

# HOW TO LEARN A LANGUAGE IN UNDER 24 HOURS

## 1. Pronunciation

Learning the pronunciation and writing system of the target language is always the necessary first step before starting to speak. If the target language has an unfamiliar writing system, try to find resources that use a transliterated writing system, like 'pinyin' for Mandarin Chinese. Listening to audio can be helpful to learn accurate pronunciation.

## 2. Pronouns

Pronouns are used in almost every sentence. Learn the most important declensions, which are usually the nominative (subject pronouns), accusative (direct object pronouns), and dative (indirect object pronouns). To save time, focus on the most important pronouns, which are usually 'I', 'you', and 'it'.

## 3. Top Verbs

Mastering the most important verbs will allow you to converse in any context.

**TOP 10 VERBS IN ANY LANGUAGE:** to be, to have (to)\*, to want\*, to need\*, to be able to\*, to go\*, to know\*, to do, to understand, to think/believe

**\*MASTER THESE VERBS (auxiliary/modal/handle verbs)!!!**

## 4. Important Irregular Verbs

Learning all the exceptions to all the rules is not reasonable. Therefore, only learn the irregular conjugations for the most important verbs in the most important tenses. This principle also applies to other rules/exceptions. Do not learn them unless they will be used frequently.

## 5. Tenses/Moods

Only learn the most important tenses. Present tense is by far the most important. Other tenses may be learned quickly given the language. For example, some languages use the infinitive as the imperative, or use a single word to signify the future tense. Only focusing on the conjugations for 'I', 'you', and 'it' can save time.

Other tenses/moods are not needed for basic speech.

## 6. Word Order

Learn the word order for the 3 most important simple sentences: declaratives, negations, and interrogatives. If it is different, learn the syntax for handle verbs, and using conjunctions like 'but' and 'because' to join two simple sentences.

## 7. Interrogatives

Learn the basics: who, what, where, when, why, how, how much. Some language may have other interrogatives – only choose the most relevant ones.

## 8. Articles and Nouns

Learn how to use nouns. This may require learning articles. Articles are more complicated in some languages than in others, but they are important omitting or misusing articles in a language that has articles can result in foreign-sounding speech. Ex. "I go to restaurant to eat sandwich."

## 9. Possessives

Possessive adjectives are very useful. Focusing only on "my" and "yours" can save time.

## 10. Demonstratives

Both demonstrative adjectives and pronouns are important. Learning these will enable useful sentences like "I want that" or "I want to go to this place".

## 11. Other Useful Words

These include the basic 'yes'/'no'; conjunctions like 'but' and 'because'; indispensable prepositions like 'to', 'in', 'for', and 'from'; adjectives like 'also', 'a lot', and 'very'; and the numbers.

## 12. Top Nouns

Learning nouns is the lowest priority because they are easy to learn. With a simple dictionary app, you can look up any noun you want. It is hard to generalize what the most important nouns are because this will depend greatly on the context and situation of the learner. For example, a student would want to learn words like 'university' and 'student', whereas a businessman would want to learn words like 'meeting' and 'business'.

*This guide describes what I believe are the 12 most important areas of focus (ordered by importance) when attempting to learn a language in a short amount of time. Although most of the relevant information can be summarized on 1-2 pages, it is useful to learn about these 12 areas in a bit more detail from some language learning resource. Also, since such 1-2 page language guides that cover all 12 of these areas practically don't exist, you will almost definitely need to use different sources to learn about these topics.*

# LEARN GERMAN IN UNDER 24 HOURS

I do not claim fluency in German, and therefore I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information on this non-exhaustive, highly abbreviated sheet. Although this is a summary of the information I compiled to learn German, it is meant to serve simply as an example of how a language summary sheet can be written to facilitate fast and efficient language acquisition.

**Pronunciation notes:** W's are pronounced as V's, 'sp' and 'st' are pronounced 'shp' and 'sht', 'ch' after certain vowels is pronounced like the 'h' in 'huge'.

## Pronouns:

Nominative	Accusative	Dative
ich	mich	mir
du	dich	dir
er/sie/es	ihn/sie/es	ihm /ihr/ihm
wir	uns	uns
ihr	euch	euch
sie/Sie	sie/Sie	ihnen/Ihnen

**Top verbs:** \*indicates irregular. Present tense endings are –e for I, –en for we, you, they, –t for he, she it.

To be	Sein*	To say	Sagen
To have	Haben*	To understand	Verstehen
To want	Wollen*	To speak	Sprechen*
To need	Brauchen	To think	Glauben
To be able	Können*	To do	Tun*
To know	Wissen*	To go	Gehen*

## Conjugations of some irregular verbs:

	Infinitive	haben	sein
singular	ich	habe	bin
	du	hast	bist
	er / sie / es	hat	ist
plural	wir	haben	sind
	ihr	habt	seid
	Sie / sie	haben	sind

**Word order notes:** the first conjugated verb is always the second sentence element. Certain conjunctions like 'that' (dass) and interrogatives in the middle of a sentence send the first conjugated verb to the end of the sentence

- **Declarative:** SVO, SVOV with handle verbs
- **Negations:** 'nicht' goes before what is negated, after the first conjugated verb
- **Interrogatives:** inversion, ex. Haben Sie = Do you have

## Interrogatives:

Who	Wer	From where	Woher
What	Was	When	Wann
Where	Wo	Why	Warum
To where	Wohin	How	Wie

**Possessives:** (decline like indefinite articles) mein, dein, sein, unser, euer, ihr

**Demonstratives:** (decline like indefinite articles) This : dieser, diese, dieses ; That : jener, juer, jeues

## Articles:

	masc.	neut.	fem.	pl.
nominative	der	das	die	
accusative	den	das	die	
dative	dem		der	den
genitive	des		der	

	masc.	neut.	fem.	pl.
nominative	(k)ein	(k)ein	(k)eine	
accusative	(k)einen	(k)ein	(k)eine	
dative	(k)einem		(k)einer	(k)einen
genitive	(k)eines		(k)einer	

## Some important nouns:

Water	Wasser	One	Eins
House	Haus	Two	Zwei
Food	Lebensmittel	Three	Drei
Time	Zeit	Four	Vier

## Some important nouns:

For	Fur	And	Und
All	Alle	Very	Sehr
But	Aber	Yes	Ja
Because	denn	No	nein

**References:** aclery.wordpress.com, marathonsprachen.com, Wikipedia.org, duolingo.com