



THE LANGUAGE COURSE

1.2 3 SCENARIOS

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Okay. So now you're starting through Session One, you're starting to work through the fundamentals. Something that's critical to understanding: The time that it takes is the amount of time you're willing to commit to learning language. Time Commitment.

So we have three scenarios to kind of talk through this. The first scenario is if you're able to dedicate full time language study. This means that you're able to give 30 to 40 hours a week to the study of language. So you have to treat it kinda like a job. It's basically your job to learn a language. And this happens in very specific cases. Maybe you're between jobs, or you're just out of school, or you're a cross cultural worker with an NGO and your team sets aside time for you to learn language and culture.

If you have the availability to dedicate full time language study to a particular language and a set of goals, that is the best case scenario. You want to be able to dedicate a lot of time to it. And full time language study is the ideal. You will advance as quickly as possible with full time language study.

There are a couple of things about full time language study that you have to bear in mind. The first thing is that there is too much. So if you are very driven and you dedicate 60, 70, 80 hours to language study, that's a bit much. It's not that kind of job, okay? 30 to 40 is a good, full time load. The other thing is, you have to have balance in the way that you're studying a language. And we're going to talk about that in a later session. Balance is important because we tend to go one way or another when we study a language. We'll talk more about that, don't worry.

The last thing is you need variety in there and we're going to talk about that concept concept as well later on. So you don't want to be doing one thing for 30 to 40 hours. You need to have multiple things that you're doing to learn the language as you're doing it.

In contrast to scenario one, which is full time, language learning, we also have part time, language learning. This is where you can dedicate at a minimum 15 hours up to 20-25, somewhere up to there. Part time language learning is probably what's most ideal if you are in school, or if you are employed. If you have a job, or you have other responsibilities, like family, part-time language study might be what you can manage during the week. If you do part time language study, you have to realize that even though, even though you're still going to advance in the language, the amount of time that it takes to advance is greater, much greater some would say. We're going to talk about that next session as well.

So, as you're evaluating which route to take: full time or part time, bear in mind that the fewer hours a week you dedicate to the study of language, up to full time, the longer it's going to take in the long run. That's to say the more months or years it's going to take for you to reach a certain level in your language.

The last thing about part time language study is that even though it is part time, it's still a lot of work. It's intentional effort to learn a language. So don't view part time as the easy route. It shouldn't be the easy route. It's what you can manage with your responsibilities. And it's still an arduous process that's well worth the effort. Because remember you have your goals, and you're striving to reach those goals throughout this process.

The last scenario, scenario three is the survival level. Now this is when you have something very specific in mind. A perfect example of this would be if you know you're going to go on a two week trip to South America. Maybe you just want to say hello, ask basic, important questions like, "Where's the bathroom?" and, "How much does this cost? How are you doing?" Stuff like that. This would be more survival level. So you're not really learning the language from the ground up. You're not really learning to be able to communicate in general. You're learning very specific things to complete very specific objectives. And this could be anything from one hour a week, all the way up to part-time language study.

Depending on your goals, you could choose either one of these three scenarios. They all serve different purposes, right? With the survival level, oftentimes, you might be learning stuff like words, or phrases, or short memorize sentences. So it's limited to that. If you ask a question that you've memorized and you get an answer, you might not understand what the answer is. And that's a part of not being able to speak the language in general.

So if you're going on a short trip, or if you want to learn how to say hello to neighbors that are from a different country or something like that, a survival level might fit your goals better. That being said, not everything is fixed. If you start out at a survival level, cause you're just curious to see what it looks like, and from the survival level you decide "I really like this," and you shift to part time or full time, excellent! You have to decide as you're learning the language, what your situation dictates, and what your needs as a language learner entail.

If you want to get to an advanced level in the language, you need to hit full time or part time language study. But if you're just curious and you want to try things out, you can start survival and move up. Or, to the contrary, if you're studying part time or full time, and something happens in life - because it is life after all - and you need to shift to survival level, that's okay too. Just know that the consequences of shifting include how much time it takes to learn the language. But you, as the learner, you have control over that. You could decide how much you learn. So choose wisely.
