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Introduction

No matter what your age is, it is never too old to pick up a new language, since learning is a lifelong journey. As such, you should never hesitate to pick up a new language. When you are able to speak an additional language, you will be able to speak and reach out to more people. This is a great skill to acquire, especially since globalisation has created a giant global market which provides a myriad of opportunities. With the rise of countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, you may wish to learn to speak their tongue so that doing business in these countries will be a breeze. This way, you will be able to ride on the wave and reap the benefits of tapping into rising economies.

Even if you have no need to learn new languages for job-related opportunities, language learning may still bring about many other benefits. These benefits will be further elaborated on in the articles below.

Since it can be good for you, you may now be wondering how you can begin learning a new language. While it may be daunting to start from scratch on a language which you have no prior knowledge on, you should not let that stop you. Instead, you can search for learning materials online to kick start your learning journey. You can even sign up for classes at any language school that is convenient for you. Furthermore, learning does not have to take place only through books. You can also watch films with conversations held in the language you are learning.

Now that you have had a brief introduction to picking up a new language, you should proceed and read on for more information on why you should learn a new language, 2:



how to choose a language to pick up, and more things that you should know before beginning on your learning journey.

The Benefits of Language Learning

A lot of people hesitate to pursue an opportunity to learn a new language. This is because they may view it as a pain or a waste of time. On the contrary, there are actually numerous benefits which learning a language will bring, and it is not only limited to the fact that you would be able to understand and converse with more people. If you are given the opportunity to learn a new language, you should consider the number of benefits you can derive from it, before you refuse it.

By learning a new language, you will be able to experience a whole new world. It will open up your mind and give you new opportunities for self development. Eventually, you will realize that the time and effort you have spent in learning it is worth it.

One of the benefits of language learning is the fact that your mind will have improved rate in activity. This means that you will be able to have a shorter reaction time. The reason behind this is that, whenever you are trying to learn new things, the harder you concentrate, the higher volume of blood will be gathered into your head. With more blood, more oxygen would become available to your brain. In other words, more brain cells would be activated.

When you are trying to learn a new language, due to the degree of focus or concentration that it would require from you, you will be able to pump more oxygen into your head. Thus, this is the reason why people would say that the more you exercise your brain, the wiser you would become.



Learning a new language would not just be limited to learning each and every meaning of the new words you encounter on every language training session. You would also need to learn new ways of constructing sentences. On top of that, you would also develop a new way of reading, listening, speaking, and even writing. It is indeed a whole new world, each and every time you switch from your native language to the next.

If you keep practicing, you will definitely make use of your brain more, which means that you will be constantly shaping your mind. Because of that, you will be able to decrease your chances of getting affected with senile dementia when you get older.

These are some of the benefits you can derive when you learn a brand new language. On top of everything that has been mentioned, once you are already an expert with the foreign language you have chosen; it would also open more opportunities for you in terms of your career, and it could also be a skill which helps you to earn substantial income.



What Makes One Language Harder Than Another?

If you are trying to decide whether you want to pursue learning a new language or not, one of the concerns you probably are facing right now is the level of difficulty you have to deal with, when you are learning to speak in a foreign tongue. There are a number of factors that would determine how one language would be harder or easier to learn as another one. If you are still not decided on the kind of language you want to learn next, then it is best that you consider these factors, especially if you are concerned about how challenging it would be.

There are certain languages that have characteristics that make them more difficult to learn than others. However, your native language or the languages that you already know would bear more weight, when it comes down to how difficult it is to learn the new language that you want.

The native language is the language that you have learned all throughout your life. In other words, it is the language that you have been taught, and you have been using ever since you learned to talk during your childhood days. This is actually the most influential factor on the level of difficulty you would encounter in learning a new language.

Foreign languages that have similarities or share the same characteristics to your native language will definitely be easier to learn. It will be easier for you to learn a foreign language that shares a number of things in common with your native tongue since the



way the sentences would be constructed, as well as how the pronunciations are executed would be pretty much the same as the language you know.

There are certain languages that are related to each other. Therefore, if the language that you are trying to learn is not in any way related to your native language or to any other language that you know and are familiar with, then it is more difficult to learn it.

There are many characteristics that are shared between related languages, and because of this, there will be fewer new concepts you have to deal with, making them easier to learn.

For example, in some ways, Spanish, French, and Italian languages are related in some ways to English; thus, they would be less difficult for you to learn, than if you choose to learn Chinese, Japanese, or Korean languages, since they share no common ancestry with the English language whatsoever.

The way you have to pronounce the new language you are trying to learn would also become a factor in your learning experience. The nearer it is to your native language, the easier it would be for you to learn, since you won't have difficulties in using it.

These are the factors that affect the level of difficulty in learning certain languages. Now that you are more familiar with them, you should be able to decide which of the foreign languages you would choose in learning next soon.



Things I Should Know Before Learning A New Language

If you have just decided to embark on a quest to learn a brand new foreign language, you should know that you have done the right thing. This is because learning a new language would open a lot of new frontiers for you, especially when it comes to opportunities for career and personal development. On top of that, you would also get to experience a whole new world, and you would also be able to develop a new way of thinking. However, before you start your language learning activity, there are certain things you need to know first.

One of the things you need to know about learning a new language is that, it would require time, patience, discipline, perseverance, and a lot of effort on your part. Keep in mind that learning a new language would not just take a few weeks, but it could actually go on for months and even years. Therefore, you need to make sure that you are totally committed in learning it.

There are times when going through the learning process can be quite overwhelming, especially when you get deeper into it. You would also soon realize that it would consume a lot of your time; therefore, you have to have a good reason in learning the new language, so that you would be able to maintain the level of your motivation from start to finish. Keep in mind that the one thing that would keep your drive in learning new things is your motivation; thus, if you lose it, all the effort and time you have invested may be wasted, since you may convince yourself to eventually quit it.

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When you begin to learn a new language, you have to consider that it would involve comprehending a whole new vocabulary. You need to be open to learn all of the new words each day. In fact, it is best that you commit yourself to learning a fixed number of new words each day, and practice to use it in a couple of sentences so that you will be able to constantly enrich your foreign language vocabulary.

You will also have to decide what method of learning you will be using. There are a number of methods you can follow, but in general, you can either go through a self-learning experience, or hire an instructor for it. If you are picking up the language on your own, you can also set some time aside every day to practice.



Conclusion

These are some of the things you need to know before you start your foreign language training. Do some research first, especially on the kind of tools you want to make use of during your learning process, as well as do the necessary preparations, so that you will have a pleasant time in doing it.

Whether you are picking up a new language through a language class or simply learning at home, as long as you persevere and work hard, you will be able to successfully become proficient in that new language. Just like picking any other skill, it is important that after learning something about the new language, be it grammar, sentence structure, or new vocabulary, you should go back and revise before continuing with new content. This will definitely help you to master the language in the shortest time possible. You will also be able to find resources on the internet which will help you to learn faster and more efficiently. Just like what the articles mentioned, set aside some time for you to study. If you study meticulously, you will be able to feel the benefits of picking up a new language in no time.

With these tips, you will definitely be able to pick up any language. Even if it may seem difficult at the beginning, do not let your determination falter! As long as you have the determination, you will be able to do well.

