

CHECK!

# Discussing my experiences of language learning

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_1124C

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Let's check!

Can I discuss my experiences of language learning?

- Can I talk about the languages I speak and give details on how well I speak them?
- Can I use the second conditional to make suggestions?
- Can I talk about different methods for learning a language and about my experiences with them?



# Warm-up

**Discuss** the four questions below.



How many languages  
have you spoken today?

How many languages can  
you say *hello* or *goodbye*  
in?

Do you have any friends  
that are multilingual?

What was the last film  
you watched in a foreign  
language? Did you use  
subtitles?



## Learning outcome 1

I can talk about the languages I speak  
and give details on how well I speak  
them.



# Your language learning

You are in a **job interview** and the interviewer asks about your language skills. **Use** the prompts in the red boxes to help you.



**So, can you tell me a little bit about your language skills?**

Give a brief summary of your language skills.

How has learning a language helped you in your career so far?

In which area are you most confident?

How do you plan to improve the areas you are less confident in?





# My language skills in different situations

**Choose a situation.** Use the language skills **vocabulary** to talk about your language abilities. You can talk about more than one language! **Discuss** afterwards as a class: are some situations more difficult than others? Are your language skills better in some situations?

*My English is rusty, but I can usually make myself understood.*

*It was important for me to become conversational in French so that I could hang out with my colleagues.*



## Situation

- going on holidays
- speaking to people on the phone
- meeting friends for a drink
- going to the doctor's
- speaking to the authorities
- filling out official forms
- at a restaurant

## Language skills vocabulary

- rusty
- conversational
- basics
- to get by in
- native speaker
- perfectly
- to be fluent in
- to make oneself understood



# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well and some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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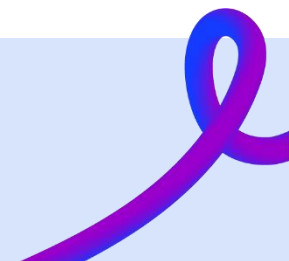
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## Learning outcome 2

I can use the second conditional to make suggestions.



# What could you suggest?

Take 2 minutes to **make some notes** on the questions in **steps 1** and **2**. Then **share your answers** with the class. **Listen** to each of your classmates' suggestions and discuss how certain you are that they would make a difference in step 3.

1



If **your classmates wanted** to learn a new language, **what could they do** to learn it quickly?

2



**What could happen if you took** an intensive English course for one year?

3



Do you think that any of your classmates' **suggestions** from **step 1** would make a difference? Why or why not?



# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well and some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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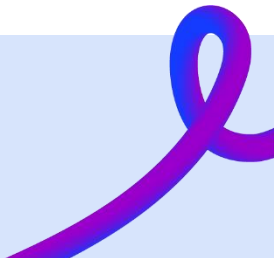
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## Learning outcome 3

I can talk about different methods for learning a language and talk about my experiences with them.



# Learner styles and learning techniques

1. **Interview** your partner about what kind of language learner they are.
2. **Make notes** on their answers to the questions below. Then, **swap** roles.
3. When you return to the group, say **one interesting thing** you learned about your partner.

1



**What kind of learner are you?**

For example, are you a visual or an aural learner?

2



**What techniques do you use to help you learn?**

For example, do you like to make mind maps or do you learn examples by heart?

3



**How would you compare learning a language now with 10 years ago?**

**What advice would you give someone just starting to learn a language?**



# Let's check! Feedback round

Your teacher will now highlight what was done well and some mistakes that were made **in the last activity** for you to reflect on.



Good examples

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Find the mistake!

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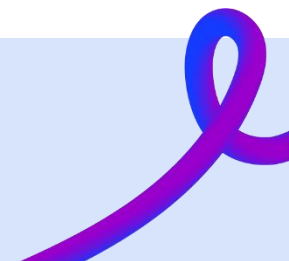
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- Can I talk about the languages I speak and give details on how well I speak them?
- Can I use the second conditional to make suggestions?
- Can I talk about different methods for learning a language and talk about my experiences with them?

Your teacher will now recommend whether you should move on to the next chapter or review lessons from this chapter



# End of the lesson

Idiom

*This email is in **double Dutch**. I can't understand any of it!*

**Meaning:** something that doesn't make sense or is impossible to understand



# Additional practice



# Vocabulary review – my language learning

Can you **use** each of these words or phrases in a sentence? What do they **mean**?



**conversational**

**to get by in**

**to be fluent in**

**rusty**

**basics**

**written down**

**to follow**

**multilingual**

**bilingual**

**more or less**



# Vocabulary review – learning styles

Can you **use** each of these words or phrases in a sentence? What do they **mean**?



