

INDEPENDENT LANGUAGE LEARNING

Research shows that language learners who make the most progress are those who are prepared **to take responsibility** for their own learning. This is known as **independent** or **autonomous** learning. But what does this actually involve?

1 ☐ Independent learners also keep organised vocabulary notebooks. They don't just write down new words on scraps of paper. For instance, they organise new vocabulary by topic. This means that they can easily find words they have decided to make a note of, which makes **accessing** and learning them easier.

2 ☐ But independent language learning isn't just about using dictionaries and keeping organised notebooks. Independent language learners are also more likely to actually use the language outside the classroom.

3 ☐ Besides cinema and television, independent learners also enjoy listening to songs in the target language. But it's not just the music that they are interested in. They listen to the words, too, and try and work out their meanings.

4 ☐ Independent learning is not confined to reading and listening. This kind of learner also likes to produce language. This does not only mean inside the classroom, but outside it, too.

5 ☐ They will be perfectly at home with writing, as well. They will probably be using the language on the Internet in chat rooms and writing emails to friends in other countries.

6 ☐ There are several answers to these questions. First of all, a student learning the language in a country where that language is not spoken might only have a couple of lessons a week. This means that those who use it outside the lessons are **getting more exposure** and practice.

7 ☐ At the end of the day, we don't actually know **precisely** how people learn languages, but it seems clear that if we want to improve our chances of learning one well, we should try and use it both inside and outside the classroom.

