

Learning a Language

For many people, learning a foreign language is interesting and enjoyable at first. There is the novelty of learning and saying new words and phrases and using different pronunciation.

If you don't need to use the language soon, there is no pressure on you. However, if you need to speak the language fast because you must use it in your everyday life or at work, it can be stressful. It is a very frustrating experience, especially when people can't understand you and you don't understand them.

Some people are lucky because they have a natural talent and can learn very quickly, but for most people it takes time and a lot of hard work to make progress. You can often make a lot of progress quickly, but then it gets very difficult. You should never give up because it is a fantastic feeling to communicate in another language!

1) Look at the underlined words and phrases. What do they mean?
You can look them up in the dictionary or ask a classmate to explain the meaning.

Word/Phrase	Meaning

Learning a Language – Questions

Work with another person or in a small group. Discuss the following questions.

1) What is your mother tongue? Are you bilingual? Multilingual? If so, how did you become bilingual or multilingual?

2) When you were a child, which language did you speak?

3) In your country, how many languages are spoken?

4) Talk about your language: Do you think it's difficult for other people to learn? Why? Is it very different from English? How?

Try to teach your partner a few useful words and phrases from your first language!