

## Get Fluent Fast through Reading

I am passionate about the importance of learning other languages. Anyone can learn a language: some have a facility to learn more easily than others, but we can all manage it to a greater or lesser degree. At school it's what I was best at, what I loved. I probably was a bit of a mimic, had a good ear, so loved rolling unfamiliar words around my tongue until I managed to shape my mouth to produce the right sounds, the right word, then produce a sentence, then converse, read and write and actually find myself understood. So satisfying!

Today, however, there is more to my passion for languages than just my own personal enjoyment and sense of achievement. In today's shrinking but increasingly crowded, competitive world it's vital to communicate effectively, both at a business and social level. The art of communication has resurfaced as a vital skill in the age of technology where many young people simply haven't learnt it, and today a common demand is that you can additionally communicate in more than one language. If you only speak English, then you may find yourself at a disadvantage when looking for employment both at home and overseas.

The fact that you have logged on to Get Fluent Fast's website must mean that you recognise the value of learning another language, whether it be to enhance your career prospects, your holiday experience abroad, to teach, or for yet other reasons. My company exhibited recently at The Language Show (London) and as I visited other exhibitor stands, I was amazed by the vast array of learning materials and media open to all ages today. There is so much choice, something for everyone, no matter the type of life you lead.

What struck me, however, is that, if you only concentrate on learning methods and materials, such as workbooks, audio and on-line visual aids, evening classes, etc., then you may never attain a true feel for the language you have learnt. If you don't immediately work with the language or move to the country whose language you have learnt, what do you do? The solution is maintenance. If you don't use it, you lose it, and that is the basis upon which my company, The Language Of... (as in the language of Spain, Italy, Germany, France, etc.) was born: out of frustration at not being able to find an easy-to-read novel, a light-hearted piece of fiction, a thriller, a romance, a biography or some poetry, in a language I was keen to maintain.

What easier or more affordable way to maintain or supplement your learning and knowledge of a language than to read? What better way to absorb something of the culture of another country and keep abreast of contemporary vocabulary than through modern literature?

Reading provides one of the best routes to fluency. Read and you will be amazed at how much better your overall comprehension of speech and writing becomes. The power and value of pure and simple reading in another language should not be under-estimated. Apart from the benefits of improving and maintaining your knowledge of another language, it without a doubt also enhances your command of English. The English language shares its roots with many other languages in Latin, and you will consequently find yourself with a richer, wider vocabulary as a result. So, as you consider what language to learn or how to improve your fluency, don't forget the simple pleasure of reading. Give it a try and have a look at The Language Of...

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