

SUGGESTIONS FOR LEARNING A LANGUAGE

1. **Rules** – Make sure you understand each rule before you move on to the next. After you have learned a new grammar rule, memorize one good example or make up an example of your own. This will help you to remember the rules in a concrete way.
2. **Memory Work** – Memorization is the key to language success. Work at memorization for only short periods of time. If you find you are not concentrating, take a break or do a different part of your assignment.
3. **Vocabulary** – Write each word on a separate index card, target language on one side, English on the other. You can draw or paste pictures for some of the objects or actions. Use index cards or pens of different colors. For example, use blue for masculine nouns and red for feminine nouns. This may help you to remember gender and you might want to use green for verbs, orange for adjectives, etc. Be sure to make a note of important differences in meaning or usage between English and the target language. When testing yourself, look at the English (or picture) side of the card and try to remember the target language equivalent. Say it aloud and make up a short sentence with it. As you progress, shuffle the deck often so that you see the English word out of its usual order.
4. **Daily Practice** – Set aside a block of time each day for studying language. Try not to get behind. It is almost impossible to catch up because it takes time to absorb the material and to develop the skills.
5. **Active Learning Strategies** – Attend class regularly and be an energetic participant in the classroom activities. Practice speaking whenever possible. Keep a journal in the language (however simple) and write down what you did and thought that day. While doing homework, say the words in the target language and sentences out loud and always write all exercises out in full. By actively using the language, you will remember words, phrases, and patterns more readily.

Do not become impatient when your progress seems uneven or slow. Learning a language requires considerable time and effort. If you study every night and keep up with your work, you should not have any problems!