

Second Language Acquisition (SLA) and assessment are at the heart of effective world language teaching. Whether you're designing daily lessons, building long-term curriculum, or evaluating student progress, the principles of SLA help you choose strategies that truly develop proficiency—not just performance. This pillar brings together the research, frameworks, and classroom tools that teachers need to create meaningful, measurable, and communicative learning experiences.

In this section, you'll find resources that translate SLA theory into practical application: formative and summative assessments, proficiency-based rubrics, ACTFL-aligned tasks, backwards-designed units, and instructional routines supported by acquisition research. You'll also find guidance for creating tasks that mirror real-world communication, promote comprehensible input, and support students as they move through each stage of proficiency.

Whether you teach Spanish, French, or any world language, this pillar is designed to help you:

- Understand how languages are acquired
- Apply research-based practices in your classroom
- Design assessments that measure real proficiency
- Build units and lessons anchored in meaningful communication
- Track growth over time with reliable tools
- Support learner autonomy, engagement, and confidence

Building Proficiency for World Language Learners: 100+ High-Interest Activities

Discover over 100 dynamic activities to make world language learning interactive and fun. I wrote this book with some of my favorite activities for educators aiming to build proficiency with high-impact strategies.

[Learn more and get your copy here.](#)

5 Weeks of No and Low Prep Fun

Need quick, engaging activities for your class? This free guide includes **25 no-prep and low-prep ideas** to save time while keeping students excited about learning.

[Download your free copy now.](#)

- **[5 Days of Language Proficiency Practice Activities](#)**

Do you feel like you (or your learners, if you teach) are just on the cusp of that point where you can start creating with language? Maybe you just need to check in and invest a bit of hard work to get there? If so, check out this collection of review activities and tasks to...

- **[Learn Languages: 25 Ways to Learn Every Day](#)**

We all have the same 24 hours in a day. Here are some ideas to turn some time every day into language learning time. Select an activity or two that realistically fits into your life, carve out some time each day and track it over the next five weeks. You will be amazed at the...

- **[Binge Watching to Learn Languages](#)**

Binge watching is one of my very favorite ways to learn languages. It takes different amounts of time to learn different categories of languages. As English speakers, the languages that take us the least amount of time to become functionally fluent in are the ones most closely related to our language. Think about England's neighbors,...

- **[The Fastest Way to Learn a Language... and the Best Way for You](#)**

When people ask about the fastest way to learn a language, the answer is simple: dive right in. Start speaking with highly proficient or native speakers of your target language and intentionally use the questions and structures you're learning. This combination—deliberate practice + real interaction—is incredibly powerful. You learn when you intentionally study questions and...

- **[Three Simple Ways to Learn a Language Without Leaving Home](#)**

Hello. Hola. Bonjour. Konnichiwa. Buongiorno. Annyeonghaseyo. Hello and welcome! If you've ever dreamed of speaking another language but felt limited by time, travel, or daily responsibilities, you're in exactly the right place. In this post, I'm going to share three simple, powerful ways to learn a language from home—no travel required, no big budget, and...

- **[How to Use This Interview Resource to Level Up Your Spanish AND French](#)**

Fluency (With English Equivalents)

This interview-based resource is a powerful tool for building real-world fluency in Spanish, French, and English. The questions included here mirror what speakers at each level (A/B/C) must be able to do according to ACTFL proficiency guidelines. You'll see: Spanish question French question English equivalent ...all aligned under the correct level. This makes the resource...

- **Low-prep World Language Activities: Reading to Learn and Grow**

Low prep world language activities can transform how students and independent learners use reading to develop real knowledge, not just vocabulary. Reading to learn means choosing texts that teach content—history, cooking, science, current events—in the target language so learners acquire vocabulary, grammar, and subject knowledge at the same time. Why reading to learn matters Once...

- **Brazilian Portuguese for Travel and Beginners**

Check out this phrasebook to get started in Brazilian Portuguese: BRazilian portuguese for Travel and Beginners by Abdul Latif

- **[Japanese for Travel and Beginners Phrasebook](#)**

Check out this phrasebook to get started in Japanese: Japanese for Travel and Beginners (1).pdf by hello5770

- **[Interpretive reading strategies: how to learn to read a new script and actually use it](#)**

Good interpretive reading strategies start with recognising that learning to read a new script is its own skill. Whether your target language uses a Latin alphabet, an alphabetic script like Hangul, or logographic characters, you need a plan that treats reading as a skill to be built deliberately and patiently. Why reading first matters Before...

- **[German for Travel and Beginners](#)**

Get started in German with this phrasebook: German for Travel and Beginners by Abdul Latif

- **[French for Travel and Beginners](#)**

Check out this phrasebook to get started in French: Copy of French for Travel and Beginners Phrase Book (Your Story) by hello5770

- **[Korean for Travel and Beginners](#)**

Check out this phrasebook to get started in Korean: Korean for Travel and Beginners PhRase Book by Abdul Latif

- **[Italian for Travel and Beginners Phrasebook](#)**

Phrasebooks are one of the simplest, most effective ways to move from knowing a few words to actually communicating. For learners at the novice level, phrasebooks provide task-based language you can use immediately—no grammar first, no perfection required. Get started in Italian with this phrasebook: Italian for Travel and Beginners by Abdul Latif

- **[Language Learning Routines: Phrasebooks](#)**

Language Learning Routines: Phrasebooks are one of the simplest, most effective ways to move from knowing a few words to actually communicating. For learners at the novice level, phrasebooks provide task-based language you can use immediately—no grammar first, no perfection required. Where phrasebooks fit in a language learning routine Language proficiency is best understood in...

