# DISCOURSE MAKERS

Complete the text using one of the following:

**ironically - Although - However - Unfortunately - Despite - In conclusion - In the end - What's more - more importantly - In fact** -

Is it better to learn a foreign language at home, or in the country where the language is spoken?

Many people believe that it is better to go abroad to learn a foreign language rather than study it in classes at home. (1) _____ , my own personal experience has been that language classes at home can be effective and that learning a language in the country where it is spoken is not as easy as it sounds.

My first experience of studying a foreign language was at school, and I have to admit it was not a great success. Like most children, my motivation was not very strong, and I didn't concentrate much in class. (2) _____ this, after five years or so of study, I passed my exam and, (3) _____ had enough of the language to conduct a holiday romance with a French girl who spoke no English at all.

My first job was, (4) _____ , as a language teacher in Turkey. Knowing nothing of the language, I studied it before a week or so before I left Britain, hoping then to pick it up when I got there. (5) _____ it took me over a year before I was even capable of having a basic conversation, and it was not until the middle of the second year before I began to settle down and feel at home. (6) _____ I did learn to speak and to understand much of what was said around me, but I can assure you that it was in no way an 'easy' way to learn a language. (7) _____ , at that time I noticed that colleagues who regularly attended language classes made much faster progress with their language skills than I did, something which should not perhaps have surprised me! (8) _____ , as I said, I did learn to speak and was quite fluent by the time I left, I never really learnt to read or write the language - something which I regret.

(9) _____ I should add that subsequent experience as a school manager in Poland for a year proved beyond doubt to me that 'being there' was not enough. (10) _____ , as I now have my own language school, teaching English in Italy, daily experience has shown me that you really can learn to speak a foreign language without leaving home. Promise!



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