



# Kate's Top 10 Tips to learn a foreign language!

**10. Keep your vocabulary close**

# Keep your vocabulary close

- Keep a notebook to jot new words down
  - an address book works really nice to organize your vocabulary
- Make an electronic version of your notebook to reorganize/print your vocabulary

9. Do the busywork

# Do the busywork

- Make flashcards. Study them. Study them again.
- Write out stories and sentences. Write them out again.
- Make charts and diagrams of grammar rules. Make them out again.
- Translate poems, songs, short stories. Read and translate them again.
- There is a reason that this busywork is often given as homework in language classes. You need to “wash, rinse, repeat” as many times as possible, until the words fall out of your mouth without any effort at all.

**8. Find the time**

# Find the time

- When?
  - Riding to work
  - Standing in line
  - Waiting for friends
  - Watching TV
  - Getting ready in the mornings
  - Your lunch break
- What?
  - Carry a small dictionary
  - Carry flashcards
  - Listen to podcasts/youtube videos
  - Invent stories, note words that you don't know to look up later
  - Listen to the news
  - Name every object around you
  - Translate your recent conversations

## **7. Focus on words and phrases**



# Focus on words and phrases

- Focus on your vocabulary, more than on grammar
- Use new words as often as you can
- Focus on how words come together in phrases, and make your own phrases
- Study regional expressions, conversational speech and interesting vocabulary

## 6. Record yourself

# Record yourself

- Take notes throughout the day of
  - Topics of conversation
  - Activities
  - Important words/phrases
  - Conversational language
- Now, learn this vocabulary in your new language!

**5. Become another person**

# Become another person

- Study the culture, the ideas, the mentality, the traditions
- Form a new persona, give yourself a new name, new hobbies, new values, a new accent
- Think in a different way. See the world in a different way.

**4. Take responsibility and find  
motivation**

# Take responsibility and find motivation

- YOU are responsible for your language learning! If you don't want to learn the language, you won't.
- Find motivation!
  - Make friends online through social networking sites.
  - Set a date with a friend to speak once a week
  - Discover the language like a child, listen to music, watch movies, play games!
- Look FORWARD to using your language!

### 3. Teach others



# Teach others

- The best way to learn is to teach
- Offer to tutor students at a lower level than you/younger siblings/friends
- Make videos on youTube, explaining difficult grammatical concepts or confusing vocabulary

**2. Use the language every day**

# Use the language every day

- Keep a journal
  - Written journal
  - Video journal
- Write letters/emails to friends
- Watch a movie/youtube clips
- Read the news/translate an article
- Pick a new word, and try to use it as many times in as many ways as possible
- Be diligent – it takes 21 days to form a habit. Even just 15 minutes every day can make a difference!

**1. Make mistakes!**

# Make mistakes!

- Do not worry about what you cannot remember, what you cannot understand, or what you cannot yet say, RELAX and have fun!
- The more you use the language, the clearer it will become, and the less mistakes you will make.
- You cannot get BETTER at using a language without pushing your boundaries past what you know!
- Remember, the point of communication is to get your idea, your thoughts across to the listener. If you can accomplish this, then you're doing great! Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation will follow.