

Tips for Studying Foreign Language

Listen

It's important to listen carefully and take notes in class. Ask questions if you don't understand, even if you think your question is silly. Other people are probably wondering the same thing! You won't be able to understand everything you hear, but don't get frustrated. You're actually absorbing the language even when you don't realize it.

Speak

Practice speaking the foreign language every day. Talking with your teachers and classmates is an easy and fun way to learn. Don't be afraid to take risks when speaking! Your mistakes will help you identify problems and will show you important differences between the structure of the foreign language and English.

Practice

Learning a new language is like learning to play a sport or an instrument. You can't spend one night practicing and then expect to play perfectly the next

morning. You didn't learn English that way either! Short, daily study sessions are more effective than once-a-week cramming sessions. Also, try to practice with a friend or classmate, since language is all about communication.



Expand

Increase your contact with the foreign language outside of class in every way you can. Look for programs on TV or rent foreign language videos and DVDs. Magazines and newspapers in the foreign language are available at libraries and bookstores in the United States. The Internet is another source for foreign language material, including websites with video or radio broadcasts. You won't understand every word, but you can get a lot out of a story or an article by concentrating on words you recognize and doing a little guesswork. To further your exposure, you can use foreign language apps on your cell phone (duolingo, babbel, etc.) to practice.



Organize

It's important to be organized and efficient when learning. Throughout the textbook, you'll see tips for learning, speaking, reading and writing that will help you study smart. For starters, try looking for cognates. Cognates are words that look similar and have the same meaning in English and the foreign language, such as *musica*, *musique*, *musik* for music. By recognizing which words are cognates, you can then spend your time studying the words that look completely unfamiliar.



Connect

Because English is a multi-ethnic language, your knowledge of English can give you clues about words in other languages. Some English and German/French/Spanish words have roots in Latin or Greek, such as Atmosphäre, atmosphère, atmósfera and atmosphere or Ökonomie, économie, economia and economy. You may find that learning a foreign language will help you in English class!



Have fun!

Above all, remember to have fun! The more you try, the more you'll learn. Bonne chance! Viel Glück! Buena suerte!