

LEARNING A LANGUAGE AS AN ADULT

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ABSTRACT

In contrast to childhood, learning can be highly challenging for adults. Yet the rewards for those who do learn second or third, or fourth, language are profound: increased travel opportunities, of course, but also improved memory, focus, and ability to multitask. Bilingual brains are better shielded against cognitive disorders such as “Alzheimer’s” disease and according to a poll conducted by the language app Babel, knowing multiple languages can make you seem more attractive. In the following you will find out that contrary to conventional thinking, it isn’t too late.

Keywords: Language profounds, travel opportunities, improved memory, multitasking, conventional thinking, cognitive disorders, bilingual, multilingual, research between kids and teenagers, absorbing information, infer lots, foreign language.

Conventional thinking is not always it maint just thinkingbut it is general accepted belief, opinion, judgment, or prediction about a particular matter. On the other hand it is not critical thinking because a critical thinking will look at a problem from a 360-degree perspective, while the conventional thinker will follow the same path because it’s the way it’s always been done. A critical thinker is interested in what happens in the future, and a conventional thinker is concerned about today. If someone asks about who is conventional thinker? This is someone who is conventional has behaviour or opinion that are ordinary and normal. We all know that not all of us not aware of to learn or study from our young age. So, why aren’t more of us multi-lingual or trying to be? There are dozens of decent answers to that question, but one common retort doesn’t have much merit at all: the idea that adults, especially older ones just can’t learn language as easily as children can. Linguists have long debated how old is too old to acquire a language, but newer research is refuting the idea wholesale. "There is no magical point at which it becomes impossible to learn a new language," says Alison Gabriele, PhD, of the University of Kansas, who led a study published last year showing that adult learners even as beginners could process sentence structures in new language much like native speakers. Separate research at Cambridge University recently found that language instruction affects adults and children the same way. While it’s true that children tend to pick up new languages quickly and easily, this has more to

do with how they learn than how old they are when they do. Kids absorb and infer lots of information about language simply by listening: to family, friends, teachers, and the media around them. It happens without much thought or effort on their part and, when they do put in effort, it's because they want to understand the story, joke, or game that's going on. By contrast, adults tend to learn in rigid academic settings where they have little say in what they study and where the stakes are also higher. If you dream of being bilingual, your age does not disqualify you. Make the process more fun and by extension, more successful with these tips. So in order to find your motivation you do not have to search it from far you can think about high school why you did not pay attention on math? Perhaps all you wanted out of the class was a good grade, or to fulfill graduation requirement. Linguistics call these incentives "extrinsic motivators" but the most successful language students are "intrinsically" motivated, sincerely invested in their own language learning. So pick a language you are excited to use whether on a grand vacation in Spain or on your couch watching Spanish soap operas. It might take some trial and error, but you'll figure out which resources work best for you. mobile apps such as Duolingo and Babbel gamify your learning, so if you could easily spend hours playing on your phone, you'll likely find these similarly addictive. Others such as Rosetta Stone and Pimsleur are less gimmicky but more rigorously researched. Consider a conversation-based class on Italki or Idlewild. And don't neglect books. McGraw Hill and Barron's offer excellent textbooks, grammar guides, and workbooks with answer keys to let you see how you're doing. But you may enjoy children's stories more, with their simple vocabulary and easy to understand narratives. Immerse yourself in your chosen language as much as you can. Watch movies or listen to songs, even if they are just on in the background. Periodically look around you and see how many things you can name in the language you're studying. Or, better yet, label items around your home with those words. You'll have no choice but to see them and, in very little time, learn them. Get social. Practicing with other people helps solidify what you've already learned and makes you more aware of which ideas you're able to express. These need not be native speakers you chat with, though various websites and apps such as languageexchange.com, HelloTalk, and TalkAbroad can connect you with some, either free or for a small fee. Don't sweat your mistakes. Kids get it wrong all the time. They'll say, for instance, that they "goed" to school and played with other "childs." But inherent in these errors is an understanding of the general rules: We use "-ed" as a suffix to put an action in the past, we add "-s" to make things plural, and so on. Although kids often misapply these rules, they pick up on the patterns and use them in novel situations. This is what successful language learners do. Sometimes you'll miss the mark as you unknowingly stumble on an irregular verb or an exception to the rule. But more often you'll be right. And even when you do falter, those who are fluent should still be able to understand what you mean. Try less what I mean with it is that it seems counterintuitive, but you're more receptive to pick up on language patterns when you aren't hyper focused on learning them. So rather than stare intently at a vocabulary list, glance over

the words while you listen to instrumental music. Or enjoy a glass of wine ahead of conversation practice. As research at the University of Liverpool has shown, our ability to speak a second language improves after a bit of alcohol. Or turn on subtitles in the language you're learning even as you watch TV in English. But don't devote your full attention to them just enjoy the show and absorb what you can.

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