



HOW TO REALLY LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE OR FURTHER DEVELOP AN EXISTING ONE

As Nelson Mandela stated, *"If you talk to a [person] in a language [they] understand, that goes to [their] head. If you talk to [them] in [their] own language, that goes to [their] heart."* Learning a second, third or fourth language has benefits greater than just a resume booster—it allows for a deeper connection with others, fosters cultural understanding, enhances memory and problem-solving skills, and expands one's view of the world.



Do

- Study the material
- Get a language buddy
- Talk to your roommates, local friends, host families, members of the community, and people on the street
- Watch movies and television in the host language
- Listen to the country's music
- Hang out in your community on the weekends

Don't

- Don't be afraid to make mistakes
- Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone
- Don't criticize others' mistakes
- Don't expect others to speak English
- Don't skip class
- Don't underestimate the power of non-verbal & body language
- Don't travel to other countries every weekend with a group of Americans
- Don't just hangout with people within your program (Americans)

Tips for Success

- Find a program offering language partners and conversation hours
- Discuss your goals with your Resident Director
- Try to live with a host family or local students
- Join a club or campus organization
- Get involved with a hobby you currently have
- Look for an internship
- Get involved with volunteer opportunities

How to Prepare

- Study the special nuances of the language in your region
- Learn basic phrases and customs before you arrive
 - Yes, no, please, thank you
 - "Where is the bathroom?"
 - "Can you help me?"
 - "Excuse me."
 - "I am sorry."
 - "I don't speak (insert language here)."
- Learn how to interpret directions
- Bring a pocket-sized language/travel books - available at most bookstores. Computerized dictionaries or similar apps are great too, but it's always wise to have a resource on hand that isn't reliant on a charged battery!

Some Wise Words to Consider

- “English is a funny language; that explains why we park our car on the driveway and drive our car on the parkway.”
–Anonymous
 - *New languages can be tricky—don’t give up.*
- “One man’s frankness is another man’s vulgarity.”
–Kevin Smith
 - *This is very important to consider in some countries.*
- “Slang is a language that rolls up its sleeves, spits on its hands and goes to work.”
–Carl Sandburg
 - *Learning the slang of a region can be a very instrumental tool in communication.*
- “It’s a strange world of language in which skating on thin ice can get you into hot water.”
–Franklin P. Jone
 - *Sometimes people say the wrong thing, and it’s unavoidable and to be expected—don’t let this intimidate you.*

Notes

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