

Study Hints
Introductory Language Courses
University of South Alabama

1. You cannot learn a foreign language by "thinking" about it. A language is a set of habits. Instead of "thinking" about it, listen and imitate the instructor. Take advantage of class time and lab practice.
2. You have to memorize. Continue practicing material heard in class until it becomes second nature.
3. Study out loud. This helps to memorize and if you study out loud, you first double your efficiency by adding auditory memory to your visual memory. Then you triple your efficiency by adding motor memory which facilitates the habitual nature of a language.
4. Write while studying. Writing what you are studying also increases your study efficiency by adding additional motor memory and reinforcing visual memory.
5. Divide the material into small units.
6. Divide your study time into small units.
7. Go from easy to hard.
8. Make full use of class time.
9. Don't fall behind. You can never catch up in a foreign language.
10. Continually re-learn, re-study, and review the material. A language is cumulative.

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