

Worksheet One: Getting Started Planning

This worksheet has been prepared as a tool to help you create a plan for your language learning. Take some time to work through it, answering each question honestly and thoroughly. Let's get started!

Step One: Where Do You Want To Go?

As you begin the journey of learning another language, think into the future a bit. Think about having the command of the language that you dream of. Now, take a moment to write a descriptive paragraph about what you would be able to accomplish with the language. Think about the highest level things you would want to be able to talk about or do successfully. I'll give you a prompt to get started.

In my new language I will be able to . . .

With what you have just written in mind, take a moment to work through the AFTCL scale below.

You can learn more about the ACTFL and see the complete scale by visiting their website:
<http://www.actfl.org>

NOVICE	BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
<p><u>Novice speakers are able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -use basic courtesies of daily life; greetings, leave takings, apologies and gratitude. -respond to simple questions on the most common features of life -get their point across to speakers who are experienced in dealing with language learners by using individual words, lists of words, memorized phrases, by sometimes making up their own sentences -satisfy a very limited number of immediate needs 	<p><u>Beginning speakers are able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -participate in simple, direct conversation on general and predictable topics related to daily activities and personal environment -create with the language and communicate personal meaning to patient listeners by combining what they have learned into sentences and expressions -obtain and give information by asking and answering questions -sustain and end a number of basic conversations -satisfy simple personal needs and social demands to survive in the target language culture 	<p><u>Intermediate speakers are able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -participate actively in most informal and some formal settings on topics of personal interest -narrate and describe about things in the past, present and the future and talk about things that are continuing and that have been completed -deal effectively with unanticipated complication through a variety of communicative devices -sustain conversation by using connected speech of paragraph length and substance -satisfy the demands of most work or school situations 	<p><u>Advanced speakers are able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -participate fully and effectively in conversations in formal and informal settings on topics related to practical needs and areas of professional or academic interest -provide a structured argument to explain and defend opinions and develop ideas within extended conversation -discuss topics concretely and abstractly -deal with an unfamiliar situation -maintain a high degree of accuracy in word choice and grammar -satisfy the demands of a professional or academic life

Write down the level which will signify a successful language learning journey.

My End Vision Goal:

Step Two: Where Are You Right Now?

Now, take a moment to write about your level in the language at this moment. If you haven't started at all, it'll be a short paragraph!

Now, take a moment to look back at the scale and identify your current level.

Right Now I Am Able To . . .

Where Are You Right Now?

Step Three: What Do You Need To Learn?

What are your ten most pressing language needs? If tomorrow you were to move in with a native speaking family who knew no English, what would be most important?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Step Four: How Can You Learn It?

Now it's time to dream. I want you to think about every available language learning method, activity, tool, task and resource known to mankind (or at least that you have heard of). Make a list in the box below. You will find a host of other ideas in the back of the Getting Started Guide, but this is an exercise to get the creative juices flowing. I'll give you one to begin.

-One native speaking friend who is patient, kind, and understanding, is excited to be able to help you learn his or her language, is always free and lives nearby.