

LANGUAG-INTINE

- A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THIS QUARANTINE



Ni hao, hola! hello! namaste! bonjour! annyeonghaseyyo! hallo!

Learning a foreign language can be fun, but sometimes hard too! Half of the world population is bilingual, but only 25% of Americans can hold a conversation in another language. Well, roughly 6,500 languages are spoken across the globe today.



Among which surprisingly, Mandarin Chinese tops the charts off, followed by Spanish and English.



India has 29 states and 7 union territories, and has 22 native languages in its territory. **Sanskrit** is recorded to be the oldest language in the world, in other words, '**mother of all the languages**', Being a typical Tamilian well versed in Tamil, Hindi as well as my mother tongue Telugu, I would like to add here that, though Sanskrit remains as the oldest language, it is recorded that the language Tamil arose ages ago and is spoken mostly in Tamil Nadu, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Since we all are bound to our houses in the **quarantine** period, why don't we try something binge worthy yet productive?

During self-quarantine, try learning a foreign language without leaving the house. At this point of time, we have no idea when we will be able to travel abroad again. But we don't need to be idle. We can keep our travel muscles limber with foreign language classes. Then, once we can roam the globe again, we can gleefully jump right into conversations with locals and their pets.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ's)

1. What is the need of learning a foreign language?

'LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE' would surely kill your boredom, provokes your eagerness in learning about the verbal histories, it makes your life interesting as well as makes you smart, excels you academically, improves your reasoning skills, creativity, gives you career advantages and if you have a bucket list like mine, where you would love to travel around the world, learning different traditions and cultures, wont it be handy?



2. How do I choose a new language to learn?

I would like to categorize the languages based on its difficulty level for English speakers into three categories;

- EASY PEASY:

These are languages that are closely related to English.

It takes 23 -24 weeks to achieve language proficiency. They include:

- 1. Spanish (espanol)*
- 2. Portugese (portugues)*
- 3. French (français)*
- 4. Italian (italiano)*
- 5. Romanian (romana)*

6. *Dutch (Nederlands)*

7. *Swedish (svenska)*

8. *Afrikaans (Afrikaans)*

9. *Norwegian (norsk)*

- *MEDDLESOME MEDIUM:*

These languages are those with significant differences from English. It normally takes 44 weeks to achieve its language proficiency, They consist:

1. *HINDI (हिन्दी)*

2. *RUSSIAN (русский)*

3. *VIETNAMESE (Tiếng Việt)*

4. *TURKISH (Türk)*

5. *POLISH (Polskie)*

6. *THAI (ไทย)*

7. *SERBIAN (Српски)*

8. *GREEK (Ελληνικά)*

9. *HEBREW (עברית)*

10. *FINNISH (suomi)*

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- *HIT HARDY:*

Now, these languages are those which are difficult for native English speaker, it takes 1.69 years(88 weeks) to achieve proficiency in these languages, they are none other than,

1. *Arabic (عربي)*

2. *Chinese (中文)*

3. *Japanese (日本人)*

4. Korean (한국어)

To, sum up Asian languages are pretty difficult to learn, right from its script to its slang, but these also consist of the most widely spoken language, Mandarin. But all of the languages do have a connection or link with one another, they may sound the same or might be similar to one another.



3. How to start learning a foreign language?

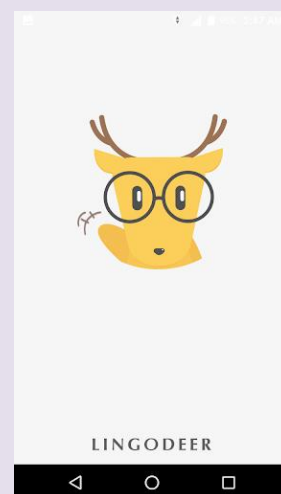
From my personal experience, the essential essence necessary for an individual to learn a new language would be 'setting language – learning goals'; by this I mean that one must be passionate and determined in learning the language you choose, you need to read, write, and **absorb & understand** the language.

Well, I can tell you, it isn't easy. Sure, there are many online resources, apps, and audio-books that'll help, but the reality is: learning a language on your own requires much more.

I remember the excitement when I decided to learn Korean. I downloaded two language learning apps, namely **duolingo & lingodeer**, that combined visual, audio, and written exercises to learn the language. It took me through various levels and as you mastered the levels you unlocked new ones. The app would send me daily notifications to remind me to practice. This made sense because learning a new language requires a devotion of time. If you don't put in the hard work, you can't expect big results.

- **The first thing to start with is to decide if you want to write or speak the language (or both)**

- Choose your learning method and content, if you are good with visuals, go with visual learning or if audios, then podcasts would be a suitable choice, or even novels and books would help.
- Content choice, choose something that would interest you, and would never decelerate your motivation, I started learning Korean because I was addicted to Korean dramas and k-pop, that was one of motivation.
- Allocate and schedule your time. Immerse yourselves while learning it, feel free to speed up the process.
- Enhance your vocabulary, expand your knowledge through various social platforms and workshops.
- Try practicing their slang. As “practice makes a man perfect”.
- You can practice it with your native speaking friends, to attain a conversational fluency.



“Just think of a song you like and part of it will likely play in your head. When language elements are accompanied by a catchy tune, there is a higher chance you will emotionally engage with them and, crucially, remember them.”

Therefore lock yourselves, stay safe, stay in, grab your resources and start your learning process.

'HAPPY LANGUAGINTINE!'



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