

# TIPS TO LEARN SPANISH

Four steps to make the most with your Spanish language learning.

Some years ago, when I started to teach Spanish, I was always asking myself how to help my students in their trip to the Spanish Language world. Most of my students are adults, people who sometimes believe it's too late to learn something. Some of them felt frustrated with their learning and some of them wanted to give up after some months because they thought they're not good enough. After reading many articles, teaching many different students from all the age-groups, talked with new learners and professional teachers; I can give you these advices for your enjoyable trip to the awesome Latin world.

Keith Kreuz is an English teacher and advanced Spanish speaker. I met him a couple of years ago when I was researching about improving my teaching methodology. What amazed me is that he started to learn Spanish when he was 48 years old! Yes! Amazing. He's also written many articles about learning a second Language and I share these ideas based on his thoughts. I'm sure they will help you a lot.

**ALLOW YOURSELF TO MAKE MISTAKES.** To me it's one of the most important tips. We've been told that we should always be perfect in everything we do. But that's not the way we learn. We learn from our mistakes. It's very important that you allow yourself to make them in your learning process and don't be ashamed for that. Make mistakes as much as possible and learn from them. I'm sure that next time you'll laugh at your own errors.

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.** Like everything we do in life, we should believe that we can. You can speak Spanish and believe it. But more than believing that "I'm able", you should say that you already speak Spanish. Even if you know just a few expressions, you should tell everyone "I speak Spanish". Visualizing yourself as a Spanish speaker, you'll stop translating every word in your head and start thinking as a Spanish speaker.

Allow yourself to feel unconfident, there's anything wrong with that. You're brave for definition, you're learning a second language. Who else does it?

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**INVEST TIME.** Most of my excellent students have similar routines with their Spanish language. Every single day they spend 2 or 3 hours studying and practising Spanish. They read any article in Spanish they're interested, they watch videos, they watch movies stopping in some expressions which called their attention, they write them; they sing Spanish songs, they meet up with Spanish speakers and they give time to themselves to go in their own pace.

If you don't have that much time, you have to make time because from now to the future, your Spanish learning will be the most important thing to do and you may have to sacrifice something else in your life (e.g. phone, sleep, going out, etc).

I share my own experience with you. As an English learner, I remember when I immersed myself in the English world. I was so scared! Suddenly, I had to survive in an English speaking country and make simple daily-life questions just to live. Things so simple in my native language were so impossible in this new language.

It was really tough for me to ask even for a coffee, book an appointment with a doctor, ask for a bus or transport, ask for a direction or address, look for a job!.

I decided then to put myself in an environment to learn new expressions every single day. I remember I felt so frustrated when I couldn't ask for my own coffee. Can you imagine that? You can even feel silly.

So, what I did was to just listen to them. I stand behind a customer who was buying a coffee and memorise what that person said. After some minutes, I used those expressions with the lady at the Café and it worked. I got my coffee!

I'm not saying it's going to be easy. Learning a second language is a permanent process and sometimes truly challenging, but it's absolutely rewarding. Promise you.

**WORK HARD.** During your 2-3 hours of daily Spanish studies, you have to work. If your mind is not tired after three hours of studies, you are not working.

If you follow these steps, you'll have more than 80% success in your process, according to my experience. Believe me. Just be yourself. I wish you the best journey ever. !Buena suerte! (Good luck!!)

GO. EXPLORE. LEARN.

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