

Special Report:

Polyglot* Proven Methods to Learn Your New Language

*Polyglots are people who can speak multiple languages.

1. Define your big passionate reason for wanting to learn a language. A reason of “It would be nice” is not likely to be a strong enough reason to carry you through the normal periods of discouragement.^{1 & 2}

I personally decided that I would be much poorer in five years if I didn't master Spanish and much richer if I did master it. Richer is better than poorer.

2. Select methods are known to work well for a large percentage of polyglots.³

Language101.com uses a spaced repetition method that is popular with many (but not all) polyglots. If you try it and like it, then it will be a good method for you.

Many popular methods don't work at all, such as learning separate words in isolation.

3. Expose yourself to lots of comprehensible input in your new language.

Comprehensible input is anything that you can understand in your new language, either from a translation, or from the context of what you are seeing, hearing, or reading.^{4 & 5}

4. Only learn one new language at a time.⁶

5. Use material that you enjoy as soon as possible. You probably will want to start with some beginner material, because it's very important to learn to say, "Where's the bathroom?" Language101.com is excellent for beginners.

But as soon as possible, figure out how to turn your strongest interests from your hobbies or your profession into language study material. Enjoying your language study is very important.⁷

6. Leverage as much of your current vocabulary into your new language as possible.

In fact, it's impossible to start a new language as an adult, truly from zero. There will always be some words that overlap to your new language.

The bigger your vocabulary is in English, the fewer Spanish words you will have to learn. Often an obscure word in English (for example citadel) will sound like and mean something very similar to a common word in Spanish (for example ciudad – which means city).

Almost all the words that end in tion in English are also words all romance languages (like Spanish, French and Romanian) with similar or identical meanings and pronunciations that are slightly different, but still are easy to learn.

It's surprising to learn that some languages that you would not expect turn out to have ancient common roots with English. This includes languages like Hindi from India and Persian from Iran.⁸

7. Study mostly alone. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't practice with others, but a big portion of your study time will be just you and your study materials.⁹

8. Don't be afraid to make mistakes.¹⁰

9. Want to learn like a polyglot? Why not go to a polyglot conference and meet them in person? You don't have to already be a polyglot to attend.

If you can't go to a conference at least watch the conference videos on YouTube.¹¹

Citations: The links below are to the polyglots that am referencing. All of them are short, high value web pages or videos.

1. **John Fotheringham** - Define Your “Why” for Learning a Language

<https://languagemastery.com/blog/why/>

A 2.5 minute read.

2. **The polyglot secret:** do polyglots have a special talent?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 2tQI4B-nT0>

Two minutes 15 seconds.

3. How to Learn a Language: INPUT (why most methods don't work)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_EQDtpYSNM&t=749s

A fourteen minute video with 2.5 million views.

4. **Valentina Gonzalez** – Comprehensible Input Demonstration. This video starts in Serbian that you won't understand, then there is some English, and then it continues with Serbian that you will understand (yes even the very first time).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7c429g-cu8>

A five minute video.

5. **Stephen Krashen** - Language Acquisition and Comprehensible Input

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnUc_W3xE1w

This 15.5 minute video explains what all language learning has in common.

6. Ollie Richards - Don't learn two languages at the same time | TROLL025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY9OOumMooY&t=217s>

This 7.5 minute video explains why you should only learn one language at a time.

7. Steve Kaufman – Language Learning – The Most Effective Method of All

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzUf3mMyt7k>

This 14 minute video by polyglot Steve Kaufman, explains his favorite method.

8. Benny Lewis – Cognates: Words you already know in foreign languages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8ZOxLZwU00>

This 1.5 minute video about cognates explains why you are never starting from nothing in a new language after you know English.

9. Lydia Machova – Ten Things Polyglots Do Differently

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROh_-RG3OVg

This is a 39 minute. Make sure to watch her list of things polyglots do differently which starts at minute 30.

10. Luca Lampariello – The Secret to Learning Lots of Languages – Make Mistakes and Learn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwqvvyF-9oII>

This is a four minute video by noted polyglot Luca Lampariello on his favorite methods.

11. Attend a Polyglot Conference. You may also enjoy searching for polyglot conference videos on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=polyglot+conference

This list of Polyglot tips was compiled by Brent Van.

My website is called Language101.com and it's a system that helps people go from nothing in a new language to being "minimally conversant" in their new language.

Please feel free to e-mail me at editor@language101.com.

If you know anyone who would find this list useful, please forward it to him or her.

<https://language101.com/>

Important Note:

This list is a very good sample of methods that have been proven to be successful by many polyglots.

But these methods are useless unless actually use them daily and starting a new good study habit is harder than it seems.

So look in your email inbox for our fast tips on how to start new study habits that stick.

It will turbo charge your use of these proven polyglot methods.