

TIPS FOR REMOTE LANGUAGE LEARNING



1 Design a learning space that works for you.

- If possible, designate a study space. Be strategic. Working in bed can lead to napping!
- Limit distractions:¹
 - Put your phone on silent/do not disturb and keep it out of sight until a break.
 - Close irrelevant internet tabs and apps.
 - Silence any chat functions on computer, phone, and tablet.
 - Clear workspace of any irrelevant materials.
 - For tasks and assignments that do not require the internet, turn-off your wi-fi connection.
- Gather supplies: headphones, pens/pencils, notebook, chargers, water and snacks.

2 Build helpful habits right away.

- Make time for language learning every day!
- Design a schedule for yourself that includes course times, study time, and free time!¹
- Plan to devote shorter, more frequent chunks of time to your language study over longer, less frequent sessions.
- Prioritize tasks by urgency and importance.
- Clarify course expectations and inquire about the best method to contact your instructor.
- Ask lots of questions. If you aren't sure what to do or where to find something, ask! You will be helping everyone.
- Try to avoid using an online dictionary for every word (just like in class, practice using circumlocution when you don't know a word).

3 Stay connected.

- Sign up for a virtual language exchange through one of the many apps to connect language learners and native speakers.
- Reach out to friends/host family where you can catch up and practice the language you're learning!
 - Live video chat: Zoom, Skype, Facetime, GoogleDuo/Hangouts, MicrosoftTeams, WhatsApp.
 - If the time difference is too great: film a video of yourself to send a message to friends. Apps like Marco Polo are great for this!
 - If all else fails, try an audio message. You can record your voice in your text messages or through chat apps like WhatsApp.
- Send snail mail by writing a postcard or letter in the language.
- Meet with friends virtually to study together and squeeze in practice via video chat.
- Try teaching someone else what you just learned in your language class. Teaching someone else is a great way to solidify what you have learned.



4 Talk to yourself.

- Sing your favorite songs in the language in the shower or while you are cleaning/doing chores.
- Read aloud in the language. It is a great way to practice your pronunciation!
- Think aloud in the language. Don't be shy.
- Narrate your daily activities like choosing clothes to wear, cleaning or preparing food.

5 Supplement your studies.

- Try Netflix Hangout extension through Google Chrome. Stream films and shows in the target language while watching with friends.
- Develop a new hobby that incorporates the language, like calligraphy or cooking.
- Listen to music in the language you're studying.
- Watch shows and movies in the language. Subtitles in English, or in the language, can really help!
- Read short stories, magazine articles or newspapers in the language, if you're an upper-level student. If you're a beginning or intermediate-level student, ask your instructor for recommendations for reading materials that would be appropriate for you. Look for cognates.
- Find out how the current COVID-19 emergency is affecting regions where your language is spoken. How are students there adapting?
- Make flashcards with index cards, or put new vocabulary on sticky notes and post them everywhere.

6 Check in.

- Regularly review assignments and deadlines for your language class. Contact your instructor if you have questions or concerns.
- Reflect on how things are going. Is your schedule working? Are you having difficulty staying on track? Reach out if you're having problems.

7 Take breaks to stay motivated.

- Move your body.
 - Take a walk.
 - Do a (free) workout video online. See if you can find a workout video in the language you're studying. See how you do!
 - Stretch and breathe with yoga.
- Relax your mind and meditate.
- Doodle or color!
- Journal.



Focus on your personal and professional development by scheduling an advising appointment.

Make An Appointment: <https://languages.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>

Questions? advisor@languageinstitute.wisc.edu

*Connect with your [language program advisor](#) for additional tools and resources related to your specific language program.

