

## Say “Bonjour” to Becoming Bilingual

In an increasingly globalized society, learning a foreign language is a great way to embrace a new culture and become a more “worldly” citizen. But how should one go about acquiring a new language? There are many options, each varying with regard to time commitment, price, and success rate. Here’s a summary of five of the most popular techniques.

- 1) Immersion: for the very dedicated. True immersion requires the learner moves to a foreign country and speaks nothing but that language. This is a popular education abroad program for college students, many of whom spend a year in their host country in hopes of becoming fluent. Immersion is the most time and financially intensive learning option and is widely regarded as the most successful.
- 2) Foreign language class. Many colleges offer extended education programs that are open to non-students (typically for a fee). These classes are beneficial because they offer in-person instruction and a chance to practice your new language with fellow learners. Depending on the class chosen this option can be more expensive and time consuming than programs undertaken on your own.
- 3) Software programs. PromotionalCodes.com data reveals that promotional codes for language learning software like Tell Me More and Transparent Language are very popular with site users. In Fact, according to its website, leading language software program, Tell Me More, boasts over 5 million customers worldwide. Tell Me More’s advanced technology includes a speech recognition program which gives instant feedback on word pronunciation. The program even allows users to engage in conversations. Software Programs are popular because they offer learners flexibility and independence in their lesson schedule, while providing detailed instruction. Prices of such programs vary greatly based on what exactly they include.
- 4) Audio CDs. CDs remain a popular language learning route because of their low price and convenient, portable nature. Audio CD’s allow learners to listen to instruction while commuting to work and even download lessons to their iPod and listen while exercising or running errands.
- 5) Lastly, books are available as a cheap(er) resource for language learning. Books are a good option because they allow the learner to go completely at their own pace. And small phrase books can certainly come in handy when traveling to foreign countries. However, without an audio component getting pronunciations right can be difficult.

Most experts agree that it is important to gain face-to-face experience in order to master a language. This could mean booking a vacation to Spain or France, or (a more economic alternative) locating a native speaker near you. Craigslist is a great place to post a request for a conversation partner. These could be paid meetings, but are typically free exchanges. Such encounters offer a great way to gain some practice with a new language and possibly make a friend.

Adieu.

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