

Learning a new language is a long process which will be easier if you are motivated and prepared to work towards your goal. But don't forget to have some fun on the way!

We've put together some practical tips to help you succeed with your language studies.

Ask yourself why you want to learn the language. What do you need to use the language for? Set yourself clear, realistic goals for your studies. Take some time now and then to reflect on what you have learnt and be proud of the progress you are making. Be patient. It takes time to learn a new language and it involves a lot of work and effort.

Everyone acquires new knowledge in different ways. Think about how you learn in the best way. What strategies have you used before when you have learned different things?

Dare to use the language from the start, even if you only know a few phrases. In the beginning it will be difficult, but you will learn more quickly if you take every opportunity to speak the language. Accept that you won't be able to talk about advanced subjects in the beginning.

Don't be afraid of making mistakes – this is how we learn. Don't expect too much from yourself. In the beginning you have to try out what you know. We learn by testing out new words, forms and structures.

Be active in the lessons. Talk as much you can with your classmates and ask questions if there is something you don't understand. Don't forget to have fun together!

Repeat often. Little and often is more effective than several hours occasionally. You cannot learn everything. Choose new words and phrases that you think are useful and try to use them in context. Google phrases so that you get plenty of examples of how they are used. Make yourself vocabulary cards either digitally or on paper and practice them for a few moments every day.

Search for radio and TV programmes, films and music in the language you are studying on the Internet. Listen to/watch them often. You don't need to be able to understand everything, but you will gradually understand more and more each time. Listen to the melody and distinctive sounds of the language, prepare to hum along,

pause and repeat the word. If you want to have good pronunciation, you need to exaggerate and act out what you hear.

Read as much as possible in the language. Try reading in different ways. Read a longer text and accept that you can't follow everything – you don't need to understand everything. Or challenge yourself by reading a shorter text with the specific aim of understanding everything.

There are many study apps and web based practice which can help you with your language learning. Search on the internet and ask your teacher and the other course participants for tips.

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