

Tasks for the missing lectures on April 17 and 24. Please submit by May 6.

A. “Test” – review questions concerning the content of the first six lectures. The test is obligatory, but it will not be graded (unless your answers are excellent).

To prepare for answering, review the slides and the other material given on the website: the inventories of strategies and styles, the text about the history of SLA research.

Please submit your answers by May 6 via the Google Form here:

<https://forms.gle/ovP1qRncUPWB66zL9>

Questions:

1. The following definitions appeared in the lectures. Name the term to which they belong!
 - a. “specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self-directed, more effective, and more transferable to new situations”
 - b. “emotional barrier which prevents the learner from receiving the input from the environment”
 - c. “habitual patterns of perceiving, processing, or reacting to information”
 - d. “theories about the nature of language and language learning that serve as the source of practices and principles in language teaching”
 - e. “learning something without intention, while learning/doing something else”
 - f. “the ability to figure out grammatical rules from language samples”
2. Name three reasons why some people are more successful language learners than others.
3. Name 5 specific strategies one can use for learning vocabulary (remembering words).
4. Name 3 specific strategies one can use for understanding speech, or in general getting better in listening comprehension.
5. Pick out three of the following learning styles and for each of them name two learning strategies that match the style.

analytic, aural, concrete-sequential, global, imagist, inductive, kinesthetic, oral, particular, random-intuitive, synthesizing, verbalist
6. When did second language acquisition research start? Why then – what factors initiated the systematic research?
7. Name and shortly describe two of the five hypotheses of Stephen Krashen.
8. Name and shortly explain two aspects which distinguish the natural and the formal approach to language learning and teaching.
9. Name two aspects of teaching grammar within a communicative approach.
10. On which approach to language learning is the Common European Framework (CEFR) based? How can you tell?

B. Understanding and using CEFR level descriptions

Read about the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) at this website:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages>

First read the general information there, then click on “Six levels of foreign language proficiency – Levels, descriptors and content specification”. Read that page, then read (in a language of your choice) Table 2 Self-assessment grid.

After that, create your own *Europass* language passport here:

<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/european-skills-passport/language-passport>

We will discuss in class what was problematic, what was easy and how you evaluate this instrument.

C. Discuss views on what makes language learning effective (this task is optional, but recommended)

1. Watch **one** of these TED talks and shortly summarize what according to the speaker are the key principles or techniques of successful language learning (there about 5 points made in each speech). What do you think of it?

Benny Lewis (15:10) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox2_kWRB8-A

Chris Lonsdale (18:26) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doyGdNEWdno>

Sif Efromovich (14:50) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WLHr1_EVtQ

Matyáš Pilin (13:47) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mls2m_oZT6U

2. What in your opinion is the reason why language teaching in school is often not very effective? (Recall how many students in our class reported they had German lessons but don't know German...)

D. Explore language learning tools on the Internet

Try, with a language of your choice, some language learning tool on the Internet or as a mobile phone application. You can find some names on slide 19 of the third lecture, or just search the Internet or your app store.