etc.) Go to an ethnic restaurant and try ordering from the menu in the language you are studying
10. Study the culture. Type in Mexican or Latino, French, German, Italian, Chinese Culture on a Google search.
11. Some websites offer an option for Spanish or other languages. For instance, go to <http://www.osha.gov/> and click on the Espanol link under Audiences. Try to figure out what they are saying. Pronounce the Spanish words out loud. Try this with other websites for other languages.
12. Vocabulary stickers! Go to Google and do a search for vocabulary stickers. Click on any of the Language options, or make your own stickers and put them on objects at home and at work (desk, door, window, sofa, chair, etc.)
13. ASK your instructor! If you have questions about culture, vocabulary, language structure, pronunciation, etc., don't hesitate to ask!
14. Have fun! Learning another language can increase your employability and opportunities for advancement and travel. Go to www.eftours.com to discover wonderful educational travel opportunities. Adults can join in on these tours for a slightly higher fee, and there are links for adult travel packages. There is also a link for language.
15. Sign up for the class with a friend or family member, so you can learn together and practice together!