



# Learning to fly in MFL

These are the skills and habits which outstanding students of MFL develop. Do as many of these as possible to become completely independent in the subject and to develop the skills and knowledge needed to attain 8/9 at GCSE and A\* at A Level. **Remember that just doing what your teacher tells you - in your lessons and beyond - is not enough to develop your full potential in the subject.**

## In your lessons

- Focus on the language you're learning *throughout* the lesson
- Express yourself in the language to the teacher and other students – practice makes perfect
- Don't worry too much about making mistakes – you learn from mistakes (yours and other people's)
- Try to work things out for yourself before asking the teacher – use **Brain** (think about it) – **Book** - (look it up) – **Buddy** (ask a friend) – **Boss** (ask the teacher)!
- Make sure you do ask the teacher if you're still unsure

## Between your lessons

- Looking back over your notes and activities from the last lesson. Try to do this as soon after the lesson as possible, before you forget it!
- Writing down questions about words and ideas you don't understand to bring to your next lesson.
- Contact your teacher to ask for clarification and guidance if you're stuck – don't wait till the next lesson
- Use the teacher's feedback to redraft your work and make sure you've really understood (you may be given time for this in lessons too)
- If you have missed a lesson, make sure you find out what you missed

## Beyond your lessons

*This is generic advice. Your language teacher will guide you to materials specific to the language you are learning.*

### KS3:

- Use language learning apps and websites e.g. Languages Online, Zut, Kerboodle, Duolingo, Memrise, Quizlet, kahoot to practise vocabulary and structures. You can compete against your friends!
- Use YouTube songs and videos e.g. Extra to help with listening and memorising skills

### KS4:

- Use any of the apps and websites above
- Watch the recommended online language learning videos e.g. Easy German, Videoele
- Talk to your friends and family about what you have read/ watched. Maybe set up a Group Chat – using the language!
- Use the online kerboodle textbook for French, German and Spanish for extra practice of specific areas. There are interactive exercises which give you instant feedback.
- Change the setting on your phone so date, time, routine messages are displayed in the language. This will reinforce the language painlessly!
- Keep a learning diary or blog of your independent learning including new language learnt

### KS5:

All of the advice for KS4, plus:

- Keep up to date with current affairs by browsing the websites of broadcasters and newspapers/ get podcasts or news summaries sent to your phone. It's helpful to look at/listen to stories you're aware of from UK sources e.g. refugee crisis? Brexit? The environment? as your prior knowledge will help you understand. Watch films in the language –there's a good selection in the school library.

**Of course we recognise that our students have busy lives and that this level of engagement is not always possible all the time - but this is what you should aim for if you want to reach the highest level in the subject.**

## Spanish

To make real progress in Spanish you have to find opportunities to read widely, to listen to the language whenever possible and to find out as much as you can about the history, culture, politics and geography of Spanish speaking countries. The more you are able to immerse yourself in this other world, the more successful you will be with your studies.

Here are some of the things you can do to further your studies:

- Read regularly – books and magazines are available from the library. Many newspapers have very good online editions which are free to read [www.elpais.com](http://www.elpais.com) and [www.abc.es](http://www.abc.es) are a good source of interesting articles.
- Listen to Spanish regularly. Try to listen to the news each day. [www.rtve.es](http://www.rtve.es) has a very good 4 minute daily news programme – telediario en 4. This can also be downloaded as an app to listen to on those long bus journeys.
- Watch foreign films – borrow from the library or the MFL department. Why not write a review in Spanish of a film you have seen?
- Travel abroad whenever the opportunity arises. Take part in school trips, especially the work experience trip to Spain.
- Research - choose a topic that interests you and explore it in your own time.

### Some films to explore:

- **Volver** – Almodóvar
- **Mar Adentro** – Amenábar
- **Diarios de Motocicleta** – Walter Salles
- **Maria Full of Grace** – Joshua Marston
- **Voces Inocentes** – Luis Mandoki
- **Sin Nombre** – Cary Fukunaga
- **Nueve reinas** – Fabián Bielinsky
- **No** – Pablo Larrain
- **Machuca** – Andrés Wood
- **Bombón el perro** – Pablo Larrain
- **Las 13 rosas** – Emilio Lazaro
- **Viridiana** – Luis Bunuel
- **Cría cuervos** – Carlos Saura

### Some books to consider:

- Federico García Lorca - Bodas de sange, Yerma, La casa de Bernarda Alba
- Ramón Sender - Réquiem por un Campesino Español
- Laura Esquivel – Como agua para cholcolate
- García Marquez – 100 años de soledad, El coronel no tiene quien le escriba
- Miguel Delibes - El Camino

- John Hooper – The new Spaniards
- Giles Tremlett – Ghosts of Spain
- Hugh Thomas – The Spanish Civil War
- George Orwell – Homage to Catalonia
- Frank McLynn – Villa and Zapata, the Mexican revolution

## German

To make real progress in German and become fluent, you need to seize every opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the countries where it is spoken. You should try to read and listen to German when you can and find out as much as possible about the history, people, geography and culture of German-speaking countries and communities.

