



## Discussion

1. How many languages can you say 'Hello' in?
2. How many languages can you order a meal or have a simple conversation in?
3. What language are you best at (apart from your own)?
4. Choose one idea below and continue using because.

Learning a new language is like ...

- falling in love
- being a child
- learning a musical instrument
- going on an endless journey
- growing plants in a garden

5. Look at the pictures. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each way of learning a language? Which have you tried? Have you tried any other ways?



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Learning a language is like falling in love, because it's exciting at the beginning, and then it becomes hard work.

”

1 Using modern technology makes learning fun and interactive. You can practice daily, test yourself instantly, and track your progress easily. On the other hand, it may become repetitive, and you don't always get real conversation practice or detailed feedback.

2 Studying with a teacher and classmates helps you stay motivated and organized. You get explanations right away and can learn from others' mistakes. Still, the pace might not suit everyone, and sometimes lessons follow a fixed plan that feels too slow or too fast.



## Match the statements to the pictures.

3 Learning on your own gives you freedom to study whenever you want and move at your own speed. You can review difficult parts as many times as you need. However, it can sometimes feel lonely, and without guidance, it's easy to form bad habits or misunderstand rules.

4 Living or spending time in a place where the language is spoken helps you learn naturally and quickly. You improve your listening and speaking skills in real situations. Yet, it can be stressful at first, and you might feel shy or overwhelmed when you can't express yourself clearly.



Read the text quickly and answer the questions.

# CAN YOU REALLY LEARN A LANGUAGE IN 22 HOURS?

WE ALL KNOW THAT PEOPLE LEARN BETTER IF THEY ENJOY LEARNING

Jon Foster reports on an app that makes learning a new language like playing a game

I've never been much good at languages. But next month, I'm travelling to a remote area of Central Africa and my **aim** is to know enough Lingala – one of the local languages – to have a conversation. I wasn't sure how I was going to manage this – until I discovered a way to spend just a few minutes, a few times a day, learning all the vocabulary I'm going to need.

To be honest, normally when I get a spare moment at home, I go on Facebook or play games on my phone. But, at the moment, I'm using those short breaks for something more useful. I'm learning a foreign language. And thanks to Memrise, the app I'm using, it feels just like a game.

'People often stop learning things because they feel they're not **making progress** or because it all feels like too much hard work,' says Ed Cooke, one of the people who created Memrise. 'We're trying to create a form of learning experience that is fun and is something you'd want to do instead of watching TV.'

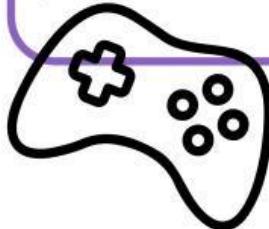
And Memrise is fun. It's a **challenge**. It gives you a few new words to learn and these are 'seeds' which you plant in your 'greenhouse'. (This represents your short-term memory.) When you practise the words, you 'water your plants' and they grow. When the app believes that you have really remembered a word, it moves the word to your 'garden'. You get points as your garden grows, so you can compare yourself to other Memrise users. I want to get a high score and go to the next level. And if I forget to log on, the app sends me emails that **remind** me to 'water my plants'.

The app uses two principles about learning. The first is that people remember things better when they link them to a picture in their mind. Memrise **translates** words into your own language, but it also encourages you to use 'mems' – images that help you remember new words. You can use mems which other users have created or you can create your own. I **memorised** motele, the Lingalan word for 'engine', using a mem I created – I imagined an old engine in a motel room.

The second principle is that we need to stop after studying words and then **repeat** them again later, leaving time between study sessions. Memrise helps you with this, because it's the kind of app you only use for five or ten minutes a day.

I've learnt hundreds of Lingalan words with Memrise. I know this won't make me a **fluent** speaker, but I hope I'll be able to do more than just smile and look stupid when I meet people in the Congo.

Now, why am I still sitting here writing this? I need to go and water my vocabulary!