- **[Fun language learning: make reading for pleasure your secret weapon](#)**

If you want to make fun language learning a reliable habit, focus on what you enjoy reading. Pleasure reading is not a luxury or an afterthought. It is one of the most powerful, sustainable ways to acquire vocabulary, grammar and cultural knowledge without stress. This post explains why reading for pleasure works, what to read,...

- **[Reading to Learn Languages: Practical second language acquisition strategies](#)**

Reading to Learn Languages: Practical second language acquisition strategies Reading is one of the most underused tools in language learning in my humble opinion, yet it offers huge leverage when used intentionally. If you want effective second language acquisition strategies that fit into a busy life, reading is where to start. The key is not...

- **[7 Essentials for Speaking Spanish Like a Native](#)**

Master key elements for fluency and high levels of proficiency in Spanish. [7 Essentials to Speak Spanish Like a Native](#) It's one language. While there are many variations of Spanish, it's still one language. Many of the words that are used in different countries are unique to that country or unique to that area. I'm...

- **[Second Language Acquisition Course: Research on Health Benefits](#)**

In this post I share what I learned interviewing Dr Thomas Bak about how language learning improves health. In this second language acquisition course, see the research on health benefits can inform your study plan. This article summarises the key findings, practical advice and simple routines you can start today. Why learning languages is a...

- **[Language Learning Routines: Making Time](#)**

This article expands on a short lesson about how to find and use time to make measurable progress in a new language. If you want practical, no-nonsense advice on building consistent language learning routines,

this guide walks through the same framework: estimate the hours, convert daily activities into study time, choose the right tools, and...

- **[Second Language Learning Acquisition Course: Errors](#)**

This post expands on the core message of a short lesson about errors in language learning from a recent video. If you're in or teaching a second language learning acquisition course, this errors module will help you shift your mindset, embrace mistakes, and turn errors into one of your most powerful learning tools. Why errors...

- **[Second Language Learning Acquisition Course: Culture](#)**

This post expands on ideas from the original video and focuses on culture as an essential pillar of any second language learning acquisition course: culture. In this guide I explain why cultural knowledge is inseparable from language learning and give practical steps to bring authentic cultural input into your routine. Why culture matters in language...

Second Language Acquisition Course: A Crash Course Guide to the Research

This post is a summary of the ideas I presented in the original video — a concise second language acquisition course: a crash course guide to the research. If you want practical ways to learn faster, read on. Below I walk through five core ideas, examples from real learners, and clear actions you can apply...

- **Second Language Acquisition: Grammar**

In this lesson I explain a practical way to think about second language acquisition and grammar. If you're trying to move from memorising rules to actually speaking, this article lays out a simple framework: treat grammar as a toolbox, not the whole job. Why grammar-as-rules often fails learners Traditional textbooks often lead with rules:...

- **Second Language Acquisition Course: Vocabulary**

This post lays out a compact, practical plan you can use today. If you're learning or teaching a second language course, you'll find clear routines, simple exercises and tools to make vocabulary learning both efficient and communicative. Why vocabulary learning is different Vocabulary is the building block of any language, but it doesn't behave the...

- **[Second Language Learning acquisition Course: Production](#)**

This article focuses on production — the active skills of writing and speaking. If you're enrolled in a second language learning acquisition course: Production or planning your own routine, this guide turns the lesson into a practical, step-by-step plan you can use immediately. Why production matters Production — speaking and writing — is the...

- **[Second Language Learning Acquisition Course: Comprehension](#)**

This article expands on the ideas from my video in the series about building a language learning routine. If you watched the episode, you'll recognise the central theme: second language learning acquisition course: comprehension is driven by the input we understand. In this post I explain the practical steps I recommend for listening and...

- **[Second Language Acquisition Course: How Long Does it Take?](#)**

Curious about how long it really takes to reach a usable level in another

language? In this brief guide based on research used by professional language trainers, you'll get clear estimates and practical context for a Second Language Acquisition Course: How Long Does it Take? — plus what those numbers actually mean for your learning...

- **[Second Language Acquisition Course: Fluency](#)**

This article expands on a short lesson about fluency from a recent video and offers practical guidance for anyone following a second language acquisition course. In it I explain what fluency really means, share important facts about how fluency develops, and give a simple plan you can use to move toward fluent communication. If you're...

- **[Second Language Acquisition Course: It's Not You](#)**

Second language acquisition can feel like a mystery: you study, complete courses, yet real conversation still seems out of reach. If you've been diligent and still wonder why progress stalls, this piece is for you. In this article I explain common problems with traditional language teaching, what lies behind them, and practical steps you can...

- **[Second Language Acquisition Course: Anyone Can Learn a Language](#)**

If you've ever struggled to learn a language, you're not alone. In this article I'll bust common myths that stop people from making progress and share a simple, practical mindset you can use to build a language learning routine that actually works. Why "Anyone Can Learn a Language" is true anyone can learn a language...