**verbal learner**

**to work something out**

**trial-and-error**

**learning-by-doing**

**to translate**

**logical learner**

**mind map**

**flash cards**

**physical learner**

**to learn by heart**



# Discuss

**Read** the quotes and **discuss** the questions below.

1



**Speaking English allows me to work with people from a lot of different parts of the world.**

2



**Learning a second language allows me to learn about another culture in a more meaningful way.**

What does speaking a language other than your mother tongue allow you to do?

What are some of the advantages of being multilingual?

Do you have other skills that allow you to do things you wouldn't be able to do otherwise?





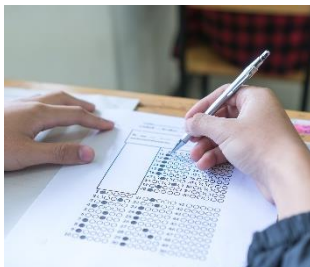
# Your preferred language learning techniques

1. **Discuss:** what different language learning techniques are shown in the pictures?
2. **Rank** the techniques from **1-8** (1=most useful, 8=least useful) based on your own experience.

*I think... is the most useful because...*

*I find... useful because...*

1



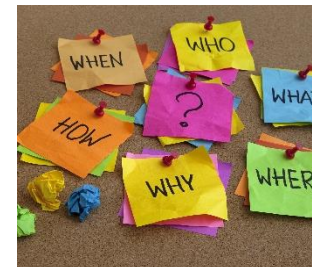
2



3



4



5



6



7



8







# Using the second conditional

Complete the sentences below so that they are true for you.



*If I could change one thing about my current lifestyle, I...*

*If I could be anywhere else in the world right now, I...*

*I would enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ if...*



# Discuss

**Read** the quote and **discuss** the questions below.

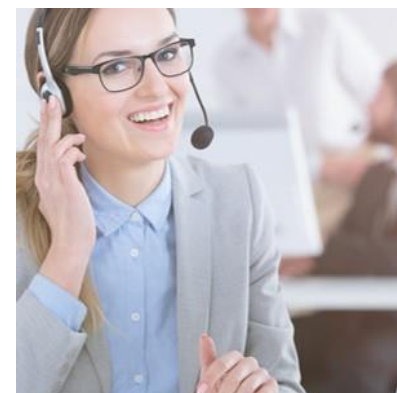


**I consider language learning to be very important in the modern workplace, no matter what industry you work in.**

Do you agree with the statement above? Why or why not?

Have you considered learning a third (or even fourth) language? Why or why not?

What else do you consider to be very important in the modern workplace?





# Check! summary

## My language learning autobiography

### Vocabulary for describing your level:

- **Beginner:** rusty, the basics
- **Intermediate:** conversational, get by, follow, make myself understood, pretty much/more or less, hold a conversation

### Present perfect continuous:

- We use the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous to talk about things we started in the past and still do today.
- We often use the present perfect continuous to emphasise the length of time (duration) we have been doing an activity.

### How long have you ...?:

- We use the question *how long + have you... + present continuous* to ask about the length of time (duration) of an activity

### *for* and *since*:

- **for:** period of time *I've been singing with the choir for ten years now.*
- **since:** point in time *I've been learning English since I was at school*



# Check! summary

## Second conditional

### Second conditional using *could*:

- We can also form the second conditional using **could** + \_\_\_\_\_ in the *if*-clause.
- If I could learn any language, I would learn German.



# Check! summary

## Talking about learning styles and preferences

### There are different styles of learning:

- aural, visual
- logical, verbal

### Different learning techniques suit different learning styles:

- trial-and-error, learning-by-doing, to work something out
- learning-by-heart, to test oneself, translation

### Knowing your learning style can help you set language learning goals:

- I want to improve my public speaking by talking more during meetings at work
- I will build my vocabulary by playing language games with my flatmates
- I will practise English by using a language-learning app on the bus



# Vocabulary

the basics

to get by

multilingual

bilingual

to follow

How long have you been learning English?

rusty

to make oneself understood

fluently

more or less

pretty much

tricky

conversational

to have no difficulty communicating

to hold a conversation

survival

written down





# Vocabulary

native speaker

throughout

approximately

common

the opportunity for sb to do...

over

to increase/decrease one's chances of doing...

part of the world



# Vocabulary

visual learner

aural learner

verbal learner

flashcards

to read aloud

crosswords

logical learner

bilingual dictionary

to work something out

to translate

learning-by-doing

trial-and-error

to learn something by heart

translation

to test yourself



## Notes

