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How to become a successful language learner

Have you ever thought you would like to learn a new foreign language, but decided that there was no point in trying as you would not succeed? Or, have you been trying to become more proficient in a foreign language, such as English, but it just seems like an up-hill battle?

Learning a foreign language is never quick or easy, but follow these 6 pieces of advice and we assure you, you will be well on your way to success...

1. **Read, listen and watch as much as you can in the target language.** Find websites, games, music, podcasts, TV shows and movies, which you don't find too difficult to understand, and read and listen to as much as you possibly can. As long as you understand what you are reading or hearing, your brain will automatically store the vocabulary and the grammar, without you even noticing.
2. **Don't believe you have to be able to translate every word you hear and read in order to understand it.** Listen for meaning, don't concentrate on the words and phrases you don't understand, but the ones you do!
3. **Listen out for, notice and, if possible, jot down words and phrases** that you hear or read that you like and/or think might be useful to you. Research shows that noticing language speeds up language learning and is what all successful language learners do.
4. **Don't believe that you have to know and understand the grammar rules** before you can speak a foreign language. Be brave and take risks! You will only learn to speak fluently, if you practise speaking and experiment with the language. If you are always thinking about the rules and are frightened of making mistakes, you will never become fluent. Fear of making a fool of oneself is one of the greatest obstacles for many people when learning a foreign language.
5. **Have a positive attitude to your language learning!** Ability to learn a language has nothing to do with intelligence or even talent. Everyone learns their mother tongue and as long as you expose yourself to enough of the target language you will be successful learning others. You like every one else are perfectly capable of learning a foreign language, just make sure you really believe it!
6. **Enjoy the language learning experience.** Research shows that people who like learning a foreign language are more successful. Join a language class that is fun. Not only do we learn better when we are enjoying ourselves, we will also be more motivated to keep on doing it, which in order to be successful in language learning is more than half the battle won.