



**Enhanced Learning
Educational Services**
"the study skills specialist"

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS



Developing your Foreign Language skills will help you not just with learning a language for school but you will train the language learning circuits in your brain AND the language might be useful if you travel.

- You should read each point and **highlight the key phrases** in that point.
- Discuss with a friend or parent as you read through the handout.
- You may like to work through this over a number of sessions.



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Enhanced Learning Educational Services Profile

Our Organisation:

Enhanced Learning Educational Services (ELES) is the leading provider of study skills resources in Australia. Since 2001 over 500,000 students across Australia have benefited from our study skills worksheets and workbooks. An Australian business based in Sydney, our clients extend throughout Australia and to international schools overseas. We are committed to helping all students improve their ability to learn and study by providing study skills seminars and resources on the topics students need.

Our Mission:

To provide a worthwhile and effective service to teachers, students and parents, enhancing students' learning skills and abilities through dynamic programs, resources and strategies to unlock the power of the mind and enable greater success at school and in life.

Our Commitment:

As part of ELES' commitment to education, 5% of all gross income is donated to charities that help and assist children.

For further information about ELES or our products or contact details:

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SAMPLE

1. INTRO TO LANGUAGE LEARNING

Things you need to know about languages:

- Languages have a sound system and a grammatical system.
- In some languages the tone system carries as much meaning as consonants and vowels.
- There are variations in language due to regional, status, and stylistic differences.

Things you need to know about learning a language:

- Everyone is capable of learning languages but some people do find it easier than others because of the way their brain is wired.
- Some students take on a different 'persona' or style or way of speaking when speaking another language while other learners resist sounding and acting differently.
- Your attitude towards learning a language affects your motivation and your level of motivation will affect how long it takes to learn a language.
- If you expect to succeed, you will be more likely to succeed while fear or anxiousness can make it harder to learn the language.
- Repetition helps things stick but you cannot rely on memorization alone - you have to understand it as well.
- Body language, gestures, and your face communicate as much as words.
- Foreign language learning is cumulative. Each lesson will build on the one that came before it.



And most importantly.....

**Learning a language requires DAILY study.
You need to work on the language REGULARLY
to ensure you retain the information.**



a. Which of the points in this section did you know about and which do you agree with?

2. IN THE CLASSROOM

Classtime is one of the most important times for students to develop their language skills. To ensure you make the most of classtime, you need to:

- **PARTICIPATE FULLY:** The more you take the opportunities presented in class to interact and practise your language skills the more you will improve. It is also the perfect time to ask questions about anything you don't understand.
- **TAKE NOTES:** In classes where lots of discussion is taking place it may not occur to you to take notes at all but your teacher might write key words on the board or explain points during the discussion – write these down!
- **THINK EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ASKED DIRECTLY:** If your teacher asks someone else a question or to do something in class, don't just think 'whew I'm glad it wasn't me', instead think about what you would have said if you'd been asked and try and answer the question yourself in your head then see if you would have been right. This will help you to focus more in class and improve your learning.
- **DON'T BE SCARED OR SHY:** Take risks in class! Everyone sounds a bit funny when they are first learning a language but to become a good speaker of your new language you need to be prepared to take chances. From the other side, be supportive of your classmates and don't make fun of them in any way or make them feel uncomfortable about having a go.
- **ASK QUESTIONS:** As with any type of learning, it is essential you ask questions if you can't understand something!



Just a note about studying for your tests for languages:

- Test preparation should take into consideration the type of test you are preparing for.
- Study in the way you will be tested!
- If you are going to have to write passages in the foreign language, writing should be a part of your review and if you will have to listen to questions and write down answers during the test, you should incorporate listening activities into your study sessions.

And lastly...

Expect to make mistakes, and learn from them.

Be patient with yourself and persevere.

Learn to laugh at your mistakes!



b. Tick which of the classtime guidelines you already implement on a regular basis. What are the habits you should really try to implement to make better use of your language learning time in the classroom?

3. LEARNING VOCAB

○ MAKE FLASHCARDS TO HELP YOU LEARN YOUR VOCAB

Buy some index cards or cut up some cardboard or paper. Write the word in English on one side (or even better draw a picture of it or paste a picture on), then on the other side write the foreign language translation clearly and correctly. You can also do this with special phrases or groups of words.

○ REVIEW YOUR FLASHCARDS REGULARLY

Study the flashcards in both directions: Read the English then see if you know the translation and turn over and check if you were correct. Also try it the other way. Read the foreign word then see if you know what this means in English then turn over and check if you were correct.

SPORTS

Masculine	Feminine	Plural
le golf golf	la natation swimming	les échecs chess
le rugby rugby	la lecture reading	les courses de chevaux horse racing
le netball netball	la pêche fishing	
le tennis tennis	la voile sailing	
le hockey hockey	la danse dancing	