

Unit 4 Language

4.1 Learning Languages

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Aims and Demand

Language

- to expand our range of vocabulary related to language learning
- expand their range and practised the use of a set of phrasal verbs

Skills

- practise extracting specific information and language items from a reading text
- participate in a speaking activity to practise accuracy and fluency



Idieological and Political Education

❖ to learn the purpose of learning a foreign language:

- 1. to open up a different world;
- 2. to develop a global perspecitive;
- 3. to enable cross-cultural communication;
- 4. to cultivate a different mode of thinking.



VOCABULARY: language learning

1 Work with a partner. Discuss how similar you think these activities are to learning a language. driving a car playing a musical instrument

driving a car playing a musical instrument

playing / doing a dangerous sport painting / drawing

dancing the tango, waltz, etc. playing a board game

(e.g. backgammon, chess, Monopoly)

Learning to drive a car is similar because you need to practise a lot.

2 What sort of people do you think make the best language learners?



3 Complete the statements with the words in the box. Which ideas do you agree with?

bilingual native slang accent foreign grammar dialects

- 1 Organised and logical people find it easy to learn grammar rules.
- 2 Musical people find it easy to develop a good accent.
- 3 Extroverts find it easy to communicate in their native language and so often find it easy to learn to speak a foreign language fluently.
- 4 Flexible people can adapt to different dialects (the way a language is spoken in different areas).
- 5 People who are bilingual already know two languages so learning one more is very easy.
- 6 Learners of languages should make an effort to learn informal phrases, everyday expressions and even slang.



READING

4a Look at the text opposite about language learning. Where does it come from? What is its purpose?

The text is probably from a magazine / newspaper or a leaflet. It is advertising “Learn Fast”.



4b Read the text quickly. Who is it aimed at?

- a) foreign language speakers
- b) native English speakers
- c) people who want to speak English as a foreign language
- d) business people

b) native English speakers



4c Read the text again. Are these sentences true, false or not given?

1. You will receive a certificate at the end of the course.

Not given

2. There are exams to check your progress during the course.

True

3. English is one of the languages offered.

False

(the course is for native English speakers; the languages listed do not include English)



4c Read the text again. Are these sentences true, false or not given?

4 You will become fluent in six weeks.

False

(“... within six weeks you will pick up the basics ...”)

5 There are support materials in English.

True



VOCABULARY: phrasal verbs (2)

5a Look at the phrasal verbs highlighted in the text and match them with their meanings below.

1 make as much progress as others **keep up with**

2 learn easily **pick up**

3 understand **catch on**

4 make less progress than other people **fall behind**

5 survive **get by**

6 disappoint / fail **let you down**

7 start doing something, e.g. a new activity **take up**



5b Complete the sentences about your English studies. Compare your answers with a partner.

- 1 I can get by in _____ (language) when I am abroad.
- 2 I would like to stop learning English and take up _____ .
- 3 I catch on quickly when my teacher _____ .
- 4 It took me _____ (weeks / months / years) to pick up the basics of _____ .
- 5 I find it difficult to keep up with my work / homework because _____ .
- 6 The aspect of my English which lets me down is _____ .
- 7 I'm falling behind in _____ . I'm going to have to work hard to catch up.



SPEAKING



6 Work with a partner to discuss the following.

- 1. English is an international language because it is easy to learn.**
- 2. Language is the most important part of cultural identity.**
- 3. Everyone should learn at least one foreign language.**
- 4. A government has a duty to protect its country's language.**
- 5. The world would be a better place if everyone spoke the same language.**



Summary

- ❖ let sb. down
- ❖ fall behind
- ❖ pick up
- ❖ the basics of sth
- ❖ get by
- ❖ catch on
- ❖ take up
- ❖ keep up with
- ❖ make progress
- ❖ extensive notes
- ❖ bilingual high flyers
- ❖ open up a new world
- ❖ cover all aspects
- ❖ online test



Thank you!

