

Benny's Top 5 Language Hacks to Accelerate Your Learning

A language hacking resource
from Fluent in 3 Months





What's the best way to learn a language?

I've spent over a decade of trial-and-error as a language learner to discover the fastest, smartest ways to speak a new language. I took careful notes, and documented what I found, so I could help others learn to speak a new language with ease.

That's how I discovered "language hacks" - these are the mindset shifts and methods that will get you to fluency faster.

I have dozens of language hacks that I share with my readers and students.

Here are five of the most powerful language hacks that every language learner should follow. I only wish they taught these in school!

Benny Lewis

Founder and CEO, Fluent in 3 Months

Find Your “Big Why” for Learning a Language

Before you think about which materials to study, or your method for learning a language, you need to take a step back and understand your underlying reason for wanting to speak that language.

This is your **Big Why**.

My “Big Why” is an unquantifiable passion for languages. It isn’t something measurable like “So I can speak to X number of people in the world”, but it has to do with enriching my life with friendships and experiences, which you can’t really measure.

Here are some reasons for learning another language that could be your “Big Why”:

- To have conversations family members who speak the language
- To teach your kids the language, opening up more life opportunities for them
- To find a job overseas
- To speak with the locals as you travel
- To read the classics of literature in your new language
- To enjoy TV shows in another language
- To get an inside view of another culture

Find your “Big Why” and you’ll discover that learning a language becomes a challenge that you love. So even on the more difficult days, you’ll have the motivation and passion to keep learning.

2.

Create an Immersion Environment in Your Home (No Need to Travel)

You don't need to live overseas to immerse yourself in another language. There are many ways to plunge yourself headfirst into a new language wherever you live.

Here are a few of my top ways to bring another language to your home:

- Make your phone or computer multilingual by changing the language settings
- Meet native speakers online using platforms like Preply or italki
- Watch television and movies in your target language
- Read articles and books in in your target language
- Listen to music and podcasts in your target language

Not sure whether this approach is for you? I learned Japanese while living in Spain and Egyptian Arabic while living in Brazil.

If I did it with Japanese and Arabic, I'm sure you can learn any language to conversational level this way!

3.

Use “Conversational Connectors” to Get Into Your Flow

Almost all languages follow a set of call and response phrases that I call conversational connectors. These are crucial to everyday conversations, but they aren’t usually found in phrase-books.

When my friend Anthony Lauder introduced me to conversational connectors a few years ago, they blew my mind.

They’re a great technique for sounding more like a native speaker, for removing the awkwardness from conversations, and for giving yourself time to recall vocabulary.

Here’s an example of how they work.

When someone asks you “How is your hotel room?” instead of answering with “um ... good”, which pretty much ends things right on the spot, you might add in phrases and expressions to create a more organic feel to what you are saying.

You could say: “To tell the truth, that is a good question. The hotel room is good. Thanks for asking. How is your hotel room?”

This is exactly the same answer with conversational connectors added in.

Conversational connectors are extremely helpful because you can use them in a variety of situations such as agreeing with someone, sharing your opinion, or changing the subject.

Find Native Speakers and Speak from Day One

My Speak from Day One approach is the fastest and most efficient way to learn a new language - especially if you have real conversations with native speakers.

No matter where you live you can still find people, either online or offline, to speak with in your target language. I connect with native speakers by:

- **Browsing Preply.** Preply is my go-to place to find native speakers. The prices are reasonable (especially compared to private, face-to-face lessons) and you can meet in the comfort of your own home. Plus, Preply has a wide selection of tutors and languages you can choose from.
- **Meeting up with other language learners.** On MeetUp.com you can find weekly language related meetups in many major cities around the world. I've also been successful using CouchSurfing to connect with conversation partners for other languages.
- **Installing the HelloTalk app on my smartphone.** This handy language-learning app helps you connect with other language learners around the world and is a great place to practise speaking.

The best way to begin speaking from day one is simply learning how to book your first conversation and just dive in.

If you're unsure where to start, I recommend checking out my [Conversation Countdown](#) course.

5.

Learn “Me-Specific” Vocabulary

You’ll learn a language much faster if you focus on words and phrases that are relevant to your life

Plus, when you have real conversations in your new language you’ll be able to talk about yourself.

That’s why I recommend creating a personalised phrasebook. This is a collection of words and phrases that are relevant to you, and that allow you to share about your life.

I recommend you start by learning phrases so you can talk about:

- Where you live
- Your family and friends
- Your hobbies and interests
- Your job or vocation
- Why you’re learning a new language

Conversational fluency in a new language is just around the corner! And now you have the language hacks you need to get started and accelerate your learning.

Want to learn more language hacks, and be part of a community that's putting language hacks into action?

Then join us in the [Fluent in 3 Months Bootcamp](#). You'll have a 15-minute conversation in your new language after just 90 days.



