

10 Tips for Language Success

Learning a new language takes a lot of work, but it can also be tremendously rewarding. If you have ever felt overwhelmed in your language classes, try some of the following tips. They will not only help you to pass your classes, they will improve your ability to communicate in your new language. Good luck!

1. Practice Every Day

Like learning to play a sport or a musical instrument, language learning takes consistent practice. Do something in your target language every day to keep your abilities growing and easy to recall.

2. Stay Caught Up

Like math classes, language classes build upon themselves, and if you fall behind, it's easy to get lost and overwhelmed. To avoid this, study and do homework frequently in small chunks. As an added bonus, this will help you with your daily practice!

3. Use the Language Lab

The Language Lab is an amazing resource that UVU language students have free access to. Make use of it to get help with specific questions and to practice conversation skills!

4. Get as Much Input as Possible

To learn a language, you need exposure to it. Try to get as much input in your target language as you can. Look for content that is both interesting and understandable. When you find that sweet spot, language immersion is fun and effective.

5. Watch Movies and Series

One way to increase immersion is with videos. You can find videos in your language on streaming services like Disney+, Netflix, YouTube, and even Twitch. You can also check out foreign language videos on the 2nd floor of the Fulton Library.

6. Listen to Music

Have you ever gotten a song stuck in your head? By listening to music in your target language, you can let catchy songs work for you to help you learn vocabulary, improve pronunciation, and more.

7. Listen to Podcasts

On services like Spotify and Apple Podcasts, you can find foreign language podcasts. At beginner to intermediate levels, language-learning podcasts can help you get additional immersion easily. At advanced levels, you can take it a step further with material intended for natives.

8. Read

Improve your reading comprehension by reading in your language. Start easy with children's books or comics, and work upward to newspapers, nonfiction, or works of literature.

9. Get Involved

UVU offers a number of great ways to interact with your language, including language clubs, the English Conversation Circle, and even study abroad trips. Languages are all about connecting with others, so give these a try. The more you put in, the more you'll get out!

10. Keep Perspective, and Keep it Fun

Languages can be intimidating, but we learn best when we are relaxed. We all make mistakes, and that's okay. Treat language learning like a game. You'll improve in time, but you don't need to speak perfectly to enjoy yourself, to express yourself, and to communicate with the people around you.