

Alles klar?

HOW TO STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Unfortunately there is no “one size fits all” method to learn a new language. Everybody has their own way of learning, but you may now need to discover or improve that method. Here are some suggestions for you to try and see which one (or combination) works best for you.

VOCABULARY

- Read the new word or phrase several times aloud. After you think you have learned it, try covering the German and then supplying the German equivalent for the English from memory. Then do it vice versa.
- Write down the expression a few times, saying it aloud at the same time (writing helps you to remember by using both sides of your brain).
- Or try using flashcards. Write the German on the front and the English equivalent on the other side (only one word or phrase per card!). Look at one side of the card and try to remember what is on the other side. Once you have learned a card, remove it from your pile and concentrate on the vocabulary you need to practice. Occasionally you should regroup all your cards and test your memory.
- Lastly, you should try to find a funny phrase or trick to help you remember the new vocabulary (this is called a mnemonic device). They do not have to make sense.
 - i.e. My *Schwestern* (sisters) like to watch *westerns*.

GENERAL TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE LEARNING

Try to avoid thinking in English first and translating into German afterwards. This will only leave you frustrated. Instead, make an effort to *think* in German with the simple, limited vocabulary and grammar that you have already learned. You might be surprised how even complicated things can be expressed simply!

Keep in mind that every language reflects a different way of thinking, and this is not always logical. Therefore, do not try to find a logical explanation behind every single expression you come across. Many sentences or phrases will sound funny when translated directly to English; just know that many of our expressions sound just as strange when translated from English. The simple question “What’s up?” might leave a foreigner staring at the sky.