Here are some ideas you may like to try:

- Research all sorts of cultural information about Germany and try out the quizzes to practise your language at [www.ukgermanconnection.org](http://www.ukgermanconnection.org)
- Listen to songs or watch music videos in German - try <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/mus/cli/enindex.htm>
- Learn German with all things football with the Goethe Institut Step-into-German website: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/soc/wbw/enindex.htm>
- Watch German TV for young people and read short articles at <http://www.tivi.de>
- Watch German television. Try <http://mediathek.daserste.de/> or <http://www.rtl.de>
- Download a podcast to listen to while you are travelling. Radio D is a special programme for learners of German: <http://www.dw.de/learn-german/radio-d-teil-1/s9672>
- Read a daily newspaper via <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/> or <http://www.zeit.de/index>
- Watch films you love with German subtitles and/or audio
- Research a German recipe and make it at home Research a German speaking country or community – and produce a guide in a form of your choice Increase your daily exposure to German by switching the language on your mobile and facebook over to German
- Visit the German Christmas markets and find a German stallholder to try out your language skills
- Go abroad, taking advantage of trips and the German Exchange

It really doesn't matter what you read or research, the important thing is to find something that interests you. You might like to consider:

- Das Wunder von Bern Sönke Wortmann
- Emil und die Detektive, Franziska Buch
- Die wilden Kerle Joachim Massanek
- Kokowääh Til Schweiger

## French

Learning a language is a lot like learning a musical instrument– the more you practise, the more concerts you attend, the more music you hear, the greater your mastery of that instrument. Language used in the classroom is useful, but there is always so much more that you can't learn in a single hour!

To become fluent in a language, you have to find as many ways as possible to immerse yourself in the language and culture of the country (or countries) where it is spoken.

- The obvious way to do this is to go abroad, taking advantage of school trips and exchanges, but at home, you might like to try:

- Review your learning and go beyond set classroom topics on [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) and [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) Get the latest news at <http://www.newsinslowfrench.com/>
- Find key topics and short online activities on [www.funwithlanguages.vacau.com](http://www.funwithlanguages.vacau.com)
- Listen to French radio, or download a podcast for the journey to school: [www.franceinfo.fr](http://www.franceinfo.fr) (Podcast)
- Research articles affecting young people at : [www.1jour1actu.com](http://www.1jour1actu.com)
- Read a daily newspaper via [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr) or [www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr) or the more accessible [www.lepetitquotidien.fr](http://www.lepetitquotidien.fr)
- Listen to French songs to practise your pronunciation at: [www.lepointdufle.net/chansons.htm](http://www.lepointdufle.net/chansons.htm)
- Participate in Routes into Languages competitions
- Research a French recipe and make it at home
- Research a French speaking country– and produce a guide in a form of your choice
- Follow your favourite French football or rugby team at [www.lequipe.fr](http://www.lequipe.fr)
- Watching French television: go to [www.tf1.fr](http://www.tf1.fr) to access news, sports and cultural programmes

It really doesn't matter what you read or research, the important thing is to find something that interests you. You might like to consider:

- **Le Petit Prince** Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- **Le Petit Nicolas** Laurent Tirard
- **Les aventures de Tintin: Le secret de la licorne** Steven Spielberg & Peter Jackson (French subtitles / audio!)
- **Les choristes** Christophe Barratier
- **Entre les murs** Laurent Cantet
- **Les 400 coups** François Truffaut
- **Au revoir les enfants** Louis Malle
- **Asterix et Cléopâtre** Louis Leterrier
- **Etre et avoir** Nicolas Philibert

You might like to try reading a longer novel– or collection of short stories. E-reader owners also have access to many French books for free via [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

- **Les vacances du Petit Nicolas** SEMPÉ-GOSCINNY
- **Oscar et la Dame rose** Eric Emmanuel-Schmidt
- **Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du coran** Eric Emmanuel-Schmidt

If that's not enough, ask in the languages office about a subscription to the Mary Glasgow French magazines which are aimed at people your age.