

## HOW TO MASTER A NEW LANGUAGE IN JUST SIX MONTHS

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**Abstract:** Language acquisition requires more than just fluency; it is a fun adventure that fosters meaningful relationships along the way.

**Аннотация:** Изучение нового языка - это не только достижение беглости, но и увлекательное путешествие, в ходе которого строятся значимые отношения.

**Annotatsiya:** Tilni o'zlashtirish nafaqat ravonlikni talab qiladi; bu yo'lda mazmunli munosabatlarni rivojlantiradigan qiziqarli sarguzasht demakdir.

One of the best experiences in life is learning a new language as it not only allows you to interact with people from different cultures but also helps you build friendships or introduces you to new career opportunities. Exactly 6 months ago, I made it a goal to learn German and gain conversational fluency. During this time I made use of several methods and strategies to learn the language that I want to share today, which will help you gain a much better understanding of language acquisition

### **Why should one learn more than one language?**

In a world where languages are spoken more frequently than ever, connections have become essential. The world is becoming more globalized, and having a second language can be advantageous.

Being bilingual has three advantages:

- Learning new languages can enhance your proficiency in those languages.
- It has the potential to enhance your career prospects;
- It can boost your memory and brain function;

A second language can provide you with an understanding of other cultures. This will equip you with the necessary confidence to explore the world and learn about other cultures. In addition, acquiring a second language can bring about significant career advancement. In a world where communication is interdependent, there are more and more advertising positions that require proficiency in multiple languages.

Due to the growth in international trade and global connections, companies frequently request their employees to travel for work, strengthen their relationships or be relocated overseas.

In addition, most countries are struggling to integrate. Most often this is due to language barrier. The individuals residing outside their own country are isolated and only socially connected to those who speak their language.

The acquisition of a second language allows for immersion in societal cultures and an enhanced understanding of global phenomena.

### **How does learning another language benefit people?**

The benefits of learning a new language are significant in an increasingly globalized world, as previously mentioned. It is worth considering the benefits of learning another language:

#### **1. It improves your memory**

When you use your brain to learn new skills more frequently, your cognitive abilities increase. How does this work? The process of learning a new language causes your brain to become familiar with new grammar and vocabulary rules. Your memory can be trained to remember fresh words, make connections with them and use them in contexts.

### **2. Enhances your ability to multitask**

Two skills that will always be beneficial are time management and multitasking. People who are fluent in multiple languages can switch between them. The ability to communicate in multiple languages is advantageous for those who are multitasking.

### **3. Improves your academic skills and marks**

To truly engage in the language learning process, one must not exclusively focus on acquiring the basics. The objective is to develop the ability to converse in a different language with your peers or engage in extracurricular activities in that language.

### **4. Enhances literacy skills**

English language comprehension improves in children. They study a new language. They become more aware. Grammar, sentence structure and conjugation theses enhance their comprehension of English and improve them in general. Reading and writing skills are enhanced by comprehension.

### **5. Improves brain function**

Developing a language skills program enhances the brain's ability to process information effectively. Possesses memory, speech, and sensory perception. Lists, sequences and other items are more easily memorized by bilingual individuals like names and directions. They are also more creative, enhanced intelligence and enhanced ability to concentrate. Advances aptitude in critical thinking and problem-solving techniques. Learning a language allows children to understand information. They are able to solve problems more efficiently as they can select relevant issues. Disregard irrelevant or false information, while disregarding it. They become more logical and objective in their choices.

### **6. Intensifies acceptance and comprehension of alternative cultural contexts**

Learning a new language fosters curiosity and openness. Why is that? Children acquire knowledge of new cultures and form a bond with them. Better comprehension and appreciation of other people. Customs that differ from their own. As they develop them. Having a fluent tongue benefits them greatly in communicating. Interact with people from other cultures and experience a positive cultural exchange.

### **7. Improves overall performance at school**

Research indicates that children who are bilingual and multilingual are more likely to have this trait. Compete ahead of other children who are limited to speaking only one language. Academic records demonstrate that this is particularly the case in reading, vocabulary and maths.

### **8. Enhances travel experiences**

A person who can communicate in the national language. Visitors to the area can enjoy more things by experiencing local culture. They are able to engage in more social and cultural exchange activities. Providing information and traveling with minimal difficulty. Moreover, a person who is able to speak the language of the country they are visiting, he/she can speak with local people and if they got lost ask for directions or recommendations on places to visit. This ability not only enhances their travel experience but also fosters a deeper understanding of the local culture and customs. Engaging in conversations with locals can lead to discovering hidden gems, such as quaint cafés or off-the-beaten-path attractions that are not in any guidebook.

