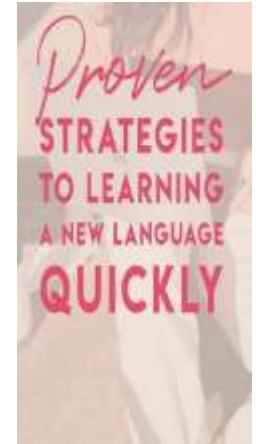


Learning new languages - in a nutshell:

- ⊕ **Get in the right mindset** — Believe that you can make progress, and focus on the journey rather than the destination.
- ⊕ **Choose one language or dialect and be persistent** — avoid the temptation to study two languages at once (unless you're a very advanced language learner).
- ⊕ **Set realistic targets (and be flexible)** — decide what's really important to you. Reading? Speaking? And don't get bogged down.
- ⊕ **Learn faster with a tutor** — Going alone is cool, but don't be a hero if you can afford some help.
- ⊕ **Get the right tools** — The right books, the right flashcard systems — it makes a ton of difference.
- ⊕ **Start with a conversation** — The longer you put off speaking, the longer you'll miss out on learning the most important things (unless your priority isn't speaking)



- ⊕ **Learn the pronunciation and sounds** — It's easy to not say anything out loud and never know you've always been saying something wrong
- ⊕ **Learn the alphabet and how to read basic words** — there's no language (even Chinese) where you can get away without learning an alphabet/character
- ⊕ **Record giving speeches or reading sentences** — recording yourself is a great acid test and also something to refer back to, to see how far you've come!
- ⊕ **Master “bread and butter” basic phrases and structures** — make sure you can get through the first minute or two of any social conversation without really thinking about it
- ⊕ **Memorise groups of vocabulary** — fruits, verb phrases, adjectives... the basics, and better still if in context.
- ⊕ **Learn what's around you and what you do every day** — make sure you can describe your everyday life.

