

# Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS vii

INTRODUCTION

## **My Story, Your Passion 1**

*Your story, like mine, begins and ends with passion—  
the surest path to learning a new language.*

CHAPTER 1

## **Destroying Twenty Common Language Learning Myths 15**

*Stop making excuses. There's simply no reason you  
"can't" learn a new language, and I'll tell you why.*

CHAPTER 2

## **Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It 49**

*Do away with vague daydreams, such as "learn Spanish," by setting  
specific end goals within specific time frames and incorporating  
new language learning techniques to achieve concrete results.*

CHAPTER 3

## **How to Learn Thousands of Words Quickly 67**

*If you don't have the memory of a supercomputer, don't worry.  
This chapter explains why we forget things and teaches a much  
more efficient—and fun—way to remember foreign words.*

CHAPTER 4

## **Immersion Without Buying a Plane Ticket 87**

*You don't need to be in a foreign country to learn the language.  
You can do it from the comfort of your home or local community.*

CHAPTER 5

**Speaking from Day One** 107

*Start speaking a new language right away with helpful conversational connectors and easy-to-follow “cheats” for when you don’t know the words you want to say.*

CHAPTER 6

**Tips for Starting Specific Languages** 137

*Learning a specific language is easier than you think. Here I tell you why.*

CHAPTER 7

**From Fluency to Mastery** 177

*Strive toward fluency, and beyond, by coming back to the academic aspects better suited to this part of the language learning process.*

CHAPTER 8

**How to Get Mistaken for a Native Speaker** 199

*It’s time to go beyond fluency by adapting to the local culture, until a stranger mistakes you for a native!*

CHAPTER 9

**Hyperpolyglot: When One Is Just Not Enough** 217

*Take language learning to the next level. Speak multiple languages without mixing them up or forgetting the one you’ve already mastered.*

CHAPTER 10

**Free and Cheap Language Learning 2.0** 233

*Study a new language beyond spoken practice sessions with invaluable—and mostly free—resources.*

**Conclusion** 247