

Learn phrases and sentences, not words and vocabulary (prepared with the help of ChatGPT)

This is the “chunk-based” or “comprehensible input” approach. The idea is that languages are acquired as patterns used in context, not as lists of individual words. Here are some recommendations:

1. Learn high-frequency sentence patterns first

Instead of memorizing: “go = *aller*”, “store = *magasin*”, learn: “I’m going to the store”, “Do you want to come with me?” This teaches grammar, word order, pronunciation rhythm, natural usage, collocations (words that often go together).

2. Use phrases as “chunks” (large pieces)

Native speakers often use ready-made chunks: “as far as I know”, “on the other hand”, “I was wondering if...”. Treat these as single units rather than separate words. This improves fluency, listening speed and automaticity.

3. Prioritize comprehensible input

This idea is strongly associated with [Stephen Krashen](#). Read and listen to material that is mostly understandable, slightly above your level, and repeat it frequently. Examples include texts suited to your level, subtitles, slow podcasts, dialogues and short stories.

4. Learn sentences connected to real situations

Memorize useful expressions for: buying things, introducing yourself, giving opinions, asking for help and social interaction. For example: “Could you repeat that more slowly?”, “What do you recommend?”, etc.

5. Use spaced repetition with full sentences

Instead of flashcards with single words, use phrases and sentences. Good systems include [Anki](#) and [Memrise](#).

6. Listen repeatedly to the same material

Repetition is extremely important. A powerful method: listen, read the transcript, listen again, shadow aloud, repeat days later. Repeated exposure builds automatic pattern recognition.

7. Practice “shadowing”

Popularized by [Alexander Arguelles](#). You listen to native audio and repeat immediately with the speaker. This develops pronunciation, rhythm, syntax and fluency.

8. Delay heavy grammar analysis at the beginning

Many modern approaches recommend exposure first and explicit grammar second.

9. Read extensively at an easy level

Extensive reading is central. Choose material where you understand about 90–98%.

10. Build a “sentence bank”

Keep a notebook or digital collection of useful expressions, idioms, sentence frames, and connectors. Examples include: “The reason why...”, “It depends on whether...”, “One of the advantages is...”.

11. Focus on frequency, not rarity

Learn the most common structures first. For example, master: “I think...”, “I need...”, “Have you ever...?”.

12. Produce language early, but with patterns

Instead of inventing sentences, adapt known models: “I’d like a coffee” → “I’d like some information”, “How long does it take?” → “How long did it take?”.

For more, see this video by Ryan, “[Learn English Like a Native - Stop Memorizing Words - Start Sentence Mining Today!](#)” He talks about daily sentence mining.