### **My Language Learning Journey**

I have been learning German for only six months, with the goal of pursuing a master's degree in linguistics in Germany. I had a good start learning the language with an impressive score of 7 in the IELTS, but my experience was extremely poor in German.

At first, German grammar was a difficult language to grasp. I found myself grappling with the complexities of German grammar. The idea that nouns could have three different genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter) felt daunting, and remembering the correct articles was a frustrating puzzle. Additionally, there was a challenge with pronunciation as some sounds were entirely unfamiliar, making it difficult to speak confidently.

I had a strong desire to learn German, but my true passion lies in immersing myself in the culture. This proved to be arduous. While I had plans to attend linguistics courses in Germany and make friends with professor/lecture fellow students, it dawned on me that my initial fears were worth it. This was crucial. Learning that every minor achievement, be it mastering a simple phrase or improving conjugation skills, was aimed at helping me achieve my objective.

One of the most significant moments in my academic journey was a month later. At the cafe, I was apprehensive about practicing my conversational skills. Upon being overheard talking by a German couple who were friendly, I was surprised to find them engaging in conversation with me. My heart raced as I was obliged to reply in German. My thoughts were consumed by the task of deciding what to say, my head spinning in circles over vocabulary and grammar rules. However, I took a deep breath and went for.

To my amazement, I managed to hold a coherent conversation about music and culture. The couple was patient as I stumbled through my sentences, and their encouragement greatly helped me feel more confident. It was a moment of great achievement for me, as I realized I was not just a student of the language, but a communicator. Since then, whenever I get a chance to practice my speaking skills, I take pleasure in immersing myself in German media, including music, films, and books.

My motivation has grown since then, and I can see why. The journey from mastering fluency to gaining a greater understanding of language's subtleties has been an immensely satisfying experience. I've learned that each challenge along the way ultimately contributes to my growth, both as a language learner and as a person. I can't wait to continue this journey in Germany, where I hope to further enhance my skills and immerse myself in the linguistic landscape that intrigues me.

### **My Ten Personal Tips to Learn a New Language Fast**

#### **1. Know Your "Why?"**

Understanding your motivation for learning a new language is perhaps the most important aspect of your language-learning journey. The presence of this sense of purpose serves as a guidance system, keeping you motivated, especially when dealing with frustration or lack of motivation. A clear understanding of the "why" makes any obstacles intolerable and instead used as hindrances toward a personal goal.

I have to admit, that my initial motivation for learning German was a desire to pursue linguistic studies in Germany. It was not just a goal for learning; it was also the aim for personal development, cultural immersion, and the chance to get to meet new people. I was driven by the desire to immerse myself in a lively culture and socialize with people from different backgrounds while studying abroad. This passion for the language only intensified for me.

My understanding of the "why" changed over time as I continued to study. I gained a profound understanding of German grammar and the aesthetics of its literature and music. The change in motivation kept me motivated and eager to learn, even when the situation was dire.

The objective changed from a strictly academic pursuit to an experiential exploration and personal connection. To clarify your why, you need to take some time to write them down.

Ask yourself questions like:

- Why is learning this language important to me?
- What do I hope to achieve?
- How will this language enrich my life or career?

Consider keeping this list visible as a permanent record of your goals. You will face numerous obstacles as you strive towards your objectives, but your "why" will continue to motivate you.

### **2. Set a Deadline with a Sense of Urgency**

Having a specific target date can greatly boost your motivation and focus. It's important to be aware of a deadline when planning - whether it'll be for traveling, practicing for an exam, or getting ready for a conversation with native speakers, knowing that you have a deadline helps create a sense of urgency. This can motivate you to focus more on your language learning and may prompt you towards consistent practice.