**Answer the questions.**

1. What is Memrise?
2. Why is Jon Foster using it?
3. How much has he learnt?
4. The writer wants to learn Lingala because he ...
 

a. loves new languages	b. wants to talk with the people who speak it	c. wants to try Memrise.
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5. Ed Cooke wants learners to ...
 

a. enjoy learning more	b. improve quickly	c. do more vocabulary practice
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6. 'Mem' is ...
 

a. the Lingalese word for 'engine'	b. a translation of a new word	c. a picture that helps people remember new words
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7. Where do the mems come from?
 

a. Ed Cooke creates them	b. Users can create mems for themselves and other users	c. Every user creates mems only for themselves
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**Would you like to use Memrise? Why/why not?**



**Listen to the audio and underline the correct words.**

1. James is a bit / very tired.
2. Linda likes / doesn't like the book.
3. Tony thinks the girl can do something quite / very impressive.
4. The teacher thinks Oliver will / won't be able to pronounce 'squirrel'.

**Listen again and complete the sentences.**

1. "I'm \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "This book's \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "That's \_\_\_\_\_! I can only speak one language."
4. "It's \_\_\_\_\_! I'll never get it right."



**QUICK TIPS**

- With some adjectives (good, bad, difficult), we can use words like **quite**, **very**, **really** and **extremely** to make their meaning stronger or weaker (e.g. His pronunciation is **quite good**. The exam was **extremely difficult**.).
- Other adjectives already have a strong or extreme meaning (e.g. **perfect**, **useless**). We can use words like **completely** or **absolutely** before these adjectives to add emphasis (Her English is **absolutely perfect**.).



### Complete the sentences with absolutely or very.

- Online dictionaries are often \_\_\_\_\_ useful.
- That cake's \_\_\_\_\_ enormous.
- I think Anna's \_\_\_\_\_ confident.
- I went for a swim in the river and the water was \_\_\_\_\_ freezing.
- There are only seven houses in my village – it's \_\_\_\_\_ tiny.
- It's \_\_\_\_\_ important to learn pronunciation as well as vocabulary.



### Discussion

- What do you want to be able to do with English?
- What level of English do you hope to reach?
- How often do you review what you have learned?
- How often do you watch or read things in English?
- How often do you communicate with native speakers?
- What are you doing at the moment to learn English?
- Are you having any problems with English at the moment?

### Look at the picture. What do you think the customer is buying?



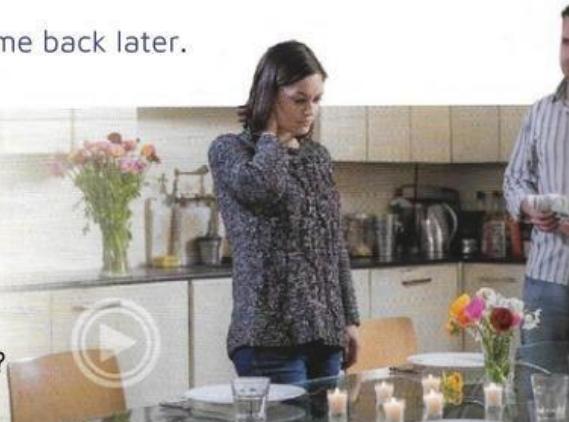
 **Listen to the audio and underline the correct answer.**

1. Becky is buying flowers because she's going to someone's house / getting married.
2. She doesn't want roses because she doesn't like them / they're too romantic.
3. She likes / doesn't like the tulips.
4. She will buy flowers in another shop / come back later.

 **Look at the picture. Where are the people?**

**What are they doing?**

1. What will happen to the bookshop?
2. What problem will this cause for Rachel?
3. What is Mark's advice?
4. What does Rachel say happened at work?



**Listen and complete the sentences with one word.**

1. Well, in my \_\_\_\_\_, roses are always a good option.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ something like tulips might be better.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ it's going to be impossible with another florist's in the same street.
4. Well, if you \_\_\_\_\_ me, it's not worth worrying about until we know for sure.

**Look at five ways of responding to an opinion.** Does the speaker agree (A) or disagree (D)?

1. I know what you mean, but ...
2. I know exactly what you mean.
3. I'm not so sure about that.
4. That's right.
5. I see where you're coming from, but ...

 **Look at the photo.** What is happening? What do you think will happen next?



**Listen to the audio and check your ideas.**



**Discussion.**

1. How would you feel in Becky's situation?
2. How would you feel in Rachel's situation?
3. Have you ever made a bad first impression?