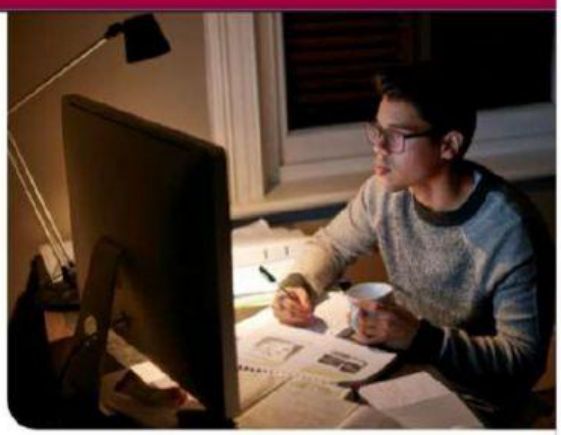
Read the article and categorize the words

https://blog.howilearntenglish.com/antoniosouza/personalexperience

How I learnt English



I grew up in a small, remote town called Óbidos, in the north of Brazil, along the banks of the Amazon River. Having visitors from big cities like Manaus, Rio de Janeiro, or São Paulo was always an occasion, and if we had visitors from abroad, as we sometimes did, it was like Christmas. These new and exciting people, speaking with exotic accents and even different languages always used to set my imagination on fire. From as early as I can remember, I had wanted to learn foreign languages so I could communicate with these exotic visitors, and maybe even one day visit the cities they came from.

I was so fascinated with foreign languages that I was determined to start learning one. It would be the first step to achieving my dreams. Through the Internet and with the help of my teachers, I started to learn a few basic words and expressions in English. My teachers told me that I had an aptitude for languages and encouraged me to find internet pen pals so I could practice my new found language skills. Pretty soon, I became pen pals with Hannah from the United States. After two months of exchanging written messages and pictures with her, I decided to do video calls too. I knew that my English was getting better every day, but I also needed to improve my fluency. From the very beginning, Hannah was patient and kind and helped me with my pronunciation. But it was a two way street - I was learning English, and Hannah was learning Portuguese.

After we had been friends for a year, Hannah and her whole family came to Brazil. They spent a week on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro and a week touring the historic cities of Ouro Preto and Tiradentes before heading north to visit me in Óbidos. Hannah comes from a large family. Besides her mother and father, she has two hip, urban brothers who dressed fashionably and used all the latest slang. Her two sisters are very sporty. Both of them have played competitive basketball for their school teams. Hosting this huge family and speaking just English with them for a whole week was a true immersion in the language. Although their visit was a short one, we did a lot. I took them on a tour of the historical sites, where they learnt about our Portuguese architecture, we did some handcraft with jute, which grows abundantly in the region, and we even went fishing! Hannah's visit strengthened our friendship, and we promised each other that we would never grow apart.

After Hannah's visit we kept up our correspondence and on my sixteenth birthday, her parents invited me to visit them in the United States during my school holidays. What a gift!!! We started making plans right away. Being around Hannah and her friends, I could see how cool she was. Not only did my English improve immensely in this month, but I also learnt so much about American culture. Because I already knew the family so well, and because they didn't want me to get homesick, Hannah's parents doted on me - I was treated like one of the family.

Hannah and I are still in touch today. We write to each other on birthdays and special occasions like Easter and Christmas. I am happy that our friendship never soured as some relationships do. As people grow up, they change and lose touch with friends, and most pen pals barely speak to each other after a few years, but not Hannah and me. I have been back several times to visit her family, and Hannah spent one month traveling around Brazil and visited Óbidos during her gap year.

Thanks to the encouragement of my parents and teachers and the help of Hannah and her family, I was able to achieve my lifelong dream of learning a foreign language and traveling abroad. I had a strong foundation and continued to practice, so my English never got rusty. In fact, I also went on to learn Spanish and German. Today, I am completing my Master's Degree in International Relations, an area I might never have considered if I hadn't fallen in love with and learnt foreign languages as a child.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Categorize the underlined expressions from the article in each box

Language learning	Relationships	Describing people
pen pal		

LIVEWORKSHEETS