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Language Centre

Ciao!



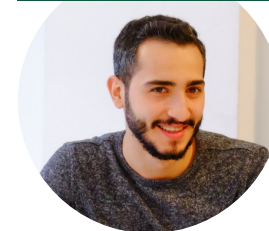
Hej!



Hello!



Learning languages
in tandem
Tips for effective collaboration



Привет!



What is a language tandem?

A language learning tandem is a form of language **learning partnership** between speakers of different native/first languages who want to improve their knowledge of the other's language, e.g. between a learner of French with German as their first language and a learner of German with French as their first language.

The **tandem partners** meet each other on a regular basis and **communicate** in the languages they have learned. The focus is usually on oral interaction.



Roles in the tandem

Reflect on the roles you take on in the tandem. It is important to remember that it is not a teacher-student relationship!

When I speak in my first language ...

- I adapt to the other person.
- I listen attentively and understand.
- I respect the needs and requests of the other person.
- I offer constructive feedback

When I speak in the foreign language ...

- I decide on the content.
- I have prepared well beforehand.
- I am active and take the initiative.
- I say when I need help.

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Location

Guiding questions:

- Where do we want to meet?
- Face-to-face or online?
- Which atmosphere do I need to be able to learn?

Tip: Especially at the beginning of tandems, neutral spaces are ideal. At the university you will find many options: meeting rooms in the library, the cafeteria, seating areas in the corridors, etc.



Time

Guiding questions:

- When
 - How often
 - For how long
- } should we meet?
- Which language is spoken when?
 - When will the tandem end?

Tip: It is recommended to schedule regular meetings. Furthermore, you should agree on a date for a final session and then talk about the experiences you have made in the tandem.



The first meeting

Guiding questions:

- Why am I learning this language?
- What do I want to achieve in the tandem?
- What is (still) difficult for me?
- What is my best way to learn?
- What do I need to be able to learn?
- Which learning materials do I want to use?
- Which rules are important to me?



Correction and feedback

Decide together how you would like to approach errors/mistakes and feedback.

Guiding questions:

- When do you want to be corrected?
- What should be corrected?
- How should feedback be given?

Possible ways to correct errors/mistakes:

- Write down & discuss at the end
- Repeat sentence/structure correctly (no direct correction)
- Immediate correction

Tip: Who speaks in the foreign language should decide on the method of correction. Don't forget positive feedback!



Reflection of a meeting

Take time after each meeting to reflect about it.

Guiding questions:

- What have I learned?
- What do I still want to learn?
- What would I like to do more/less of?
- What did I most like/dislike?
- What helped me to learn?

Tip: Integrate the results of the reflection into the planning of the next meeting.

Advice: Topics that are currently being covered in the language course are very suitable for further discussion in the tandem.