

How to learn a language: tips and tricks for students

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<http://sandymillin.wordpress.com/howtolearnalanguage>

- Make it a habit
 - 5 minutes a day
 - Record what you do
- Sneak it into your day
 - Memrise at breakfast
 - Carry a few flashcards with you
 - Use apps/websites when you're waiting: Quizlet, duolingo, Lingodeer
 - Repeat what you hear
- Surround yourself with it
 - Read to read
 - Writing a journal
 - Podcasts <http://independentenglish.wordpress.com/podcasts>; radio
 - Label your home
 - Make little posters
- Make it aesthetically pleasing 😊
 - Stationery that makes you smile
 - Pictures – colour in printed ones or draw rubbish ones!
- Think about colours and layout
 - To show patterns – try to be consistent
 - Categorise language
 - Highlight exceptions
- Make your brain work, but not too hard
 - Give yourself as many 'hooks' as possible
 - Hide translations – tiny writing/yellow pen
 - Avoid arrows
 - Use monolingual dictionaries as soon as you can: www.oald8.com, Cambridge Essential British English, Macmillan Dictionary
- Be proud of your mistakes = learning in progress
 - Collect them
 - Highlight them
 - Rewrite them
- Personalise language
 - Use your own experiences and opinions
 - Learn what you need first
 - Be selective
 - Record phrases you like
- Rise above the word
 - Look at chunks
 - Write out conversations
 - Mini dictations
 - Try out a corpus: www.byu.corpus.edu
- Be patient
 - Grammar will come – don't agonise over it
 - Think about the process of children learning
 - Be kind to yourself
- Don't listen to me! Be flexible, experiment, and work out what works for you.