

Language Learning Advice

Tips and guidelines for independent learning

1. Motivation

Establish the reasons why you have chosen to learn the language.

(Work, placement, study abroad, cultural interests?)

2. Evaluation of language level

Evaluate your level of language.

(with the help of language proficiency tests, portfolio checklists.)

(what level of knowledge do you already possess in the target language? How can this be built upon?)

3. Learning aims

First establish your main aims in the target language.

(What would you like to achieve? Do you need to be able to give a presentation? Do you need to be able to write academic texts?)

Now specify and prioritise your aims.

(What aims would you like to achieve? What skills are especially important to you? What steps do you need to take in order to achieve your main aim?)

4. Realistic learning aims

Establish realistic learning aims.

(How much time can you invest in learning? Have you allocated sufficient time for learning in order to achieve your aims?)

5. Time plan

Make a learning schedule.

(When? How will you divide your sessions?)

6. Strategies

Consider which learning methods and strategies could help you achieve your aims.

(What learning methods and strategies are you acquainted with? Are your methods of learning effective? Which methods would be suitable for which aims?)

Perhaps you could try out some new methods.

7. Learning diary

Keep a record of your learning. Make a note of your learning activities.

8. Evaluation

Monitor and evaluate your learning. Remain aware of your strategies. Make a note (in your learning diary) of progress. Progress is encouraging and motivates you to continue learning.

(Which target did I want to reach this week? Was my method of learning effective in helping me to reach this target? What other methods could I use? Do I need to amend my learning plan/schedule?)