



FINALLY LEARNING THAT LANGUAGE

Leah Lantzy

Major points and advice from each chapter

Chapter 1

- Operating in a language should involve self-fulfilling quests to get information. Look for practice that naturally keeps you engaged. You'll learn more if you truly want to understand.
- Incorporate *your own hobbies* and interests as much as possible.
- Celebrate and emulate whatever it is you love about the language or culture to make learning more interesting!
- The key to maintaining motivation is minimizing uncertainty. Avoid a bombardment of information by slicing learning into digestible chunks.
- By focusing on similarities between your new and old languages, you'll avoid sinkholes through positivity.
- It's unrealistic to try to make a beeline for "fluent" or "proficient." This book teaches you how to be realistic about your goals but extremely positive about your progress.
- Finally Learning That Language helps you reframe your errors, building patience.
- Avoid hypothetical practice when possible. Instead, use your imagination to create your own practice starring people you know or utilizing objects in your immediate surroundings.
- By involving more of our five senses while learning, the language comes alive.
- Practicing with real objects, or at least pictures, creates engaging experiences.
- If traveling won't be practical, remember that you **don't need to travel** to practice with a native speaker anymore.
- This book shows you how to locate yourself based on previous language experience, your learning style, and aptitude. Wait to set final goals until you see standard language levels and consider these factors.

Chapter 2

- Even if you “just want to” learn that language, it helps to muster the deepest motivations you can.
- Consider which reasons for learning will help you accept that errors are part of the process and enable you to move on quickly.
- The task in facing your mistakes is to keep going and to err upward.
- If you’re having trouble lightening up about mistakes, I’d read or watch something funny to normalize them.
- At the least, speaking two languages has been shown to improve cognitive reserve, making the brain more resilient to damage (Alladi et al. 260).
- Languages improve the brain’s executive function.
- Two types of memory are better in bilingual children compared with monolingual children (Blom et al. 115). By age six, they show advantages in visuospatial memory and verbal working memory.
- Remember, most people need goals for speaking, reading, writing and listening (to) a language.

Chapter 3

- By consuming entertainment, the *work* of learning a language can dissipate into an inherently rewarding quest for plot points and lyrics.
- There are a few options for movie audio and subtitle pairings for two languages. Try different pairings.
- Watching movies you know well in your new language helps you pay attention to the language while not losing plot points.
- Watching TV and movies meant for children and teenagers is a great move, along with reading such books.
- The best songs to learn with have easy lyrics. Choose ones sung at a slow pace, lacking background instruments, music, noises and secondary voices. You want the singers' lyrics to be more detectable.
- There's a variety of pairings for lyric music videos available on page 23.

Chapter 4

- You can control the amount of fun you have while learning a language more than you'd expect.
- If having fun isn't a priority, or isn't practical, focus on making the process rewarding.
- YouTube, Vimeo and other video channels likely have videos that will inherently interest you beyond your language mission.
- Many pastimes have video materials online, but also consider ordering books, videos, manuals and games.
- The best pastime option is to find a conversation partner who shares your interests and can discuss, play, design, read or watch with you.
- Many fun language games and activities require only two people. Some can be modified for solo use too. Consider ordering board or card games in the target language or relabeling games you already have.
- Monopoly is a great way to practice with money. It uses large numbers to practice buying, a vital travel (survival) skill in a new country.
- Through games like Uno, Solitaire and Go Fish, you can practice numbers, colors and shapes.
- When practicing any vocabulary of physical objects, receiving prompts to act toward an object is superb exercise.
- A simple drawing (or printed picture) of basic objects, furniture, animals, nature or buildings can liven up learning.

Language Apps

- Language apps can be gratifying compared to staring at grammar boxes and translations. They excel at holding learners accountable with daily goals.
- Apps like HelloTalk enable users to connect with a conversation partner.
- HiNative facilitates asking questions of native speakers.
- Virtual flash card programs have also changed the game of studying for many topics. With Quizlet, you can write sets of flash cards or search the Internet for existing cards.
- LyricsTraining is my #1 recommended program for learning a language. It plays lyric music videos and lets you fill in blanks in the lyrics. It's fun and gratifying when you detect lyrics.
- Relying on the curriculum and goals of a gamification program is not enough. The better option is to educate yourself on what it takes to learn a language and plan accordingly, especially if not immersed or conversing frequently.
- When bored, instead of checking social media, choose a way to use your language. Why not immerse yourself to the greatest degree possible? Begin by labeling objects at home with their foreign name.

Practicing language mentally

- Your own mind is the best tool to prompt you to learn new phrases and grammar. Asking yourself "How would I say that in (language)?" is useful because you capitalize on the need to communicate something pertinent. You can look the word up later if need be.
- Create a vocabulary list of things you see on your daily walk, or drive. Begin with single words to name actions, objects or places that you encounter. Look them up later and ensure you have the correct definition.
- Another benefit of wondering in your new language is that the stakes are lowest when you're alone in your head. It's more comfortable practice than apps, book work, class or conversation.
- When you use an online translator, don't rely on it without checking, when possible. Plug the translator's "translation" back into that language and verify the English equivalent.
- Well-placed lists are great to stimulate thinking in a language in your downtime.
- Expressing things with an immediate application or personal meaning should take priority. They'll also help boost confidence.
- If you are relocating abroad or will be traveling soon, start learning numbers immediately so you can buy things. If need be, learn transportation vocabulary in order to go places.

Chapter 5

- For most, the work of learning a language has gotten more enjoyable in the past few years.
- Cognates help in gaining traction and fostering optimism for communicating soon in a language.
- Besides cognates, languages of Western Europe offer **words similar in English to something related**.
- When approaching Western languages, spend time on Greek and Roman (Latin) roots to accelerate progress.
- Every language student should stay positive **by striving to make a word or phrase make sense in their mind**, even if they must embellish it somehow.
- Any memorization tactic, saying or little joke can help. Treat your mind like an expandable file. From an acronym, saying, or other condensed representation you can extract a lot of information.
- When in class, alone with a grammar book or a YouTube video chock-full of jargon, many language topics can seem more vital than necessary.
- Much of the mental work of learning a language rivals changing lanes on the freeway for the first time. It's normal that it's hard.
- The surest way to shave off learning time is through spontaneous conversation. The pressure *makes* you catch on fast.
- Many people never studied, or don't remember, the grammar needed to begin forming good sentences in a new language.
- The sooner a learner channels creativity and embraces making simpler, imprecise statements compared to their speech in English, the faster fluidity progresses.
- Be sure you're getting exercise in the four components: reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- Most native speakers are not accustomed to making much effort to understand beginners. However, those who deal with tourists usually are.
- Achieving proficiency will require putting yourself out there, being vulnerable and instantly rebounding from mistakes.
- You might benefit from conceptualizing grammar as a multiple-choice question. The realization that you might have a 25 percent or a 50 percent chance of getting the selection right can ease your mind.

The complete book “Finally Learning That Language” is available at Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Finally-Learning-That-Language-learning-ebook/dp/B08R7285Z6>

Spanish lessons available at: <https://annlindsey.podia.com/>