### **3. Learning the Target Language Should Be a Part of Your Routine**

Practicing the language in your daily routine can make learning enjoyable and not a chore. These are a few methods to achieve:

- Set aside specific times per day for language learning, even if it is just 15-30 minutes. To establish a daily routine, make sure to stick to the same time every day.
- Change the language settings on your devices to match the target language to create language-rich environments.
- Identify objects in your household by their names in the language you are using. (e. This exposure provides a continuous opportunity to enhance vocabulary.)
- Keep up the good work by doing activities every day to learn a new language. One way to do this is to listen to (target language) podcasts while doing something else, or think in the target language during your daily activities.
- Maintain a daily journal with the aim of writing 1-2 sentences in the target language every day. The act of doing this enhances your ability to write and express yourself in the target language.
- To remind yourself to practice, you can use phone apps or sticky notes in your bedroom. It is possible to have reminders that prompt you to practice speaking or learn a new word.
- Join Language Communities: Participate in online forums, social media groups, or local community events where the target language is spoken. This fosters connection and provides real-life practice opportunities.
- Practice executing daily tasks in the target language for better efficiency. Make your shopping list in the language you are learning, or find recipes and follow instructions in that language.
- Identify your short-term goals and set them alongside your daily routine to ensure ongoing improvement. For instance, aim to acquire a certain quantity of new vocabulary each week.

By making language learning an integral part of your daily routine, you develop a more natural connection to the language, leading to greater fluency and comfort over time.

### **4. Immerse Yourself in the Language**

The key to understanding a new language is to immerse yourself in it as much as possible. To do this, you must actively search for various media types that capture your interest: movies or TV shows; music (if applicable); podcasts; or books. Dialogue platforms or language exchange groups with native speakers can also contribute to your immersion. This is a way to get exposure to rhythms, nuances, and structures of the language in everyday life. This not only speeds up your learning but also helps you develop a sense of the language, making it easier to understand



and reproduce in later years. The more you immerse yourself, the more natural the language will feel to you.

### **5. Practice Speaking from Day One**

Learning to speak from the beginning is a crucial step in mastering foreign languages through practice. A common misconception among learners is that they require a substantial vocabulary or knowledge of grammar to speak. Nevertheless, speaking should be considered an active aptitude that can flourish alongside listening; reading; and writing. The practice of speaking in the beginning of language learning contributes to a more complete understanding of how languages should be learned.

To begin with, learn how to speak fluently:

- **Start with Simple Phrases.**

Learn basic phrases and greetings to use in everyday conversations. Useful, phrases like "Hello," "How are you?" and "Thank you" can also enhance one's self-esteem. The repetition of these phrases will enhance your ability to use them effectively in everyday situations. The use of flashcards or language learning apps can provide effective exercises for everyday conversational phrases.

- **Use Language Learning Apps.**

Several apps for language learning aim to encourage speaking from the very start. Often apps like Duolingo, Babel or Rosetta Stone offer an app where you can practice your pronunciation. These platforms often use voice recognition technology, which gives you real-time feedback on how well you matched the correct pronunciation. Using these apps on a regular basis can enhance your learning and provide you with reassurance of speaking without the burden of feeling judged.

- **Engage in Conversation Practice.**

Look for language exchange partners, whether they are native speakers or learning fellow speakers, using platforms like Tandem or HelloTalk. These apps can provide a valuable opportunity to implement what you have learned in practical situations. Engage in conversations about simple subjects, such as hobbies and family issues, or discuss your daily activities. This not only improves your speaking skills but also helps you become more absorbed in the dynamics of conversations, from questions to answers.

- **Shadowing Technique.**

Exceptional results can be achieved by shadowing, particularly in speaking. This technique entails listening to an actual native speaker (from a podcast, video, or conversation) and then imitating their tone, pronunciation, and rhythm while repeating the words. You can learn to speak by integrating the language structure into your speech patterns. It helps in improving your accent and fluency as you become familiar with native speech patterns.

- **Record Yourself.**

You can use audio recordings to gauge your own performance. Whether you are talking about anything on your phone or computer, you can record yourself speaking about different things. Listening to these recordings enables you to pinpoint areas where improvement is needed, such as pronunciation, intonation, and pacing. In the long run, you will be able to track your progress and remember your achievements, which will motivate you even more to speak out.

All in all, learning to speak from the very first day is essential for achieving fluency in any language. The incorporation of basic expressions, communication, technology, and mistakes contribute to the development of your language.

### **6. Embrace Mistakes**

Do not be afraid to admit that mistakes are a part of the learning process. Each error is an opportunity to learn and grow. When you mispronounce a word or incorrectly structure a sentence, it is simply a stepping stone toward mastery. Use these experiences as a source of valuable encouragement to develop. Acknowledging and learning from mistakes is a common way for language learners to build their confidence. Even those who speak their native languages can still make mistakes, and the only way to avoid this is to keep pushing forward. As you mature, your mistakes will serve to improve your skills and enhance your understanding of the language.

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