

October 26, 2019

## Advice On Language Learning



Picture

With the development of society, learning language becomes more significant. More and more people learn languages for work, study, hobbies or any other reasons, and I am one of them.

I am an international student who is studying in the U.S. now. Learning language well is one of the essential skills for international students. And you will become the student who is going to study English as a second language next year. As an international student, are you struggling to learn the second language? Do you have the right concept or useful methods of learning English? Don't worry about these. Let me give you some advice.

If you want to learn a new language, you should ask yourself some questions at the beginning. These questions can be summarized as three words --- "what" "why" and "how". So we should think about "What is language learning?", "why do you want to learn this language?" and "How are you going to learn a language?".

In "When Learning a Foreign Language," Marianna Pogosyan explains that we cannot distinguish the pauses between the words in sentences at the beginning of language learning. We always admire the native speakers and hope we can use the language as fluently as them. But after a few months, you will find that using the new language is not as difficult as before. The reason is you practice and get the progress every day. I have imaged that I can master English overnight too. But as the freshman, we should know that learning a language is long progress of accumulation. It can't happen overnight.

Why do you want to learn the language? How are you going to learn the language? Different people will have different answers to these questions. These questions can help us to set clear goals, and we can't learn a language well without a good study plan. So if you have had the answers to those questions, you will move into the next stage that is making a study plan.

Making a study plan is important for us to learn English. When we make a plan, we should think about if it is achievable. I have made a study plan, and one goal in that plan is to increase 300 new words every day. Then I gave up on the first day because it was too difficult for me.

Let's imagine that you have finished the whole day's class, and then you go back home. When you are sitting on the sofa comfortably, you remember that you still have a difficult task, which is learning 300 new words. At that moment, you may feel more tired and sleepy, then you may give up. So our study plan should not be too difficult to achieve. However, it also should not be too easy, or it isn't useful for you.

After you carry out your study plan, you should have the self-reflection and give yourself encouragement. I am learning ESL 106, and my professor has us write the reflection after we finish a writing assignment. This is helpful for language learning. Self-reflection can help us to find some problems or mistakes at once. You don't need to write down the reflection if you just do it for yourself. But it is necessary to take a moment to reflect on yourself and think about why you didn't achieve some goals in your plan and what should you have done better. Furthermore, don't forget to give yourself encouragement. This can make you have more confidence in learning language.

In addition, if you want to learn English well, you should create language environment for yourself. And this action is entirely up to ourselves. We have to communicate with native speakers and put ourselves into the English environment. Here is an example from my experience. When I was a freshman at Grossmont College, I was scared to communicate with native speakers and any other native students. I was afraid that my pronunciation was terrible and people cannot understand me. So I only talked with people who can speak the same language as me. After one month, I found that I didn't have any progress with my English because I didn't create the English environment for myself.

In "[How to learn a second language](#)," Laura Keen explains that if you want to have the authentic pronunciation like the native speakers, it is necessary to communicate with different people. If you put yourself into the language environment, you can acquire more new words and have progress in your grammar and pronunciation. Learning language needs courage. So we have to get out of the language comfort zone.

Finally, don't be shy to ask for help. Our teachers, friends and any other people around us are willing to help us. [Marianma Pogosyan](#) states that teachers' help is very necessary for students because teachers can provide us with more learning strategies and scientific learning methods. So, if you have some problems, ask for help. Professors will give you professional advice. And if you can't understand the grammar or have any questions, ask your professor at once. Don't worry about making mistakes.

All things are difficult before they are easy. Language learning requires clear thinking so that we know what we should do to improve ourselves. I hope my advice can be useful for you.