



Learning a Foreign Language

Task 2: Learning More Languages Today Than In The Past

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening for the ISE 1, listening task 2.

You are going to hear a short talk about **learning languages today**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once

Now tell me in a few words what the talk was about.

Give the candidate some blank paper

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about **learning languages today**. Are you ready?

Now tell six pieces of information about **learning languages today**.

Now let's go over the potential questions. Remember, the examiner can ask you up to 4 additional questions after you say the six pieces of information that you heard.

This is the end of listening task 2.

Audio Script

You **have to** [Semi-modal verb: have to] know that learning languages in the past was more challenging than it is today **because of** [Connector] a variety of reasons. One reason is that learning a language was more expensive in the past **in order to** [Infinitive of Purpose] get material than it is today. Nowadays, **If you want to** learn a language, you'll likely find **[first conditional / will for future use and possibilities]** many low cost and free resources today on the internet. With the coming of the internet, many things **have happened** [Present Perfect] today. Before teachers had limited resources and **were using** [Past continuous] boring methods, but now they **need to** [Semi-modal verb: need to] and are able to find interesting and fun material to help their students learn. Also, the world is more global now, and students are able to have more contact with native teachers. In the past, this **might** [Modal verb: might] not have been possible for **many** [Adverbs of Quantity] and the students lacked immersion, so they could not improve their speaking and listening skills as easily. These days, teachers are taught these skills better too, and along with that they **must** [modal verb: must] use methods that are more interactive and fun, in which students **prefer to** [Preferences] learn with, so they are motivated to learn languages better. Students also find out why learning is important, like for traveling, finishing their university degree and finding a



job. This encourages them to learn better because [Connector] they know it will help them in their future. If students want to improve their language abilities these days, they have [Zero Conditional] many ways to do it than students of the past. For example, online or in class.

Answers & Questions

1	In the past	When was it more challenging to learn a language?
2	Resources / Materials	Nowadays, what is low cost?
3	Boring	How were the methods in the past?
4	The world is more global / global world	Why do students have more contact with native teachers these days.
5	Immersion	What did students lack in the past?
6	Speaking / Listening (skills)	What abilities were hard to make better in the past?
7	interactive / fun	How do the methods of today make learning languages?
8	travelling / (finishing a) University degree / finding a job	What are some reasons that are important to learn a language?
9	For their future	Why are they encouraged to learn a language?
10	Online or in class	Where can students improve their language skills these days?

Marks: +_ / +10



Activity 2: Reading

Find grammar in the audio script and highlight it, writing behind the grammar: For example:

You must know that... = You **must [modal verb: must]** know that

Grammar list:

- Present Perfect
- Because
- Because of
- Will for future use: will probably // will surely // will likely
- Adverbial quantities: a lot // much // many
- Expressions of preferences: I prefer // I would rather // I'd rather
- Zero Conditional
- First Conditional
- Past Continuous
- Modal verb: must
- Modal verb: Might
- Semi-modal verb: have to
- Semi-modal verb: need to
- Infinitive of Purpose: in order to // so as to

Once you have found all the grammar, write down some vocabulary and ideas in the audioscript.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Activity 3: Writing

Write an article for your teacher (100 to 130 words) about different methods that a student can use to learn a language:

- >> Say what resources can be used
- >> Explain which methods work better and
- >> Suggest why it is a good idea to learn foreign languages

Plan your writing with the grammar, writing format, and ideas from the writing prompt before starting.

Remind students to:

- Use grammar, as done in the listening audio script.
- Follow writing format.
- Use specific vocabulary.
- Answer completely the writing prompt.
- Make sure not to write less than 100 words and more than 130 words.



Activity 4: Speaking

Now, think about having a two minute conversation about: What methods do you use to learn a foreign language and why? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

1. I like to use a method that is called mnemonics to learn new vocabulary. I also use flashcards and I also like to use space repetition to review what I am learning, so that I can remember it easier.
2. My favourite is mnemonics because it helps me remember things that I find difficult to remember in an interesting way.
3. My teacher taught me the mnemonics method in class.
4. I use it when I am studying at home or in class.
5. I probably use it about two to three times a week.
6. I don't like the copying method. I think it is boring and doesn't help me remember information for a long period of time.

What questions can you ask?

1. What methods do you use?
2. Which is your favourite method to use?
3. How did you learn to use this method?
4. When do you use this method?
5. How often do you study with this method?
6. Which method do you like the least?