

LISTENING

- ★ 1 Complete the blog about learning a foreign language with these words or phrases. You may need to change the form of the verbs.

be a pain break the ice fluent get back to normal improve
language barrier motto remain settle down stick with

My language learning experience

One of the things I was a bit worried about before I started high school was having to learn a foreign language. I thought it would ¹....., trying to remember loads of unfamiliar words but I loved the classes from the start. In the first class, our teacher ²..... by getting us to stand up and move around the classroom saying hello to everyone in Italian – 'Ciao!' Our teacher was from Italy and although there was a bit of a ³....., it didn't seem to matter. We had a lot of fun and my Italian skills quickly ⁴..... At first it seemed easy, but as we learned more and more vocabulary and grammar it got a lot harder. I seemed to ⁵..... at the same level for ages and I didn't feel like I was learning anything new. Our teacher was off sick for a few weeks, too, and we had to study alone. It was hard but I ⁶..... it while she was away. When she came back, things ⁷....., and I started getting better again. I may never be ⁸..... in Italian but I'd love to ⁹..... in Italy one day. Whenever people say 'I can't remember all these new words!' my ¹⁰..... is 'Just try and try again!'



Extend

- ★ 4 Complete the phrases from the recordings with these verbs. You may need to change the form of the verb.

do get give have make switch

- ★ 2 7.2 You are going to hear five people talking about being bilingual. What do you think the advantages and disadvantages of being bilingual might be? Listen and check your ideas.

- ★ 3 7.3 Listen again and match each speaker (1–5) with what they say about being bilingual (A–H). There are three extra letters you do not need.

- A I sometimes invent words and phrases.
- B I enjoy helping other people with my skills.
- C I occasionally feel unsure which culture I identify with most.
- D I frequently feel like a stranger in certain places.
- E I have to answer a lot of questions about my language skills.
- F I don't always realise which language I'm speaking.
- G I have an easier time travelling abroad than some people.
- H I think I have a better memory than most people.

- Speaker 1:
Speaker 2:
Speaker 3:
Speaker 4:
Speaker 5:

- 1 I find it difficult to myself understood in another language.
- 2 They want to know whether I ever confused.
- 3 Bilingual people can between languages easily.
- 4 I love translations for homework. It helps me understand the languages better.
- 5 Being fluent in two languages you an advantage when you're looking for a job.
- 6 My family a close connection with Poland. My dad grew up there and my mum worked there for a while.