

Katja Jarnum

About Katja

From Denmark and works as an anthropologist.

Languages: Danish, English and Spanish (and understands Norwegian, Swedish and German).

What made you choose to study the languages you speak?

I never really “chose” to study them as such. I seem to have a flair for languages rather than for numbers and it was more of a coincidence. I learned mostly by travelling - usually by ear, helped along by some local language courses. I did take English (and German) at school and completed some Spanish “A-levels” too. I probably got started on Spanish because I was attracted to the practicality of going somewhere far away like Latin America and being able to communicate.

How have you gone about learning these languages?

Initially at school in Denmark, but nothing beats being in the place where the language is spoken. You learn best by hearing the language on an everyday basis and by being around people who speak it.

What are your favourite language learning tips?

Go there.....and try to get to know local people instead of all the other language students! Prepare your visit in advance and you’ll reap rewards.