

Using Internet
to learn a
language



The Internet provides great **freedom of choice**, offering a wide range of resources; however, it is advisable to identify the right strategy to make the most of these. The Internet, with its multi-media, interactive and interdisciplinary features, offers opportunities for combining study and leisure!

Here is some useful advice:

Alternate **grammar and vocabulary exercises** with time dedicated to “**edu-recreational**” activities such as:

listening to **audiobooks, audio-stories, audio-fairy tales**. Some sites allow you to **download free podcasts and mp3s**;

reading **newspapers and magazines online**; you may also find slowly read audio-newscasts, together with a transcript and glossary explaining recurring terms in the journalistic language used;

watching **films or news broadcasts**, choosing from the many **Web TVs** available on the network;

listening to the radio and songs: **songs** are useful for listening to pronunciation and rhythm. There are sites offering transcriptions of the lyrics and comprehension exercises. Try to transcribe the lyrics using the audio track as a dictation;

practicing by **trying out the recipe** for a typical dish from various culinary traditions by visiting the many cooking sites that offer video-recipes;

consulting **web pages featuring topics of personal interest** (e.g. sports, cinema, travel etc.)

Select and create your own **personal list of sites and apps** (many are free of charge) that best match your own needs and interests.

Try to understand your own personal learning style and why you want to learn the language. This will allow you to set yourself **realistic goals** and understand what is useful to study: you don't need to know everything!

Strive to **repeat phrases, words and expressions out loud**: this will improve your pronunciation and increase your confidence in the spoken language. The native **mother-tongue speakers** of TV broadcasts, films or clips on YouTube can serve as models to follow: pay particular attention to the gestures and to pronunciation as well as intonation.

Through the internet you will be able to connect with mother-tongue speaking people: **virtual language exchange partners** with whom to exchange **emails, chat via webcam or call on Skype**, as well as participate in discussions on topics of interest in virtual forums etc;

Almost all online courses offer **sample role play dialogues** for many of the typical situations one encounters in daily life, allowing you to learn useful expressions, (e.g. making a telephone call, asking for information at the post office or at the bank, etc.).

The Internet allows you to **repeat** the same exercise and reuse the same resource topics several times; in addition, it provides an opportunity for you to test your progress through on-line tests.

Our dedicated online resource page
www.provincia.bz.it/languages/online-resources
offers some useful suggestions for **learning through the internet**

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