

First Interviewee: Angeline Nguyen

1. Self-Introduction (language learning journey): Angeline, born in the US, English native speaker. She can speak Vietnamese with her family and friends. Angeline started to go to Vietnamese language school when she was 13, and learned Vietnamese for 4 years, but also started to learn Vietnamese as a baby with her family for communication. She identifies that she can speak and listen to Vietnamese very well, but has problems with writing and reading Vietnamese.

2. Angeline's language learning goal is to understand and talk to family and friends. She said she can read some basic characters and can speak Vietnamese even when she went back to Vietnam to visit her family.

3. Your top 3 challenges? Vocabulary, listening comprehension, and reading comprehension. She said since her goal is mainly to talk to family and friends, her vocabulary is only limited to the daily conversation level. When she went back to Vietnam, she could talk to local people, but couldn't understand many words and had difficulty talking to local Vietnamese due to limited vocabulary.

4. What is your way to learn Vietnamese? She said she learned Vietnamese with her parents for basic conversation since she was a baby. She also learned it in the language school, but forgot a lot of it after quitting it in high school in Sophomore year. She thinks learning language in the language school is good because she was exposed to the language environment and met new friends with the same cultural background to practice Vietnamese consistently and more professionally.

5. What tools do you wish could exist when you learn Vietnamese? She said having a tutor or partner who can help her practice speaking Vietnamese everyday is an ideal way. And having a language learning partner and tutor can also motivate her to learn the language more consistently.

6. Funny question: you said if you have kids in the future, you will send them to the language school, why? Also, which way/resource/method you want to choose to help them learn the language. She said she will send her children to school when they are young, probably at 4 years old, because she thinks learning a new language at a young age is easier, especially if you want to learn it professionally. Other ways are probably to send the kids back to Vietnam during the holiday/summer breaks to let them talk to more local people. She will also practice speaking Vietnamese at home with kids to help them learn the language consistently.

Second Interviewee: Zoie You

1. Self-Introduction: Zoie came from China, Chinese is her native language, she can also speak English (learnt for more than 15 years), started to learn Spanish in college for about 2 years, and continues learning it now to connect with friends.

2. Zoie's language learning goal is to talk with her friends and her boyfriend's family, in Spanish. And also since a lot in California can speak Spanish, in her working environment, speaking Spanish is a big plus. For English, she started to learn it in elementary school, and since she wants to study abroad, she has to learn it very well. She said she already achieved her

learning goal and can speak Spanish with her friends with consistent practice for the intermediate level.

3. What are your top 3 challenges? Zoie said her top 3 difficulties are vocabulary, speaking, and writing. She basically learnt from Duolingo and it can help her to keep learning and make progress everyday but requires consistency. She also kept practicing speaking Spanish with her friends but was very embarrassed at first, which was caused by limited vocabulary and she had to use English to explain and communicate. Learning English is much easier for her since she started at a young age and was exposed to an English environment in college so that she can talk with more people and keep using it.

4. What tools do you wish could exist when you learn Spanish and English? Zoie said when she was learning English, the limited language exposure blocked her progress and led to the result that she cannot speak English fluently, but can write, listen, read English fluently. She also believes that learning a language from textbooks is limited. For example, some very authentic expressions or relatively informal conversations would not appear in textbooks. It was not until she came to the United States that she began to understand these authentic expressions. For Spanish, she used Duolingo to learn it. She likes it a lot because it is easy to learn, and makes progress everyday (use it for about 15 minutes everyday), that's why she can consistently use it everyday. But she also thinks the conversation in the app is too limited and lacks variety. But good enough for daily communication.

Third Interviewee: Claire Liu

1. Self-Introduction: Claire is a Chinese native speaker, she also learned English for more than 15 years in school when she was in China. She started to learn Japanese in college due to the degree requirements, but also out of her interest. She also said that she likes to watch anime, so she chose to learn Japanese in college. After learning Japanese in college for about 1 year (two and a half semesters), she stopped learning Japanese, but luckily she has a friend who is a Japanese native speaker to practice in her lab.

2. How did you learn English and Japanese? She said she learned both languages via courses, textbook mainly. Unlike Zoie, Claire thinks that learning from a textbook is a good way since you can start learning some basic conversation in a formal way, so that when you use this in real life, other people won't feel offended. Also, she thinks as long as you picked the suitable textbook, it is more helpful than some other apps.

3. What is your language learning goal? Claire told me that for English, her goal is to be able to talk and use it fluently in college, which is similar for most international students. But for Japanese, her goal is to travel to Japan and be able to talk to local people and experience Japanese culture. She said she loves Japanese culture and she loves watching anime, that's the reason that she started to learn Japanese. Also, after traveling to Japan a few times with her family, she felt she improved a lot by speaking to local people and has more courage to use Japanese. Therefore, she thinks a language environment is really important and helpful. She also told me one interesting fact is that for some people in Japan, especially the people in some small

cities, they cannot understand English, that is the reason that she started to force herself to speak Japanese with locals and during this process, she indeed made progress and felt more confident to speak Japanese.

4. What are your top 3 challenges? Claire told me that since she has friends to practice with and able to travel to Japan every year to speak Japanese, as well as watching anime consistently, speaking and listening are not difficult for her. However, grammar is a big issue for her especially when she tries to write the postcard for her friends in Japanese, she has to look up or use a translator to write Japanese since she does not want to make mistakes. Also, she told me that lack of courage to speak Japanese was a big issue for her when she started to learn Japanese, but since she was learning Japanese from courses, finding a friend/partner with the same level is important. Also, having a strong interest/motivation is really helpful to learn a language consistently.

5. What tools do you wish could exist when you learn Japanese? She said probably an app with a function that can show some examples from the animation would be helpful since she loves watching anime and learning from anime would be interesting and motivated. She also suggested to me that it will be helpful to put a “finding your partner” function in the app/platform since she noticed that many people are struggling with speaking languages due to lack of language learning partners or native speaker friends.