

MFL Assessment Task Stimulus 1 - Transcript

Reflecting on my language learning experience

An interview with Anna, Guy and Hayden (not their real names)

QUESTION: Which languages do you speak?

Anna: I speak Serbian fluently and I'm currently taking French, Irish and German lessons.

Guy: I speak Dutch at home. I would consider myself fluent and I am taking Irish and Spanish in school.

Hayden: I speak English and I'm learning Spanish and Irish.

Anna: I think to be a good language learner you definitely have to be passionate about the language you're learning. Because if there isn't a specific reason you want to learn it, and if you're not determined to learn it, then it's not going to be a fun process for you.

QUESTION: How do you practise your language skills without going to a country where it is spoken?

Guy: We have quite a few exchange students or students who have come over to our school. And it sounds like eavesdropping but just listening to their conversations and understanding what they're saying, I find interesting. It also shows me how much I have learned.

Anna - Unfortunately for me I do French and we haven't received any French students so I'm still waiting for that opportunity. I haven't really been able to converse with anyone in French other than my teachers.

QUESTION: Have you ever been to a country where they speak a language you're learning?

Hayden: Usually when we're out trying to talk to tour-guides or trying to order food somewhere, I'll help people out with the menu or asking for things. I just picked up the confidence I'd say because I'm okay with making mistakes.

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QUESTION: What helps you best to learn a language?

Guy: I am a huge fan of the Big Bang theory and when I'm at home, I try to have the subtitles on in Spanish.

Anna: For me on Netflix I really like European TV series. I feel as if they're made better than in America and in the UK so I've watched loads and loads of French series and then German, Scandinavian, some Eastern European ones. It's a really good way also to absorb more vocabulary and you know, to see the type interactions that you'd find in these certain countries. So yeah, I do enjoy it and it definitely does help. I suppose it is a fictional TV series but I guess you do sort of get a feel for what it's like to live in that country or what the sort of socially acceptable or culturally acceptable things would be there.

QUESTION: Are there any other types or apps that you use?

Anna: I also use Duo Linguo which is a good app for acquiring more vocabulary for things you'd be able to use in conversation with another person in your chosen language. So combining lessons in school and using Duo Lingo, I feel, is a really effective way of learning a language.

Hayden: There's a form of media called Discord where you can text people and make calls. I've recently started to try to pick up some Swedish, not really for any reason in particular - just out of interest. I joined Discord chat for that and I've found it to be really helpful in learning pronunciation and vocabulary.

QUESTION: Are there any other languages you'd like to learn in the future?

Guy: If I could pick up another language in the future, without a doubt, it would be French - to speak to family. And I'm not sure what I do see myself doing in the future but if I do enter the business world, having my Spanish but also, I think having Japanese or Chinese - Mandarin specifically - would be very useful.

Anna: For me it would definitely be Italian or Greek because I've been to both countries and I plan on visiting both countries a lot more in the future so it definitely would be handy having them as one of those as my languages. To be able to go there and speak to the people. It's probably a very different experience than going there as a tourist that isn't able to speak the language at all. You definitely get a greater appreciation for the culture and for the people when you're able to communicate.

Hayden: I want to say Chinese since it's spreading rapidly and more and more people are speaking it. I want to have that so I can communicate with people or use it for work in the future.

Ed: Thank you to our three students for this interview