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What Is The Best Way To Learn A Foreign Language?

By Lisa Nobles

Studies have shown that how you learn a foreign language impacts whether or not you will actually

follow through it. Obviously, if you get bored before you've put in the required time and effort, you're not going to learn much of the language at all. So let's address the facts that help determine whether you're going to stick with your goal of learning a foreign language or not.

First things first, you are going to need positive feedback. That means you need a way to measure your goal of learning the new language. Whether this includes tracking your progress or actually trying to speak the language with someone fluent in it doesn't matter. What does matter is that you have a way to gauge that you're really learning. Otherwise you may get frustrated and give up long before you get anywhere at all.

Secondly, you need to follow a step−by−step course that progresses from easy to hard. It should also do this slowly. Again, the reason you want to learn a foreign language in this manner is so you do not get too frustrated.

The problem with early frustration is that it steers people toward giving up. If you don't see any progress in the early stages, you may not feel like you can accomplish your goal at all. Obviously, if you don't think your goal is achievable after all, chances are good you'll give up.

So minimizing the amount of frustration (especially early on) is a big part of learning a foreign language. On another note, you want to make learning a foreign language as interesting as possible.

As I'm sure you've experienced, learning from a textbook can be monotonous. Not only is reading from a textbook boring, but your chances of sticking with it are slim to none. Besides, merely learning vocabulary and grammar is not going to prepare you for a real−life conversation in a foreign language.

Interaction is the best way to learn anything. You can't just passively read, listen or watch as someone explains everything to you. You need to get involved.

By turning learning a new language into a game, you'll stick with it and actually remember more of what you learn.

You need to actually listen (not just read from a book) and then speak lots of foreign words and phrases. Turn the words into something familiar by associating them with their actual meaning.

You need to practice the new language with fluent speakers, all the while listening to it as it's properly spoken. Many foreign languages are spoken very quickly, therefore you need to make sure you can keep up with the pace and actually hear it spoken correctly.

Test drive an interactive Spanish course that can allow you to learn to speak Spanish naturally in less than 3 months. Visit

http://www.expert−how−to−guides.com/rocket−spanish.html

. Or learn French if you

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http://www.expert−how−to−guides.com/rocket−french.html

The Benefits Of Learning A Foreign Language

By Languageskillsabroad.com

If you're wondering whether or not it's worth the time to learn a foreign language, read these Top Benefits of Learning A Foreign Language before you decide.

#1 Reason for learning a foreign language: More money and better job opportunities.

A recent article in the NY Times quoted New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer on the subject of a lawsuit filed against the State of NY charging that "lack of basic translation services in several New York City hospitals is endangering immigrant patients and violating state and federal law."

It's lawsuits like this that underline the importance of employers hiring people that can speak a foreign language. As the lawsuit points out, it's no longer a matter of political correctness to be able to service your customers in their native language. In some instances, such as public health and public safety organizations, it can be truly a matter of live or death!

Many employers are responding to the need to hire people who speak a foreign language by offering more money to start and higher raises throughout their career.

In addition to pay scale, being able to speak a foreign can also help open the opportunity to qualify for more exotic and interesting jobs such as foreign service officer for the CIA or State Department, or foreign language specialist for the National Security Agency.

#2 Reason for learning a foreign language: Increased perception of intelligence.

It is a generally accepted notion that people who speak a second or foreign language are perceived as being more intelligent than those who do not have any foreign language skills. In Europe, where the majority of the population speaks their own native language as well as at least English, if not a third or even fourth foreign language, Americans are perceived as being less intelligent because we are not bilingual for the most part.

#3 Reason for learning a foreign language: More social opportunities

When you speak a foreign language you have the opportunity to associate with others who either speak the language natively or have learned a foreign language in addition to their own native language. You end up expanding your circle of social and business contacts and, as a result, you are open to being invited to more social and business functions.

#4 Reason for learning a foreign language: More rewarding travel opportunities

It's just plain more fun and interesting when you vacation in a country where you speak the language. Not only do the locals treat you better, because they see that you made an effort to learn their language, but you get better service in shops and restaurants because you can read the signs, understand the menu, and converse better with the staff. Being able to speak the native foreign language can be a lifesaver if you have a medical emergency and have to communicate your symptoms to medical staff who may not speak English as well as you would hope they could.

For a look at a unique way to learn a foreign language using an amazing technique known as "foreign language immersion", visit Language Skills Abroad at

http://www.languageskillsabroad.com/

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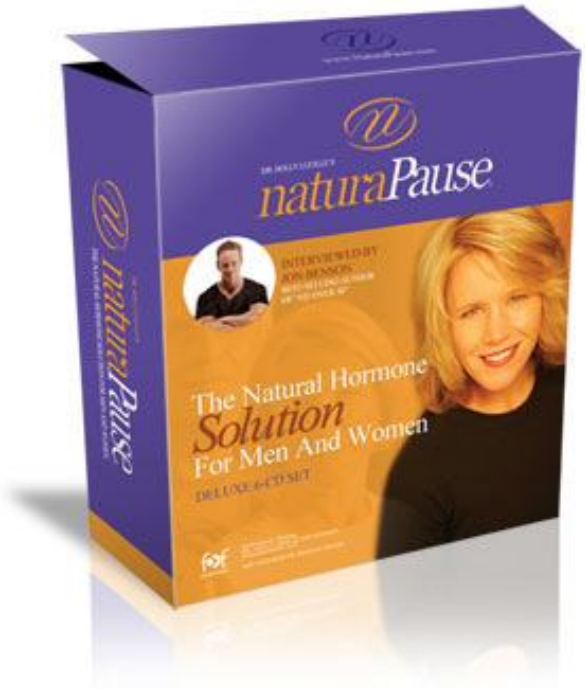

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