

Assignment what is the best way to learn a language in class, out of class or a combination of the two?

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Essay#1  
Tues Feb 10

### Language Immersion is the Best Way to Study a New Language

Language immersion is a method of teaching unlike traditional teaching. The students are surrounded and immersed in a second language. It is the fastest and the best way to learn a new language.

There are many methods to study second languages. Some people like to go to school. They learn a new language in the class. For example, I have a friend who graduated from, Shanghai Foreign Language School. Her major was English literature. Before her four year language school, she had studied English for seven years (three years for middle school and four years for high school). That means she spent 11 years studying English. Sometimes we talk on the phone. She says that her English reading and writing are good, but speaking and listening still need to improve. Until now, she can't communicate with English speakers very fluently, because there are not many opportunities to practice. In class learning is not adequate for her. She is planning to come to the U.S.A. to enhance her English skills.

On the other hand, other people decide to go out of class, because they consider that talking to native speakers is fastest and most directed. Last summer, I joined a CAN class. One of my classmates immigrated here 30 years ago. He became an American citizen.. His job is a salesman. He speaks English very fluently. But when it comes to

reading and writing, he meets a lot of problems. He explained that he never went to language school. He learned English at work. Although he is a smart man, his limited language interfered with him to get a good job.

According to research, most people agree language immersion is the fastest and most efficient way to study a new language. Many facts support this opinion. My son is the example. When we first came here two years ago, my son knew nothing about English even simple words, because there is no English class for 8 year old kids at school in China. So he had to face a lot of troubles by himself. No kids wanted to talk and play with him. He couldn't catch up with the class at the first year. He was so upset and sad. However after some period of time, he felt better and better. There are Math, Science, Language Art, Music, and PE classes at school. His teachers are nice and patient. They try their best to help him. In his spare time, my son likes to read books and watches TV. He also joins in the after school sport program conducted in English. In this situation, his English is much better than before. He has some good friends now. He is happy and making good progress every day. Language immersion helped and changed him in a short time.

In contrast to traditional language learning, the advantages of language immersion are that people can learn a new language faster and more efficient. Immersion students acquire comprehensive skills (including reading, writing, listening and speaking). They are more successful, because language immersion is a combination of in class and out of class language learning.

