



Language-Learning Tips from a Polyglot Carpet Cleaner



Vaughn Smith is a regular guy who cleans carpets. He's learned 24 languages and counting. Here are some of his best language tips!

1. Learn from Real-Life Interaction

- ✦ Talk to people every day.
- ✦ Look for opportunities to use the language.
- ✦ Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone.

2. Use Music as a Learning Tool

- ✦ Listen to music you enjoy.
- ✦ Learn the lyrics and sing along.
- ✦ Find ways to use words from the lyrics in conversation.

3. Immerse Yourself in Social groups

- ✦ Find people who speak the language and spend time with them
- ✦ Join social media groups.
- ✦ Text and DM people in the language.

4. Follow Your Curiosity

- ✦ If something sounds interesting to learn, learn it.
- ✦ Don't feel restricted by your textbook or language course.
- ✦ The more interested you are, the more likely you'll remember it.

5. Learn through Work and Volunteering

- ✦ Find the time to incorporate work into your everyday life.
- ✦ If opportunities don't find you, look for them.
- ✦ Find ways to volunteer or help in the language within your community.

6. Engage with Native Speakers

- ◆ Ask for book and music recommendations.
- ◆ Chat about things you find interesting with them.
- ◆ Learn from them—they're better than any textbook!

7. Use Resources Around You

- ◆ Keep an open mind. Resources can be found in the most unlikely of places.
- ◆ Don't discount small resources. A little information goes a long way.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to push your limits. If it's above your level, find a way to reach it.

8. Take Advantage of Multilingual Environments

- ◆ Find places where many languages are spoken. Go there as often as you can.
- ◆ Watch movies and TV in different languages.
- ◆ Participate in language exchanges.

9. Don't Wait Until You Feel Ready

- ◆ Don't wait for that "perfect" moment. Start speaking as soon as you can.
- ◆ Expect to make mistakes, but don't let it stop you. That's where real learning begins.
- ◆ Put yourself in situations where you can practice your language often.

10. Find Personal Motivation

- ◆ What makes you excited to learn the language?
- ◆ Find that motivation and use it to move forward.
- ◆ Take note of small wins.



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