

Why Are you Stuck in a Language-Learning Plateau?

by © Monica Di Santi ♦



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After studying a foreign language for a while you may have a sense of slowing down. Becoming proficient turns into a long steep road. Discouragement invades you and you wonder if you can really achieve your goal. **This is a common experience among foreign language learners.**

Why?

When you start learning a foreign language you make much progress every day. You deal with greetings and speaking about yourself, celebrities and friends in a simple way.

Awesome!

These chunks of language can be easily applied to every day life. They give you a great satisfaction and enthusiasm to go ahead.

You can communicate in simple statements.

But, when you reach a lower intermediate level, you may struggle to move forward because progress decreases when the task is complex. You have to face:

- **Complexity of the structure** together with creation of ideas and pronunciation makes the task slow.

Now you have to combine statements to produce a more elaborate communication. You have to choose the right grammar, appropriateness of statement and use the best pronunciation you can produce. No doubt is a big challenge.

- **Shortage of vocabulary**, makes you feel insecure about your message because it's not precise.

Now it's time to use more suitable descriptive adjectives and strong verbs. Now you can use "navy blue" or "light blue" instead of simply "blue" or you have to know the difference between "eat" and "feed."

One way to deal with this is to read extensively. You can also look for specific vocabulary according to different situations. Let's suppose you want to describe a person you saw in the street in details. Look for descriptions of people online and choose phrases that help you describe your person. Then try to use the new phrases as much as you can. This way they'll become part of your new vocabulary.

- **Speaking and Writing** the language is much more complex than reading and listening.

Expressing your thoughts and feeling in a foreign language can be a challenge. The only way of improving your performance in this area is constant practice. Speak and write regularly. Become an active social media participant will give you the opportunity of express yourself and share your adventures with your peers.

- **More steady effort is necessary** to progress less. This is just the result of complexity.

How Can you Overcome This Language-Learning Plateau?

- **Make a plan of work.** If you're serious about your progress you need to plan your activities in advance. As you know, when you don't plan, you plan to fail. Schedule your activities so you know what you'll be doing.
- **Set small goals with deadlines.** Even if you have a big goal to achieve at the end of the next three months, set baby goals for each day. This way you'll be happy to achieve them and have a sense of progress.
- **Get an accountability partner** to whom you have to report your progress. We are all humans, and from time to time, we get discouraged. You can avoid this if you tell somebody about your progress. He can be a friend or a significant other. The point is to have somebody who will be expecting you to do your job.
- **Look for motivation to keep you going.** Doing things with a purpose is a great tool to motivate yourself and keep going ahead. Organize a trip to where the language is spoken, meet some native people in your country or set a goal for your job.
- **Look for new ideas to move forward** in your language learning process in **Fun with Languages**. This ebook can teach you how to:
 - Create new language habits
 - Practice the language in informal situations
 - Enjoy the target culture humor
 - Use authentic information to skyrocket your learning

With a clear goal, motivation and rewards you'll advance successfully. Once you achieve your goal always reward yourself.

If you need ideas to practice your foreign language "**Fun with Languages**" can provide you with plenty of helpful suggestions.

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