

TANDEM LANGUAGE LEARNING TIPS

In a Tandem partnership both reciprocity and independence are important for language learning.

Time

- Meet at least 1-2 times weekly for one to two hours throughout the semester.
- Arrange specific times to meet.
- Both partners should benefit from Tandem learning, thus time should be divided equally - speaking one language half of the time and then switching to the other. Do not mix languages.

Place

- Choose a neutral, quiet place to meet (no pubs).

Aims

- First discuss your targets with your Tandem partner and how you would like to achieve these.
- Establish an aim for each session. Following each meeting, evaluate whether you were able to achieve your aims.

Tandem Roles

- Each Tandem partner alternates between teacher and student.
- The student determines their learning activities.
- Be accepting of your Tandem partner's needs.
- Both Tandem partners are equally responsible for mutual arrangements and learning.

Work and Materials

- Take your own material to Tandem meetings. These should correspond to your language level.
- The material and exercises should be appropriate to your targets.
- Experiment with different learning methods.
- Following each session, evaluate whether the chosen material and learning method was beneficial to you reaching your targets.

Correction

- Discuss how you would like your partner to correct your mistakes.
- Allow your Tandem partner time to correct their own mistakes.
- Make a note of your Tandem partner's mistakes and discuss them at the end of the session.
- Try to encourage each other. Acknowledge your partner's progress.

Do you need Tandem learning support?

Visit a Tandem learning advisor!