

Language Learning Tips

From our study abroad students who are currently overseas

Ronni suggests

Start listening to music in your host language, helps a lot with pronunciation.

Always text in your host language – it helps with learning to write.

In the host country, even if someone speaks to you in English, try to reply in your host language.

Ask a billion questions. When walking with host parents or school friends, point and ask what it is called.

Don't expect to be "perfect". No one expects you to start out as a native speaker.

Garrett suggests

Switch your phone and social media to the host language one or two months before you leave on exchange.

Along with music, listen to podcasts or news reports. They provide a realistic way of speaking. You can find these online.

For somewhere like Japan, pop culture like anime and songs may use words that are not typical for your host country.

If you are learning the language on your own (maybe your school doesn't offer it), find an online language forum where you can buddy with someone to practice talking and listening.

Sophie writes:

Look up any YouTubers or YouTube videos that help with language or speak in the host language. You will learn more about the country norms.

Take every opportunity to listening, see, and write out the language. The smallest knowledge does help.

Simple phrases and vocabulary are important too.

If you have vocabulary under your belt, grammar and phrases will come along.

Learning the language means a lot, because it is the easiest source of communication which helps you understand and become a part of the host country culture, get along with your host family, make friends, and express yourself.