

## STRATEGIES FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

### PURPOSE

The menu below provides language educators and learners with ideas of what strategies to use to improve communication, learning, and Intercultural Communicative Competence. This table is in no way an exhaustive list of strategies, and in many cases, strategies that are relevant in multiple modes of communication (e.g., circumlocution) only appear once or twice to eliminate redundancies. As such, teachers and learners are encouraged to try strategies listed in one context in other contexts as well.

### ORGANIZATION

The menu is organized by sub mode of communication in order to explicitly align with the NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements. The strategies for each of these modes are broken into a targeted skill (e.g., sound familiarization), as well as strategies that align with before communication preparation, active engagement and negotiation during communication, and post communication tasks to promote ongoing improvement.

Additionally, Intercultural strategies, vocabulary strategies, and learning strategies are included to promote well-rounded language learning. Any of these strategies are appropriate across modes of communication. Each of these domains is divided into four types of strategies, strategies that promote the observation, analysis, and extension of the learning at hand.

### SOURCES

All strategies that appear in this menu are research-based. Many appear in Cohen, Oxford, & Chi (2002) as well as the *LinguaFolio* biography.

Listening (Interpretive)	<u>How do I familiarize myself with sounds?</u>	<u>How do I prepare before listening?</u>	<u>What strategies should I use while I am listening?</u>	<u>How do I continue to improve after the listening task is over?</u>
	Listen to words	Predict what you will hear	Listen for key words that	

	<p>while reading a transcript of what you are hearing and focus on the sounds that are very unfamiliar.</p> <p>Associate the sound of a new word with a word from another language that you know.</p> <p>Pay attention to the words and/or word parts are emphasized in speech.</p> <p>Observe and note the ways that expert speakers pause.</p> <p>Observe and note the intonation patterns of expert</p>	<p>based on any clues or cues you may have.</p> <p>Take inventory of your background knowledge before listening.</p> <p>Read about or discuss the topic you will hear about before you begin listening.</p>	<p>give you the information you need.</p> <p>Ignore the information that you don't need.</p> <p>If applicable, slow down the speed at which the text you are listening to is played.</p> <p>Make educated guesses about what is unknown using the context of what is said.</p> <p>Document (write lists of words and phrases) to take an inventory of everything you understand. Use that information to make guesses about what you don't understand.</p>	<p>Ask clarifying questions.</p> <p>Try to summarize what you heard in your own words.</p> <p>Listen again...and again...and again.</p> <p>Find other listening sources that are related to topics that you want to understand more about. These sources could be online videos, television shows, movies, Podcasts, or even just what you hear at a business or home in which most people are speaking the target language.</p>
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	<p>speakers.</p> <p>Ask an expert speaker for help with unfamiliar sounds.</p>		<p>Use body language and other environmental cues (e.g., background actions and setting) as clues to help with understanding.</p> <p>Write notes as you listen.</p>	
<p><b>Reading (Interpretive)</b></p>	<p><u>How can I break apart words I have never seen so that I understand them?</u></p> <p>Identify linguistic patterns (morphemes, prefixes, suffixes) that will help you discern the meaning of unknown words.</p> <p>Use context to predict the meaning of targeted words before looking them up.</p>	<p><u>How do I prepare before I read?</u></p> <p>Predict what you will read based on any clues or cues (e.g., the title of a document or the images that are included) that you have.</p> <p>Take inventory of your background knowledge related to the topic you are reading about.</p> <p>Conduct preliminary research related to the</p>	<p><u>What should I do while I am reading?</u></p> <p>Highlight what you understand and use it to make educated guesses about what is not yet understood.</p> <p>Skim for the main idea.</p> <p>Scan for specific details.</p> <p>Take notes as you read or mark the text to highlight key ideas.</p>	<p><u>How do I continue to improve once the reading task is over?</u></p> <p>Read as much as possible related to topics that you care about.</p> <p>Read what you didn't understand again. Look for new cues that help you unpack the meaning.</p> <p>Summarize what you understood and reflect about what might be causing your misunderstandings. Then,</p>

