Results of Need-Finding Study

The following are the results of our brainstorming session for extracting the deepest needs of the users.

# 6 Deepest Needs

1. Need to be immersed in the local culture: Users need to have real-world interactions with native speakers to facilitate a more natural and effective learning experience. This is similar to the mother-tongue learning experience in youth.

**Interviews**: 1, 3, and 5.

1. Need to communicate effectively: The users need to communicate in a real-world setting, especially before moving to Italy and starting their education. In addition, listening is difficult because Italians speak really fast!

**Interviews**: 1, 3, and 5.

1. Need to get feedback, correction, and patient guidance: Users benefit from immediate feedback, instant correction of mistakes, and patient guidance, particularly for improving their writing skills.

**Interviews**: 1, 2, 4, and 5.

1. Need for a structured way of practicing writing, vocabulary, articles, pronunciation, and gender-specific words. Writing is particularly important because it requires someone to evaluate and correct that. Also, mastering articles, pronunciation, and gender-specific words are especially challenging for those whose primary languages don’t have these patterns.

**Interviews**: 1 and 5.

1. Need to stay motivated and have a structured schedule: Losing interest in learning Italian is addressed as a common issue in the interviews. Also, the students need ways to add some structure in their daily attempt in learning Italian.

**Interviews**: 2, 3, and 4.

1. Need for ways to incorporate past experience in learning a language into learning Italian: having a past experience in learning a language can be considered as a skill that is useful in learning Italian.

**Interviews**: 4 and 5.

# 3 Deepest Needs

The final voting table is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Need 1** | **Need 2** | **Need 3** | **Need 4** | **Need 5** | **Need 6** |
| Ugur |  | + | + |  | + | + |
| Setayesh |  | + | + | + |  |  |
| Sajjad | + | + | + | + |  |  |
| Homayoun | + |  | + | + | + |  |
| **Result** | 2 | **3** | **4** | **3** | 2 | 1 |

# Connecting Needs to Interviews and Answers

## Need 2

* **Question (Interview 1)**: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking are four essential skills that comprise basic language competency. Which one is more important to you in learning Italian? Which one do you think can be your weak or strong spot? Please clarify.

**Answer**: Before going to Italy for school, it's important for users to talk with people in everyday situations. Also, it can be tough to understand Italian because they talk very fast.

* **Question (Interview 3)**: How has your daily routine or lifestyle supported you during your journey in learning Italian?

**Answer**: Living and working in Italy for several years has helped me in my journey of learning Italian. One of the key factors has been the need to communicate effectively. Every day, I had to interact with people for various reasons, whether it was ordering food, asking for directions, or having conversations at work. This constant practice and necessity to communicate in Italian greatly supported my language learning. Additionally, immersing myself in the local culture and trying to adapt to the Italian way of life helped me pick up the language more quickly. It's like a puzzle piece that fits into my daily routine, and it has been a valuable part of my language learning journey.

* **Question (Interview 5)**: How do you think you could improve your efficiency in learning Italian regarding the methods you have currently at your disposal? If so, can you describe them please?

**Answer**: It's important for the users to talk well with others: they should practice talking with people in real-life situations.

## Need 3

* **Question (Interview 3)**: Is there anything you want to add? Please explain freely.

**Answer**: As someone who's spent time in Italy and is preparing for an Italian test, there are a few things I'd like to share. One of the most important aspects of learning a language, especially when preparing for a test, is the need to get feedback. It's essential to have someone who can review my language skills and correct my mistakes. This support and guidance are incredibly valuable, and I believe it can make a significant difference in my preparation for the Italian test.

* **Question (Interview 2)**: Considering the international students that have recently started learning Italian, do you think there might be better methods for learning Italian than the ones you have had at your disposal? If so, can you describe them please?

**Answer**: While I've been living and working in Italy for many years, I've observed that one effective way to learn Italian is the need to get correction. It's crucial to have someone who can point out your mistakes and help you improve. Another helpful method is to immerse yourself in the local culture by making Italian friends and participating in daily conversations. Additionally, using language learning apps and online resources can be a valuable supplement to traditional methods. These approaches, along with consistent practice, can enhance the learning experience for international students starting to learn Italian.

* **Question (Interview 4)**: If you were an international student currently living in another country, e.g., Canada, trying to learn English, what would be your expectations of your hypothetical English teacher, assuming you had taken English classes?

**Answer**:

* **Question (Interview 5)**: 16. Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking are four essential skills that comprise basic language competency. Which one is more important to you in learning Italian? Which one do you think can be your weak or strong spot? Please clarify.

**Answer**:

## Need 4

* **Question (Interview 1)**:

**Answer**:

* **Question (Interview 5)**:

**Answer**: