

TIPS TO LEARN SPANISH *(or any other language)*

Learn each concept: Make sure you understand each lesson or unit before tackling the next. In particular, most textbooks and classes take a sequential approach to grammar. If you don't understand how to use direct-object and indirect-object pronouns, for example, you're less likely to understand the concept of reflexive verbs.

Supplement your text with outside materials: If your textbook or your teacher doesn't make a concept clear, perhaps a different approach can.

Expose yourself to your new language whenever you can: Visit Web sites in your new language. Watching movies or videos in your new language can help you learn how words are really pronounced, even if you can understand little at first. Purchase magazines written in your new language. Music can also be useful as a learning aid, although you need to be aware lyrics can be frustratingly difficult to understand both because of musical styles and because unusual vocabulary or word order is sometimes used to make the words fit the music.

Remember that learning a language is more than an academic exercise: Indeed, remembering that learning a language is a way to help us relate to people can be a stronger motivation than mere academics can be.

Learn correct pronunciation as soon as you can: Poor pronunciation habits can be hard to break, and your efforts to make yourself understandable will be appreciated.

Plan a trip to where your new language is spoken: This is a great motivator to learn the new language.

If possible, converse with native speakers you know: A native speaker can help you with pronunciation and give you immediate feedback. You can also get the opportunity to learn some slang and other colloquial usages that aren't in your textbook.

Above all, have fun: For most people, learning is inherently enjoyable — watch any preschooler to see how natural learning can be! Look for ways to make language learning exciting, whether it's following one of the above bits of advice or coming up with a creative way of your own.