

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. | Speaker 1: |
| B I enjoy helping other people with my skills. | Speaker 2: |
| C I occasionally feel unsure which culture I identify with most. | Speaker 3: |
| D I frequently feel like a stranger in certain places. | Speaker 4: |
| E I have to answer a lot of questions about my language skills. | Speaker 5: |
| 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. | |

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