

# UNIT 6: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

## 1. What do you need to do to be a good language learner?

*can-do attitude*   *chip away at*   *cram everything in*   *immersing yourself in*   *learning curve*  
*long haul*   *on the pulse*   *pick yourself up*   *stumbling block*   *throw yourself in*

Well, in my view, being a good language learner is a bit of a **marathon**, not a **sprint**. First and foremost, you need to be *in for the* (1) \_\_\_\_\_, because picking up a language takes consistent effort over time. It's no good trying to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ over a short period; instead, you have to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ it day by day.

**Secondly**, I think it's essential to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ *at the deep end* — that means (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the language as much as possible, whether by chatting to native speakers, watching programmes without subtitles, or reading books slightly above your comfort level. You'll probably make mistakes left, right and centre, but that's all *part of the* (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Another important point** is to *have your finger* (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the language — keep up with how it's actually used in the real world, including slang, idioms, and cultural references, rather than sticking rigidly to textbook English.

**Finally**, you need a (8) \_\_\_\_\_. If you *lose heart* the moment you *hit a* (9) \_\_\_\_\_, you won't get far. Instead, you have to (10) \_\_\_\_\_, learn from your errors, and keep going. In short, patience, persistence, and a willingness to take risks are the hallmarks of a successful language learner.

### Idioms & Phrasal Verbs

Expression	Meaning	Example
<b>a marathon, not a sprint</b>	Something that takes time and persistence, not quick results	Learning English is a marathon, not a sprint.
<b>in for the long haul</b>	Prepared to continue working hard for a long period	If you want to master French, you have to be in for the long haul.
<b>cram everything in</b>	Try to do too much in a short time	Don't cram everything in before the exam; spread out your revision.
<b>chip away at it</b>	Make slow, steady progress over time	She chipped away at her vocabulary list every day.
<b>throw yourself in at the deep end</b>	Start something difficult without preparation	Moving abroad forced me to throw myself in at the deep end with the language.
<b>left, right and centre</b>	Happening a lot, everywhere	When you start speaking, you'll make mistakes left, right and centre.
<b>part of the learning curve</b>	A normal stage of gaining knowledge	Forgetting words is part of the learning curve.
<b>have your finger on the pulse</b>	Be aware of current trends and developments	Good language learners have their finger on the pulse of how people actually speak.
<b>lose heart</b>	Become discouraged	He lost heart after failing the listening test twice.

Expression	Meaning	Example
<b>pick yourself up</b>	Recover after a failure or difficulty	I made a terrible presentation, but I picked myself up and tried again.
<b>hit a stumbling block</b>	Encounter a problem	Many learners hit a stumbling block with phrasal verbs.

### Collocations

Collocation	Why it's natural	Example
<b>consistent effort</b>	Common pairing for sustained work	Consistent effort is key to fluency.
<b>comfort level</b>	Refers to difficulty someone can handle	Read slightly above your comfort level.
<b>real world usage</b>	How language is used naturally	Focus on real world usage, not just grammar rules.
<b>textbook English</b>	Standard, formal English taught in books	Textbook English doesn't always match everyday speech.
<b>can-do attitude</b>	Positive and proactive mindset	A can-do attitude helps you tackle challenges.
<b>hallmarks of</b>	Main characteristics of something	Perseverance is one of the hallmarks of good learners.

*dust yourself off*    *immerse yourself*    *in one go*    *hit a rough patch*  
*keep your ear*    *par for the course*    *put in the graft*    *put your foot in*  
*steady headway*    *strike up*    *the mark of*    *throw in the towel*

Well, I'd say the key to being a good language learner is to treat it as a long game rather than a quick win. You have to be prepared to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ day after day, because it's impossible to master a language overnight. Instead of trying to *learn it all* (2) \_\_\_\_\_, it's better to *make* (3) \_\_\_\_\_ — even if it's just ten minutes a day.

Another tip is to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ *completely* — read newspapers, watch TV dramas, and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ *conversations* with native speakers whenever you get the chance. You might (6) \_\_\_\_\_ *it* occasionally, but those little blunders are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ when you're learning something new.

It also helps to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ *to the ground* so you pick up on how the language is actually used, including idiomatic turns of phrase and slang, rather than sticking rigidly to classroom English.

Finally, you need a resilient mindset. If you (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the moment you (10) \_\_\_\_\_, you won't get far. A better approach is to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ after setbacks and keep going.

All in all, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a good language learner is persistence, curiosity, and the courage to make mistakes and learn from them.



## Idioms & Phrasal Verbs

Expression	Meaning	Example
<b>put in the graft</b> ( <i>UK informal</i> )	Work hard consistently	If you put in the graft, your language skills will improve.
<b>learn it all in one go</b>	Do everything at once	Don't try to learn it all in one go — pace yourself.
<b>make steady headway</b>	Make consistent progress	She made steady headway with her pronunciation.
<b>immerse yourself completely</b>	Be fully involved in something	He immersed himself completely in Spanish culture.
<b>put your foot in it</b>	Accidentally say something awkward	I really put my foot in it during that conversation.
<b>par for the course</b>	Normal or expected	Forgetting words is par for the course when you're learning.
<b>keep your ear to the ground</b>	Stay aware of current trends and usage	Good learners keep their ear to the ground for new phrases.
<b>throw in the towel</b>	Give up	Don't throw in the towel just because it's difficult.
<b>hit a rough patch</b>	Go through a difficult period	I hit a rough patch with grammar last month.
<b>dust yourself off</b>	Recover after a failure	After making a mistake, she dusted herself off and tried again.

## Strong Collocations

Collocation	Why it's natural	Example
<b>long game</b>	Long-term approach	Learning Chinese is a long game.
<b>quick win</b>	Short-term success	Apps can give you quick wins but not full fluency.
<b>classroom English</b>	Formal, textbook-style language	Classroom English is different from real-world use.
<b>resilient mindset</b>	Ability to recover from setbacks	A resilient mindset is essential in language learning.
<b>the mark of</b>	A sign of quality or skill	Patience is the mark of a good teacher.

### Category

### Idioms & Collocations

#### Time & Effort

a marathon, not a sprint; in for the long haul; chip away at it; cram everything in; put in the graft; learn it all in one go; make steady headway; long game; quick win

#### Risk & Immersion

throw yourself in at the deep end; outside your comfort zone; immerse yourself completely

#### Mistakes & Learning

left, right and centre; part of the learning curve; hit a stumbling block; pick yourself up; put your foot in it; par for the course; dust yourself off

#### Staying Updated

have your finger on the pulse; textbook [skill/knowledge]; keep your ear to the ground; classroom English

#### Mindset & Resilience

can-do attitude; lose heart; hallmarks of; every cloud has a silver lining; throw in the towel; hit a rough patch; resilient mindset; the mark of