

Walkabout Language Learning



*Take your Language
to the Next Level*

Your Language Guide.com

*Want to learn another language?
We teach you how*

Special Report Take your Language to the Next Level

Four Tips to Turbo Boost Your Language Learning

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Studying another language? You may have wondered, “How can I take my language to the next level?” Here are shortcuts that will get you the fluency that you need in the short term while laying a foundation for continued language progress. Language study is best undertaken when approached from multiple angles, here are four tips to get you started.

Pointer #1: Focus Your Study

First, **Focus your Study**. The quickest way to fluency is to focus your study on what you most need to learn. Do you need to be able to buy groceries, interact with co-workers, or visit with friends? My friend Simon Harris, a Brit loved football (soccer), but he didn't love the unpredictable British weather, and hated attending games in cold, wet weather. He pursued his love of football in Spain, learning the teams and following his favorite teams and players there. He loved attending matches in the temperate Spanish climate. His first Spanish goals centered around everyday conversations about football, like, "Wow did you see the Manchester United rout last night? Zamora was really on his game."

In Your Language Guide, I provide you the tools to help you measure your skills, select language learning activities and focus your study. This tool is written for you the learner, not some teacher measuring your progress; it is designed with you in mind. Using it will take you to the next level.

Pointer #2: Start Talking

Next, **Start Talking**. Find a friend who can work as your mentor to guide you in your language study. Ask your mentor to help practice your target language scenarios that meet your immediate needs. If you don't know anyone who speaks the language you want to learn, you can find

language chat rooms on the internet. Create a dialog (or several) that you can use to talk about what is most important in your language learning. Practice, practice, practice with your mentor until you can say the dialog smoothly. Yes, this calls for a certain amount of memorization. It will pay off handsomely!

In Your Language Guide, I show you how to find a mentor. What qualities to look for and how to compensate him or her. I show you the exercises that will accelerate your learning to take you to the next level.

Pointer #3: Keep Practicing

Next, **Keep Practicing**. Learning a language requires practice. Take your dialogs out into the community. For example, if you want to learn Spanish, and you live in a Spanish speaking country, practice your dialogs with as many people as you can. If you live in a non-Spanish-speaking country, search out Spanish speaking communities, specialty stores that sell Hispanic foods, or English classes for Spanish speakers. The more time you spend practicing the language, the faster you will acquire fluency. Set weekly goals and incentives for practice to keep you going. Yes, reward your progress!

Your Language Guide is chock full of ideas of how and where to practice your skills. I'll take you to dozens of places to practice.

Pointer #4: Give Yourself a Break

Finally, **Give Yourself a Break**. Have you ever tried to build your muscles? Sometimes, the best way to move forward is to take a short rest. Body builders recommend that when you lift

weights, you should give your muscles a day or two to recover. Language learning is like weight lifting for your brain. Occasionally, step back from your studies for a day or two. Concepts that you've learned will cement themselves in your brain. And when you return to your study, you'll feel refreshed, ready to focus on language learning. Remember to return to your studies quickly, so that you don't lose your momentum.