



The Best Language Learning Resources

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Don't Skip this Part

If you're reading this, you've probably already started learning a language and feel that you could do much better with the help of a set of great tools. I want to thank you for downloading and reading this guide and help you out to make the most of this journey.

Usually, these guides start by asking you what you want to achieve. Let's forget about that. I am going to assume that you want to achieve fluency in another language – I'll share more about that with you later.

No, but while I have your attention I want to give you just one starter. You'll like this one.

TASK 1

Please jump ahead in this guide, pick a tool at random and purchase/download/install, and then stop reading the guide for a week.

Focus only on the one tool. Read the instructions and check online forums. Use it every day. If it's rubbish, what have you lost? There are plenty more! The key is this: Language learning involves patience, not just a lot of gear. This is a tool guide, but I want to be sure that you know you will not get better in proportion to how much you spend.

Okay, and now let's go and start the fun part

For Learners of any Language

These tools are available and trusted in many languages, or they aim to make you increase your learning skills and results by teaching learning techniques.

Where the range of languages is limited, I have listed the language codes after the tool name for you.

1. Apps

2. Books and Audio

3. Websites

4. Podcasts

5. Video Courses About Language Learning In General

Apps

- **Duolingo (EN, ES, FR, DE, PT, IT)** has a great app to help you learn a bunch of languages. It builds a "skill tree", taking you from basic words to full sentences and makes the whole thing like a big social game. If you've ever been motivated by online badges, this one's for you. The app even makes use of your phone or tablet's microphone to help you pronounce things right.
 - Even though I can't go around recommending Duolingo, it does have many drawbacks. [Click here to read my full review.](#)
- **Memrise** is my favourite flashcard app with pronunciation and spaced repetition built in. I particularly like the fact that you can **build your own vocabulary sets**, which is the best way to review vocabulary. Android users should also look at **AnkiDroid**, especially if you use the **Anki** system.
- **HelloTalk** is a fabulous language exchange app, downloadable for free and full of nice people.
- **Ultralingua** is great for dictionary, conjugation and translation apps on smartphones and computers. The language selection for the dictionaries is great and includes rarities like Latin and Esperanto.

Books and Audio

- You just have to check out [Audio Lingua](#), a website with free, user-sourced recordings of real people talking about their lives in 8 languages. I use it in my classes too ([read more here](#)). For more audio goodness, [Rhinospike](#) (submit a text and a native speaker will read it for you) and [Forvo](#) (find pronunciations for any word in any language) are here to meet your needs.
- The [Practice Makes Perfect](#) series is out in many languages and gives learners practical information such as grammar, verb tables and conversation books. It's one of the most trusted series out there and recommended by many successful learners.
- For beginning with a new language in a relaxed way, try “[10 Minutes a Day](#)” (19 languages available). The items are published by a little publisher called Bilingual Books and include friendly, easy language books with labels and flashcards as well as these cool foldable laminated language maps.
- I like [Teach Yourself](#) books and CDs for a great overview of every aspect of language for self-directed learners.
- [Pimsleur](#) offers the most popular option of audio learning materials.

- I have written two language learning guides:

[Fluency Made Achievable](#) introduces you to one of the secrets of long-term success in language learning: the balance of core learning skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Comes with a self-assessment tool, 3-week plan and lots of instant results for you.

[The Vocab Cookbook](#) is a comprehensive guide to vocabulary learning, including the best ways of acquiring new words and phrases, how to make sure you do not forget them and an overview of every revision method available.

Check out both books in the [box set](#) for the best value. It includes lots of extra goodies like bonus chapters, worksheets and a full audiobook.

Websites

- If you want to find a tutor or a nice person to practice with then [italki](#) and [Polyglot Club](#) are great places to go. Italki offers lessons from professional tutors and always checks their qualifications before they are listed.
- Of course, I cannot write this guide without recommending my own hard work: You must check out the [Fluent Language blog](#), where you will find a huge amount of tips, articles and reviews in over 100 archive articles. It's clearly awesome.

- **Yabla** (EN, FR, CN, DE, ES, IT) is YouTube for language learners. The system gives access to native language videos and allows language learners to watch things in a customised software which provides subtitles, dictionaries, a quizzing system and a pitch-corrected slow rendition of all the content.
- For flashcards, I like the look of **Memrise**, **VocLab** and **Anki**. All do essentially the same thing. They quiz you on phrases and words at regular intervals to help you remember them. This is called spaced repetition.
- Don't overlook the international websites that you use every day: Your social networking sites, search engines and news pages are all available in other languages. My top recommendation is to search for key phrases in Google News in your target country by changing the country code.

Podcasts

If you to want learn more about how podcasts work for language learning, refer to this **Fluent guide**. Podcast production has opened up the floor to a new generation of people with something to say.

- **The Creative Language Learning Podcast**

This is my own podcast and I am so proud to share it with you. I have been creating the Creative Language Learning Podcast since January 2013. I like to talk to teachers and learners alike,

and to find out what motivates them. At the end of every show, there's also a cool little segment called Tips of the Week, where my guest selects the best one out of three fresh learning tips.

- **Business of Language**

The Business of Language podcast is run by Tammy Bjelland. Tammy was en route to becoming a language professor when she realised that her heart was not quite in it. She went and changed her whole life by opening her own language school in Virginia. In her interviews with language business owners and professionals, Tammy wants to show so much more about the many opportunities that are open to language learners.

- **I Will Teach You a Language**

In this podcast from the successful "I will Teach you a Language" blog, listeners can leave a voicemail with their own dilemma or question. Host Olly then researches, brings in guests and answers each question in a shot bitesize show.