		<p>topic you will read about.</p> <p>Consider the genre you are reading (e.g., news report, short story, or speech) and what language (formal, informal) and structures (titles, headings) you should expect.</p> <p>Think about the purpose of your reading. Ask yourself if the text intended to inform, persuade, or something else. Make predictions about what you will encounter based on that information.</p>	<p>Use clues (photos, headlines, and headings) to improve and check comprehension of meaning.</p> <p>Ignore information that you don't need or can't figure out.</p>	<p>make a plan for how to address those misunderstandings.</p> <p>Reread your notes and/or highlighted portions to evaluate how well you have understood. Focus specifically on if you were able to identify main ideas and important supporting details.</p>
<p><b>Speaking and Signing (Presentational)</b></p>	<p><u>How do I practice forming sounds?</u></p> <p>Repeat sounds in the target language that are distinct from the L1 until you are comfortable</p>	<p><u>How do I prepare before speaking?</u></p> <p>Practice saying unfamiliar expressions to yourself.</p> <p>Practice new grammatical</p>	<p><u>What should I do while I am speaking?</u></p> <p>Try to use idiomatic expressions and observe others to see if they understand them.</p>	<p><u>How do I continue to improve once the speaking task is over?</u></p> <p>Encourage others to correct your errors and, more importantly, to help you</p>

	<p>with them.</p> <p>Use online dictionaries to hear how native speakers pronounce words and imitate the pronunciation you hear.</p> <p>Ask an expert speaker for help with difficult sounds.</p> <p>Memorize short texts and practice saying them for a friend.</p> <p>Use speech-to-text programs to verify if you are pronouncing words correctly or not.</p>	<p>structures you want to use in a variety of situations before using them in a presentation.</p> <p>Research unfamiliar topics.</p> <p>Predict what information and words you will need for an upcoming speaking task and prepare ahead of time.</p>	<p>Try to model expert speakers' language patterns (pauses and emphases) and gestures.</p> <p>Use your knowledge of linguistic patterns to guess what words might be and try them out.</p> <p>Use gestures to get your meaning across.</p> <p>Circumlocute (describe the word that you are trying to say) if you can't think of the targeted word itself.</p> <p>Record yourself.</p>	<p>identify your strengths.</p> <p>Reflect on what you said. As yourself if there are different or better ways to express the same idea?</p> <p>Ask others if they have any clarifying questions for you.</p> <p>Listen to/watch recordings of yourself to identify your own strengths and areas for improvement.</p>
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<p><b>Writing (Presentational)</b></p>	<p><u>How do I dissect language and genre?</u></p> <p>Pay attention to the structure of new vocabulary words and the linguistic patterns that emerge.</p> <p>Use context and your knowledge of linguistic patterns to predict what words might be before looking them up.</p> <p>Pay attention to the organization of a text. Make sure to inventory all of the structures (e.g., headings, subheadings, and salutations) and rhetorical devices</p>	<p><u>How do I prepare before writing?</u></p> <p>List new words that you want to include in your piece. Make sure to include them.</p> <p>Practice writing and typing the alphabet, characters, and new words until you are comfortable with writing or typing quickly.</p> <p>Outline your text according to the conventions of the genre at hand. Make sure to include all required structures.</p> <p>Create an outline or storyboard before you begin writing.</p>	<p><u>What should I do while I am writing?</u></p> <p>Make sure that you incorporate at least one idiomatic expression.</p> <p>Circumlocute. Find a different way to express an idea when you don't know the correct expression.</p> <p>Review and analyze what you have written and make improvements before continuing to write more.</p> <p>Use reference materials like a glossary, dictionary, and thesaurus to increase the complexity of what you are writing.</p>	<p><u>How do I continue to improve once the writing task is over?</u></p> <p>Once all of your ideas are down on paper, edit your work.</p> <p>Revise several times to improve both language and content.</p> <p>Get feedback from others, especially trusted friends and experts in the target language.</p> <p>Ask someone to summarize your work for you to ensure that you got your main point across.</p>
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	(e.g., simile, hyperbole, and metaphor) that are typical for that genre of text.			
<b>Speaking/Signi ng and Listening (Interpersonal)</b>	<p><u>How do I practice forming sounds?</u></p> <p>Pay attention to the language of your conversation partner including emphasis, pauses, and pronunciation of certain sounds.</p> <p>Notice the intonation of expert speakers when talking.</p> <p>Repeat sounds in the target language that are distinct from the L1 until you are comfortable</p>	<p><u>How do I prepare for a conversation?</u></p> <p>If you know what you will be talking about, familiarize yourself with the topic by reading or listening to others talk about it.</p> <p>No matter the upcoming topic, prepare several familiar topics to discuss.</p> <p>Seek out opportunities to talk with expert speakers and initiate conversations.</p> <p>Try to figure out and practice the language</p>	<p><u>What should I do during a conversation?</u></p> <p>Try to predict what the other person is going to say based on what has already been said.</p> <p>Try to understand what the other person is saying without translating word-for-word in your head.</p> <p>Focus on the context of what is being said to gain a deeper understanding of meaning.</p> <p>Listen for specific details that you can elaborate on</p>	<p><u>How do I continue to improve once the conversation is done?</u></p> <p>Encourage others to correct errors in your speaking.</p> <p>Reflect on how you think the conversation went and think of one or two things to improve on next time.</p> <p>Identify what you did well, and come up with a plan to keep doing it.</p> <p>Try summarizing your partner’s message in your own words to verify your</p>

