



LinguaFolio

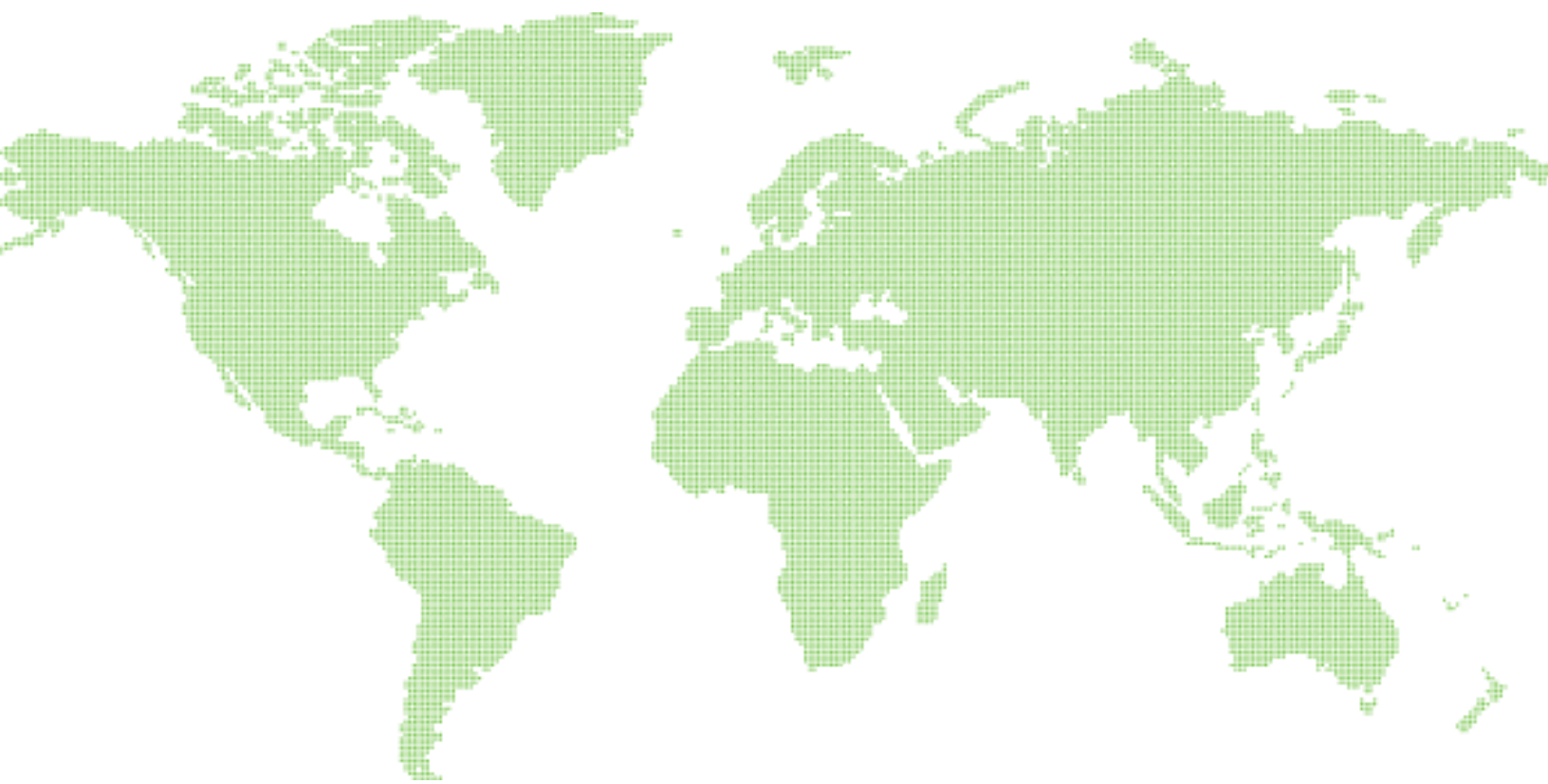
Online

Language Learning

Strategies:

Learner Guide

[LFO Module – Autonomous Learning]



The following strategy guide is designed to help you determine what strategies work best for you when learning a language.

Strategy Guide

Read through the language learning strategies below. Highlight the ones that you would like to try, put a star next to the ones you have tried in the past and worked well, and draw a line through the ones that you have tried in the past and didn't work for you.

Listening Strategies

Strategies to Increase My Exposure to the Target Language

- Attend a speaking event in a new language.
- Listen to a podcast, watch a TV show/YouTube video, or see a movie in the target language.
- Listen to workers in a restaurant or store where the target language is spoken.
- Listen in on people having conversations to get the main idea of what they are saying.

Strategies for Learning New Sounds in the Target Language

- Practice sounds in the mirror from the target language that are different from my own language.
- Look for similarities between sounds or words or phrases in the target language and your own language.
- Imitate the way that native speakers talk.
- Ask native speakers questions about unfamiliar sounds.