- **Actual Fluency**

Guy from Denmark vows to learn 10 languages and podcasts about it - that's the premise of Actual Fluency with Kris Broholm. Kris stands out in his interview show for the incredible curiosity he brings to every conversation. I like listening to him and even working with him - check out our joint event Language Book Club.

- [The World in Words](#)

PRI's own language podcast is a wonderful addition to this list. It's produced in great detail and covers stories of languages all around the world.

Video Courses About Language Learning In General

I am listing language-specific courses in the next sections.

- The online course platform [Udemy](#) has a language learning section which features some rather excellent courses. Among my favourites, you'll find [How to Memorize the Vocabulary of any Language](#) by Anthony Metivier. Read my [full review from the blog](#) right here and get the course HALF PRICE with the coupon code Fluentlanguage.
- The second course I want to recommend is [Language Learning Foundations by Olly Richards](#). Olly has gone into great detail in his language learning course. Olly's course is for those who are looking for the best method to teach them skills for learning a language independently.
- And last but definitely not least, [Successful Self Study](#) is a wonderful course by Lindsay Dow, creator of Lindsay does Languages. The course is perfect if you're learning on your own for the first time and really want to master what the internet has to offer. She offers you \$20 off with the coupon code FLUENT. [Read my full review here.](#)

For French Learners

- Fluent Language's own video course "[French Grammar for Beginners](#)" takes you through the full A1 level grammar with simple explanations and examples, quizzes and download sheets. It has been rated 5* by everyone who has tried it. Study this course and you will not struggle with French grammar anymore.
- If you like video courses, try [French Tenses Simplified](#) by Scott McElroy. It covers 11 important moods and tenses you need after finishing level A1. Scott's course would be the perfect follow-on if you are ready to move on from my French grammar explanations.
- If you are baffled by French verbs, [Bescherelle](#) will help. Recommended by French teachers around the world, and it has got me through a lot of tasks - I still use it after 18 years of learning French.
- [Interactive: Première Classe](#) from TV5 Monde: TV5Monde is a French television channel, and its website offers this great beginners series called Première Classe. The page contains interactive sections and videos to practice with and you can choose your menu language too.
- One of France's cultural strengths is their dedication to la bande dessinée (comics), and you'll find some awesome content in books like [Astérix](#).
- [Bon Patron](#) is your French autocorrect tool. If you want to practice your writing skills, type some sentences in there and it will help you with any spelling or grammar errors it can find.

For German Learners

- The best German grammar book I know is [Deutsche Grammatik](#), supported by a great website and useful tables.
- If you worry about sounding stupid when you speak German, then Fluent Language's video course [Speak German like a Native](#) is exactly what you need. This is the best pronunciation course you can find anywhere (if I say so myself), and takes you right from the alphabet to complicated sounds such as the German r and the sch/ch rules.
- And that is not all, as you should also check out [Easy German Grammar for Beginners](#) - a course I created due to popular demand. It takes you through every important topic at A1 German level with friendly, simple explanations, quizzes and workbooks.
- If you are interested in both Fluent courses, save 25% with a purchase of the [Ultimate Guide to German for Beginners](#).
- If you are after a vocabulary list to work with or test yourself against, here is a [PDF of the word list required for the German Immigration test](#), as published by the Goethe Institute.
- Try [Deutsche Sprachlehre für Ausländer](#) as a popular book used in many real classrooms for expats and immigrants having to learn German quickly. It comes recommended by my students in Switzerland.
- André Klein ([LearnOutLive](#)) is an author who specialises in writing great Kindle stories for German language learners, from crime fiction to fantasy books. Suitable from B1 level upwards.
- [Deutsche Welle or DW](#) for short is Germany's international broadcaster. Their website is available in 30 languages and you can switch at the top right hand side of the site. They have courses for every level, and all for free, including the slowly read news in German and a big area for German teachers. AMAZING.
- My latest blog articles on German are listed at www.fluentlanguage.co.uk/for-german-learners.

For Spanish Learners

- One great book on Learning Spanish is [Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish](#), by Margarita Madrigal. Madrigal takes the Spanish language and shows you that English is very close to Spanish, turning your knowledge into a tool to learn the language. You likely know thousands of Spanish words right now. Knowing Spanish is very Importante!
- [Spanish in Ten Minutes a Day](#), by Kristine K. Kershul, is a program that comes with a 132-page book and 6 audio CD's. The book come with games, stickers for labelling items in your own home, and flashcards that you can cut out of the book, if you so choose. It also demonstrates similar sounding words to help you avoid confusion such a “when” and “How much” “cuando” and “Cuanto”.
- The free materials at [Study Spanish](#) include grammar lessons, exercises, verb drills and fun vocabulary sessions
- [Learn Spanish – The Best Spanish Lesson](#), by Maria Sanchez. This Nook Book is an affordable way to learn Spanish that will get you much further than the train station level of conversational Spanish. Maria takes you from non-fluent to confident.

Final Words from Kerstin



I hope you enjoyed delving into these many resources for language learners. I know they only scratch the surface, and that you have a great journey ahead of you.

If you'd like to contribute resources for other languages, please don't hesitate to comment on my site

One final tip:

Don't ever be hesitant to ask for support. Get yourself a tutor if you feel like you need it. Repeat things. It's about what works for you - not what others say you should do!

Oh, and language learning isn't fast. It'll take longer than you think. Better start enjoying it.

I appreciate that you've taken some time to read through this book. You can tell me what you thought of it at www.fluentlanguage.co.uk/guide.

And lastly, you can also follow me on Twitter (@kerstinhammes) and join in on the chat on my Facebook Page www.facebook.com/fluentlanguage.