

Ideas for Language Learning & Practice

1. Whether you are in an institution (school, Bible college, hospital, etc) which requires regular working hours or in a less structured environment, set goals each month which will be achievable for you. Do this together with your language helper or facilitator and evaluate your progress together.
2. Decide how often you will either purposefully take a walk round the community or visit a national friend in their home (for example: once per day, twice per week). Listen, practice words and phrases, have fun.
3. Once a week attend meetings and/or church services in your new language. Record how many words or phrases you understand. Be encouraged!
4. As you get to know families in your area, spend time twice a week (or more) playing with the children. What games do they play? What words and phrases do you hear? Make up games that will be fun for them so you can repeatedly hear and practice words and phrases. Use the Total Physical Response games.
5. Use your tape recorder to memorise the Lord's Prayer and Bible verses. If appropriate do this together with your friends and neighbours so they also memorise!
6. Look for opportunities to pray with your friends and neighbours in your new language. Write out, and use your tape recorder to memorise prayers for various situations.
7. If the Bible is available in your new language, read a portion daily. Record one new word each day and try and use it.
8. If the newspaper is available in your new language, read a section daily.
9. Listen regularly to the radio or TV in your new language. Use your tape recorder to record phrases and/or conversations for practice and analysis.
10. What non-verbal communication are you observing? What does it mean? What gestures are not acceptable? How can you integrate these into your own lifestyle in ways that are consistent with a good Christian testimony?
11. Within six months, write out your testimony in your new language – at whatever level you are at. Practice this with a national friend/colleague/language helper – and then find an opportunity to give it in public!
12. Fill out your language progress reports regularly, and go over them with your facilitator. Ask for help in any weak areas.
13. Periodically check your progress according to the language learning levels (see Ongoing Language page for link). Do this together with your language helper or facilitator. Be encouraged! If there is slow progress that is OK. Everyone learns at different rates.
14. Use your LAMP book or LACE manual as a resource to get ideas.