

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

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.