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What is the most effective way to learn a second/foreign language?

Language is the key to exploring the world, it lets us comprehend what surrounds us, in the physical and intellectual point of view. It is the way us humans express our thought and ideas, how we show what we have in our mind. It is what separates us from the rest of the animals, including our closest cousins, chimpanzees and bonobos, being able to use complex sounds that translate to words and when these are put together, they form complete ideas that the receiver can interpret and understand in a fluent way. Learning a second language might sound hard but it is quite simple if you put your mind to it. A great way to learn a second language can be through TV, it's a simple and quick way. Use phone apps, there is a huge selection of apps to choose from to learn a new language, who doesn't have a phone now? Also, you could use a technique called "spaced repetition" which language learners use a lot to quickly learn other dialects.

In our modern age we have access to every part of the world with a couple of clicks or buttons pressed, the communications and entertainment industry can be thanked for this. Right now, I can be in my living room watching an Italian cooking program or maybe a Portuguese soap opera. TV is one of the quickest ways to learn pronunciation for a new language. By using subtitles in your native language and comparing them to what you are hearing helps you understand quickly. Also try to watch the scenes a couple of times until you understand

completely what is being said and that you can say it as fluently as possible. TV is not the only media outlet that can help us learn a new language.

Everyone nowadays has a phone, phones capable of doing great things, one of these things can be learning a new language on the go. In app stores there are lots of language-learning app, some are free, others are not so free but equally as good. Duolingo for example is a free language-learning that implements fun graphics and quick learning strategies to you to learn. These apps are also on hand, you can use them at anytime anywhere. Apps like these use quick and fast-paced lessons to help user get a grasp of the words and phrases in said language. One of these techniques is “spaced repetition”.

Finally, Spaced repetition is a form a studying that uses increasing time intervals between every session while also rereading what was previously learned. This works especially well for people that have very little time on their hands, those precious 5 minutes of you waiting for your order to be done in your local bakery can be used to teach yourself new words or phrases. The Flashcard method is quite similar but not as modern method of study, Spaced repetition uses technology to its advantage. Either way these methods help those that do not have much time on their hands.

In conclusion, learning a new language brings advantages to its learners, putting in a resume that you are bilingual gives you an upper hand between your colleagues that do not dominate a second/foreign language. Language is a key to comprehending other cultures and their people. Studies have found that bilinguals are smarter than monolingual people, is being monolingual even an option anymore? Schools must reinforce bilingualism and multilingualism for the sake of the worlds ever-changing landscape.

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