

# TANDEM LEARNING

## Self-instruction Aptitude Questionnaire

### 2014-15



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Target Language: English

(Please add to Semester 1 Diary when completed)

*Answer the following questions by circling the letter which describes closely your own experience. Please turn to page 3 in order to calculate your score.:*

How good were you at foreign languages at school?

- A quite / very good
- B** middling
- C hopeless

If you had to learn an “exotic” language like Arabic or Chinese, how would you regard the task?

- A As a fascinating challenge
- B** as a chore but probably not an impossible one
- C with terror

If you only have a smattering of a language, what do you do in the country where it is spoken?

- A** have fun trying out what I’ve got
- B use the language if I have to
- C ask “do you speak English” or rely on friends who speak the language well.

Are you good at imitating accents and voices in your own language?

- A People say I’m a good mimic
- B** It depends on the voice or accent
- C No

If you can understand the gist of what a native speaker is saying in a foreign language, but not certain key words, what do you do?

- A I don’t worry: as long as something gets through, that’s fine.
- B** Try to puzzle out the key words
- C Panic

How easily distracted are you (in general)

- A once I’ve started a job, I’m dead to the world
- B** it depends on what I’m doing
- C Very

If you have a number of major jobs to do at once, what do you do?

- A** plan my time so that they all get done
- B** get most of them done somehow, though not to any pre-set plan
- C** Get in a tizzy

If you set yourself a goal that involves learning a new skill (not necessarily a language), do you stick to it?

- A** If the goal is realistic, I usually stick to it
- B** sometimes
- C** I tend to give up once the first enthusiasm wears off

If you are teaching yourself a new skill, how often do you practice or work at it?

- A** Nearly every day
- B** reasonably regularly, though other things can get in the way
- C** when I feel like it

How easy would it be to find half an hour's quiet time a day for language learning?

- A** I could find the time without disrupting my life
- B** possible, but I'd have to sacrifice something else
- C** impossible: my life is already too full!

## Scoring

To find your self-instruction Aptitude score, give yourself 2 points for every A answer, 1 point for Every B, and 0 point for every C.

If you scored:

**0.5** You have low self-instruction aptitude.

You do not have much confidence in your own language sensitivity or self-discipline.

For language sensitivity, a lot of this might be due to poor experiences at school –but now that you are an independent learner, you can choose what activities suit you. Remember that speaking another language is natural (half the world's population can do it), not some magical gift. Try out as many as possible of the activities proposed in *DIY Techniques for language learners, CILT* (available from the library). With experience, your confidence will grow.

**6.14** You have a medium self-instruction aptitude.

You have reasonable to good language sensitivity, and/or self-discipline, which will increase your chances of success in foreign language learning.

**15.20** You have a high self-instruction aptitude.

You have excellent language sensitivity and self-discipline. If other conditions (such as motivation and learning resources) are also favourable, this should give you a strong chance of success in your foreign language.