

LANGUAGE LEARNING

Listen on #BLAB and follow on twitter @talkwithecm

#1

Practice all 4 channels

Listening, speaking, reading & writing. Allow receptive skills to help develop and broaden production skills - that is listening helps improve speaking and reading helps improve writing.

#3

Rule of 3

Give yourself three repetitions. Why pressure yourself & expect to get everything the first time? Watch a recorded blab or movie once to get the main ideas. Watch a second time to take a closer look, catching the details and learning new vocabulary. On the third (or even fourth) viewing, use your new knowledge to appreciate the big picture.

Balance of input/output: #5

With many media sources, it is easy for learners to get stuck in reception mode, that is only listening to or reading what others say. Strive to balance out the amount of time listening with speaking, and the amount of time reading with some writing. Go ahead & read articles - then write some of your own! Watch movies & listen to native speakers, but also get involved and ask some questions too!

#2

Use it, or lose it!

Practice or, at least, expose yourself to your target language everyday - even if it is just for 5 minutes - EVERYDAY. Like a muscle, without usage our language skills can become weak over time.

Get out of your comfort zone #4

Although learning should be in a stress-free and safe environment, getting out of our comfort zone helps push skills to the next level. Taking risks, meeting new people & making mistakes helps improve language abilities. Like a child learning to walk, we must first fall down before we can get up.

Motivation #6

Why do you want to learn a new language? What are your goals? Is it to make new friends? Talk with your mother-in-law? Get a new job? Focus on the skills that will help you reach your goals, create a feeling of progress and keep you motivated over time. Use the language in a real context. Being authentic and emotionally connecting with people is a great way to use a language in a real context. Examples include - finding friends with common interests, taking a course in your target language & going to events where the language you want to learn will be used.

#7

Asking Questions

When practicing a new language or helping someone else learn, remember to ask questions.

When I don't understand:

- Excuse me, can you repeat that?
- What do you mean by _____?
- I don't understand, can you explain it to me in a different way?

To check if others understand:

- What do you think about that?
- How is it in your country / hometown?
- Do you agree? Why / Why not?
- Can you understand me?