Strategies to Prepare for Listening to Conversations in the Target Language

- Try to guess what the other person is saying based on what has already been said.
- Prepare for talks or performances by reading background information before attending.
- Pay attention to specific aspects of the language such as the way the speaker says certain sounds.

Strategies for Listening to Conversation in the Target Language

- Listen for key words that carry a lot of meaning.
- Listen for what the speaker emphasizes when they speak.
- Pay attention to the length and timing of pauses.
- Pay attention to the rise and fall of speech from native speakers.
- Practice “skim listening” by paying attention to some parts and ignoring others.
- Listen to the main idea without trying to translate word-for-word.
- Pay attention to the context of the conversation.
- Listen for specific details to see if you can understand them.

Strategies for When You Don't Understand What is Being Said in the Target Language

- Ask the speaker to repeat themselves.
- Ask the speaker to slow down if they are talking too fast.
- Ask for clarification.
- Use the speaker's tone of voice as a clue for the meaning of what they are saying.
- Make a guess on what is being said based on what has already been said.
- Draw on your knowledge to get the main idea.
- Watch for body language that may tell you what is being said.

Vocabulary Strategy Use**Strategies to Learn New Words**

- Pay attention to the structure of the word.
- Break the word into identifiable parts.
- Sort new words by parts of speech (e.g. nouns, verb).
- Use rhymes to remember new words.
- Make a mental image of new words.
- Create a word map to associate it with related words.
- Write out new words in meaningful sentences.
- Act out new words.
- Use flash cards to learn new words.
- Play word games on a language learning app.

Strategies to Review Vocabulary

- Practice new words often when you first learn them.
- Review words frequently so you don't forget them.

Strategies for Recalling Vocabulary

- Look at the prefix or suffix to remind yourself of the meaning of the word.
- Try to remember the situation in which you first heard or saw that word.
- Recall the word map that you made with the word.

Strategies to Use New Vocabulary

- Try using new words in a variety of ways.
- Practice using familiar words with your friends and family.
- Try to incorporate idiomatic expressions from the target language in your daily language.

Speaking Strategy Use**Strategies to Practice Speaking**

- Practice saying new expressions to yourself or to a pet or object.
- Practice new grammar in different situations to build confidence.
- Think about how a native speaker would say something and practice that.

Strategies for Engaging in Conversations

- Frequently seek out opportunities to talk with native speakers whether digitally or in person.
- Initiate conversations in the target language.
- Direct the conversation to topics you know about.
- Think about what to say in advance.
- Ask questions to stay engaged in the conversation.
- Anticipate what will be said based on what has already been said.
- Try unfamiliar topics.
- Pay attention to native speakers' patterns for requesting, apologizing, complaining, and more.

Strategies for When You Forget a Word or Expression

- Ask for help from the person you're speaking with.
- Use circumlocution – using other words to describe the word you can't recall.
- Make up new words or guess if you don't know the right ones to use.
- Use gestures to convey meaning.
- Momentarily switch back to your native language.

Reading Strategy Use

Strategies for Improving Your Reading Ability

- Read as much as possible in the target language.
- Find things that are fun to read in the target language.
- Engage in chat or texting conversations in the target language.
- Find readings that are at or near your level.
- Plan out how you will read the text, monitor to see how you're doing, then check to see what you understand.
- Skim a text first for the main idea, then read it more carefully.
- Read a story several times to understand it better.
- Pay attention to the organization of a text.
- Think of summaries of the text while you are reading. Write them down if it helps.
- Make predictions for what will happen next in a story or chat conversation.

Strategies for When You Don't Understand a Word or Grammar Structure

- Guess the approximate meaning using clues.
- Use a dictionary or other reference work.
- Ask the person you are texting with for help understanding.

Writing Strategy Use

Strategies for Basic Writing

- Practice writing the alphabet or new words in the target language on paper or using a language learning app.
- Plan out how to write academic papers or text messages. Monitor how it is going and check to see if you are conveying what you want to say.
- Try writing in different medium (e.g. personal notes, texts, online chats, letters, stories, course papers, etc).
- Take notes in the target language as much as possible.

Strategies for Writing a Paper or Engaging in a Text Conversation

- Use circumlocution to describe an idea or word when you don't have the correct expression.
- Review what you've already written before continuing.
- Write down your main ideas before editing.

- Use reference materials to help look up words if necessary.

Strategies for Revising Written Work

- Look over your writing once or twice to improve the language and content.
- Get feedback from others, especially native speakers of the language.

Translation Strategy Use

Strategies for Working in the Target Language as Much as Possible

- Put my own language out of your mind and think only in the target language as much as possible.
- Try to understand what has been heard or said without translating it word-for-word into your own language.
- Use caution when directly transferring words and ideas from your own language to the target language.

The above information has been adapted from:

Cohen, A. D., Oxford, R. L., & Chi, J. C. (2002). Language Strategy Use Survey. In *Styles- and Strategies-Based Instruction: A Teacher's Guide* (pp. 68–74). Regents of the University of Minnesota.



**Center for Applied Second Language Studies
(CASLS)**

5290 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-5290

(541) 346-5699 | info@uoregon.edu | casls.uoregon.edu



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