



# 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, Seneca, BBC Bitesize, 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 and Meet the Germans Videos, The Deutsche Welle Online Series like Nicos Weg
- Talk to your friends and family about what you have read/ watched. Maybe set up a Group Chat – using the language!

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- Use the online Kerboodle textbook for German for extra practice of specific areas. The interactive exercises will 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 with couple of clicks!
- Keep a learning diary or blog of your independent learning including new language and show your extra work to your teacher for some extra achievement credits.

### 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 is helpful to look at/listen to stories you are aware of from UK sources e.g. refugee crisis? Brexit? The environment? The general elections? Your prior knowledge will help you understand better. Watch films in the language – there is a good selection in the school library or why not sign up for the German Online Library at the Goethe Institut where you can rent Films or borrow books.

**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.**

## German

German is a language with a long history in writing, music, and the arts. It is the language of Goethe, Schiller, Mozart, Beethoven, Einstein ... the list just goes on. To accelerate your progress in German and become more 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 might like to try out and help you to incorporate German into your usual daily activities and interests like:

- ★ Listen to songs or watch music videos in German – why not 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> or explore the latest EURO 24 Fußballfieber on <https://www.deutschland.de/de/euro-2024-in-deutschland>
- ★ Watch German TV for young people and read short articles at <http://www tivi.de>; try <http://mediathek.daserste.de/> or <http://www.rtl.de> or
- ★ Explore the Germany's first channel **ARD: Das Erste** and its iPlayer **Mediathek**, including some programmes **with subtitles** and news from **Tagesschau**; as well as the second channel **ZDF: Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen**
- ★ 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> <https://www.newsinslowgerman.com/home/news/intermediate>

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- ★ Research a German recipe and make it at home: Why not cook with the 17-year-old-Maya Leinenbach, Germany's most successful Vegan Food Blogger with 3.9M followers on Instagram? <https://www.instagram.com/fitgreenmind/>
- ★ Be brave and increase your daily exposure to German by switching the language on your mobile and Instagram or Facebook over to German.
- ★ 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)
- ★ Visit the German Christmas markets and find a German stallholder to practise your German.
- ★ Go abroad to a German speaking country - travel with your family or take advantage of our trips and the German Exchange
- ★ Watch films you love with German subtitles and audio on Netflix, Prime, Disney, iPlayer
- ★ Or Step straight Into German and watch some popular German Films like:
  - Der Ballon
  - Das Wunder von Bern
  - Der große Traum
  - Alanya -Willkommen in Deutschland
  - Ostwind
  - Das doppelte Lottchen
  - Vorstadt Krokodile
  - Tschick
  - Kokowääh with Til Schweiger
  - Good Bye Lenin
  - Rennt Lola Rennt
  - Das Leben der Anderen
- ★ Make German Reading one of your 5s a day and take a pick from the list of shorter stories or some longer novels to keep you going.
  - Emil und die Detektive by Erik Kästner
  - Max und Moritz: Eine Bubengeschichte in Sieben Streichen by Wilhelm Busch
  - Pixi Bücher: e.g. Conni beim Frisör, Leo Lausemaus
  - Die wilden Kerle by Joachim Massanek
  - Brother Grimm's Fairy Tales: Brüder Grimm Märchen – eine Liste zum Lesen und Hören: [https://www.grimmstories.com/de/grimm\\_maerchen/list](https://www.grimmstories.com/de/grimm_maerchen/list)
  - Free Stories to read online: <https://www.einfachvorlesen.de/>
  - Bilingual Children Stories with Audio and parallel English Translation <https://www.thefablecottage.com/languages/german>
  - Easy German Short Stories for Beginners [German Audiobooks] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29aKzDt-O-k>

...and whatever you choose to do **“Hab Spass mit Deutsch!” (Have fun with German!).**

*“The limits of my language are the limits of my universe” as Ludwig Wittgenstein, an Austrian-born Philosopher, once said...*

So don't limit yourself and keep learning: *“Übung macht den Meister!” (Practice makes Perfect!).*