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Here are 20 suggestions for learning languages:

1. Use more than one textbook. Use them simultaneously.
 2. Have at least one audio course for the correct pronunciation and for aural understanding.
 3. Learn the words that hold the language together. Learn the most frequent words and the most strategic words. "I would like," I am, I have, I am going, I need, I want, can you help me? Where is?
 4. Read material you enjoy. Read magazines that interest you, visit web sites in the language. Read comics and joke books. Read novels you enjoy or biographies when you are able.
 5. Join a club or organization where the language is spoken.
 6. Speak with colleagues on the job if anyone speaks the language you are learning. Conduct your business in the language if possible.
 7. Keep a journal or diary in the language.
 8. Speak to yourself in the language. Hold imaginary conversations with yourself.
 9. Do a little every day.
 10. Reward yourself for each new achievement.
 11. Don't get discouraged if you lapse in your study. You can always make a comeback and it is always easier the second time around.
 12. Don't get discouraged if you simply cannot understand some point of grammar or you simply have some block in your learning. Just keep going. Your problem will sort itself out.
 13. Write emails to people or organizations in your new language. It is fun. You will probably never meet the person you are writing to so who cares if you make a mistake.
 14. I prefer audio courses that are recorded entirely in the language I am learning so I am encouraged to think in the language.
 15. Work your way through the course as fast as you can and leave the technicalities of grammar, exercises and explanations for later, and then go back to the beginning and learn the lessons in greater depth and complete any exercises. Keep forging ahead while you do this.
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16. Carry a small pocket dictionary with you so you can look up any words immediately that you need or don't understand. Make sure it is a two-way dictionary.

17. I like to learn language in context. I don't like word lists and I don't use flash cards. I don't say others shouldn't use them – I just don't like them. I do teach a fun method for learning word lists and vocabulary but I still prefer to learn new words in context.

18. Watch foreign movies. This is easy with DVDs where you can change the soundtrack to the language you want. Watch with subtitles until you are reasonably familiar with the language.

19. I make mini-immersion days where I just live in the language. I talk to myself in the language, I listen to music, read books, study some lessons, review old lessons, watch a movie, eat food associated with the language and country, and generally spend the day only thinking in my target language. I save things I enjoy for the day, like reading comics and joke books, short stories I enjoy and playing my favourite music. My Internet activity will be all in the language as well.

20. I try to enjoy learning the language. I treat it as an adventure. I don't treat it as something I have to do. I don't treat it as work. I don't take it seriously– it is all fun and games. I play at learning.