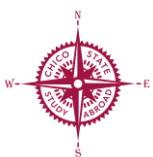




HOW TO REALLY LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

As Nelson Mandela once stated, *“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his 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

- Be afraid to make mistakes.
- Be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone.
- Criticize others’ mistakes.
- Expect others to speak English.
- Skip class.
- Underestimate the power of non-verbals & body language.
- Travel to other countries every weekend with a group of Americans.
- Only 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 or interest you currently have.
- Get an internship.
- Volunteer.

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).”
- How to interpret directions.
- Pocket-sized language/travel books are available at most bookstores. Computerized dictionaries are great, too.

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. Jones

- *Sometimes people say the wrong thing. It's unavoidable and to be expected. Don't let this intimidate you.*

Why is learning another language important to you?

Notes