

1.2 What sort of language learner are you?

Try the following quiz. Tick (✓) your answers to the questions.

	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>(Almost) never</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
1. Did/do you get good results in grammar tests?				
2. Do you have a good memory for new words?				
3. Do you hate making mistakes?				
4. In class, do you get irritated if mistakes are not corrected?				
5. Is your pronunciation better when you read aloud than when you have a conversation?				
6. Do you wish you had more time to think before speaking?				
7. Did/do you enjoy being in a class?				
8. Do you find it difficult to pick up more than two or three words of a new language when you are on holiday abroad?				
9. Do you like to learn new grammar rules, words, etc. by heart?				

How to calculate your score:

- Score: 3 points for each *Usually*
- 2 points for each *Sometimes*
- 1 point for each *Almost never* or *never*
- 0 points for each *Don't know*

Total score:

SOURCE: Ellis & Sinclair, Learning to Learn English, 1989.

Score: 23-27 points Analytic?

You may feel it is very important to be as accurate as possible all the time. You probably prefer the sort of language learning where you need to think carefully: for example, when you are doing grammar exercises, working out the meanings of words, practising pronunciation, etc. This is very often the sort of language learning you do in class or when you are studying alone. You may be able to improve your language learning. Look at the following suggestions.

Suggestions

- You could improve your fluency by:
 - *trying to speak more*
 - For example, try talking to English-speaking friends, tourists, etc. as often as possible.
 - *not worrying too much about your mistakes*
 - Trying to be correct all the time is hard work and can stop you from communicating well. Although making mistakes is an important part of the learning process, don't always try to correct yourself immediately. Remember that the people you speak to won't be listening for your mistakes, but for what you are trying to say. After you have finished speaking, you can usually remember the mistakes you want to work on; this is a good time to make a note to yourself to do something about them.
 - *depending on yourself*
 - Outside the classroom you won't always have a dictionary or a teacher to help you, so don't be afraid to depend on yourself; you probably know more than you think.

Score: 14-22 A mixture?

You may find that you do not fall exactly into either of the categories marked *Analytic?* or *Relaxed?* Many people are a mixture and learn in different ways at different times depending on the situation and what they are doing.

Suggestion

Look at the descriptions for *Analytic?* and *Relaxed?*. You may find that you are more similar to one than the other and this could help you to think about what areas of your learning you might improve. If you can't decide now, try to do this during your course.

Score: 0-8 points Not sure?

Your score does not mean that you are not a good language learner. Perhaps this is the first time you have thought about the way you learn. To know more about this can be very useful in helping you to become a more effective language learner.

Suggestion

You can find out some general information about learning languages by looking at the descriptions marked *Analytic?* and *Relaxed?* During your course, try to become more aware of the ways you learn. This can help you decide which areas of your learning you might improve.

Score: 9-13 points Relaxed?

You seem to 'pick up' languages without really making too much effort and you usually enjoy communicating with people. You may sometimes feel, however, that you should be learning more grammar rules, but you probably don't enjoy this and quickly lose interest.

You may be able to improve your language learning. Look at the following suggestions.

Suggestions

- *try finding more time to learn*
- You may need to spend more time thinking about and practising things like grammar, pronunciation, etc. Try to organise a regular time for learning.
- *try being more self-critical*
- You probably need to correct yourself more. You may not worry or even notice when you make mistakes, but if you try to become more aware of the mistakes you make regularly, you may find it easier to do something about them.