

Date: November 21, 2025
Client: Mr. Bill Smith
Interviewer: Student Developer

Me:

Hello Mr. Smith. So I heard that you may be looking for some sort of help in some of your day to day activities. Would you be able to tell me about some issues that you are facing in your daily life?

Mr. Smith:

Absolutely! So my son goes to a school where they have multiple languages. Right now he's taking Spanish and Latin and he's having difficulty with his vocabulary as well as other linguistic aspects. For example, in Latin the conjugations, the declensions, but these aspects come into play when you know the words, and words that he can't seem to remember. And I'm constantly creating vocabulary lists of words to try and teach him Latin and even Spanish and I don't have time to just go to the Web and create a list. So I'm looking for something that will help me with vocabulary in different languages.

Me:

Have you tried any language learning apps or just like a flash card making app such as Anki or maybe like an offshoot of Duolingo?

Mr. Smith:

Yes, I have, and that's a really good question. The challenge I face with those apps is they bring you down a path of what they want you to do and learn and not what I want. I'm just looking to understand words that I can, you know, help him memorize. For example, we're driving to school and I just want to be able to quiz him on different words, and I want him to be able to quiz himself on the words. You start getting into duolingo and you just have this long conversation dialogue, and it's not focusing on what the teacher wants or what I can do to help them.

Me:

So you mention you want him and yourself to be able to practice. What would be your favorite way of practicing vocabulary, or even what methods of practising work best for you?

Mr. Smith:

When I grew up, I would just look at a list of words, and the meanings I would just get through repetition. I would close my eyes, think of the word, and what the meaning was. So something like that, that will just constantly bring me through that cycle would be helpful. It would also be nice to have different ways of testing. Give me options like multiple picks of what that meaning could be. And the other way around of course. I want to see an English word like 'gift' and be able to give the Latin word. But the repetition, something that's going to keep asking me and test my speed, because I could sit all day and leave open just, you know, one word or something like that would also be helpful.

Me:

So would you want the repetition to be auto picked for you based on a set of different parameters? Or would you prefer to do it by hand?

Mr. Smith:

Both. It would be great to have a set of words that I haven't seen to be able to brush up on them. But I would also like to be able to pick my own words that I need to study for myself.

Me:

Would you prefer this application to be on a laptop, or desktop? Or is a mobile platform more convenient for you?

Mr. Smith:

I would say just to begin with that desktop is fine and mobile would be fine for later. I would love to be able to use this on the go, maybe even through carplay while I'm driving to do it by voice. But desktop is fine to start with.

Me:

Do you see this becoming something that you want to use further in the future, for other languages for example?

Mr. Smith:

Other languages would be great. I've always wanted to learn German. So any other languages that I can learn from this app and quiz myself would be amazing. I travel to Mexico a lot, so something that helps me remember nouns and verbs would be great. The rest of the language will pick up once I know the words.

Me:

It seems like you want to learn more of the spoken language rather than just the grammar. Would you want there to be some sort of inclusion of an AI aspect to be able to know what the trends for language currently are, and to be able to improve your learning of other things?

Mr. Smith:

Nothing is more awkward than being in Mexico and asking for something or saying something and the native people look at you like they know that you are learning from a Spanish textbook in the US. I would definitely want an understanding of the local language.

Me:

Would you like dialects to be included as well?

Mr Smith:

Yes.

Me:

So you mentioned that you have tried other apps before. Do you have anything that you enjoyed from them that you want to include in this application?

Mr. Smith:

So I've tried Babel, Rosetta Stone, all of the usual language learning apps, and they're all so hard to learn. Before you can get to using and learning the language you got to learn the application right? And that's just always a pain. Instead of what I like, I would rather give you what I didn't like. And what I didn't like was how difficult it was to set up and get going. I just want to be able to say "this is the type of learning I want."

Me:

Would you want this to be something you use on your own? Or would you want to be something you can include your son into? Would you like multiple users to be able to use the app differently?

Mr. Smith:

Yes, but not paired. I want the app to be separate for people. I don't need him seeing what I'm seeing and I don't need to see what he's seeing. However, it would also be nice to be able to see what he is learning periodically as a parent tutor to be able to help him with what is currently doing.

Me:

As for learning the words themselves, is it better for you if it's the exact definition or something close like synonyms that you already know would be better?

Mr. Smith:

I like having more information. When it's too specific it doesn't work well and my experience is better with interpretations. So having a choice with meanings, such as synonyms, or even antonyms would be better so that I can look at the context of using those words instead of just the meaning.

Me:

Alright, that's everything for now. I look forward to speaking with you again. Thank you.

Mr. Smith:

Excellent. Thank you.