	<p>with them.</p> <p>Use online dictionaries to hear how native speakers pronounce words and imitate the pronunciation you hear.</p>	<p>patterns of expert speakers of common language functions like requesting, apologizing, giving advice, or complaining.</p>	<p>or respond to, and ask questions when needed.</p> <p>Ask the speaker to slow down or repeat themselves if you don't understand.</p> <p>Use gestures to get your meaning across.</p> <p>Ask clarifying questions.</p> <p>Try to imitate the expert speakers' language patterns.</p> <p>Listen for key words that give you the information you need.</p>	<p>comprehension.</p>
<p><b>Writing and Reading (Interpersonal)</b></p>	<p><u>How do I dissect genre and language?</u></p>	<p><u>How do I prepare before a conversation?</u></p>	<p><u>What should I do during a conversation?</u></p>	<p><u>After conversation</u></p>



	<p>Pay attention to visual cues (emojis, gifs) that give you an idea of the intended meaning.</p> <p>Pay attention to SMS conventions to make predictions about meaning, particularly when it comes to abbreviations.</p>	<p>Read as much as possible in the target language in relevant genres (online forums, online gaming experiences, text chat).</p> <p>Plan out how you are going to read a message and respond to it.</p> <p>Practice writing messages, emails, and other texts.</p> <p>Edit your writing before sending it to a partner.</p> <p>Try to put your own language out of mind and think in the target language as much as possible.</p>	<p>Read a text message several times before responding to it.</p> <p>As you read, make ongoing summaries in your head.</p> <p>Make predictions about what will happen next and prepare to handle it.</p> <p>Make educated guesses about the meaning of unfamiliar words, abbreviations, or grammatical structures.</p> <p>Use a dictionary and thesaurus to help you understand unfamiliar words and to verify your own word use.</p>	<p>Get feedback on your writing from a trusted peer or expert speaker.</p> <p>Use your partner's responses to you to gauge whether you understood their messages and responded appropriately.</p> <p>Try summarizing your partner's message in your own words.</p> <p>Evaluate conventions of written interpersonal language (e.g., SMS abbreviations) to see if you imitated them well. Set goals to use them next time.</p>
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			<p>Use an SMS dictionary and thesaurus to help you understand unfamiliar abbreviations and to verify your own abbreviation use.</p> <p>Ask clarifying questions if you get lost or don't understand something that seems important.</p>	
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<p><u>How do I learn new words?</u></p> <p>Pay attention to linguistic patterns (e.g., morphemes, prefixes, and suffixes) and break new words into identifiable parts.</p> <p>Group words according to part of</p>	<p><u>How do I remember new words?</u></p> <p>Go over new words frequently when you first learn them and then review them periodically after that.</p> <p>Remember the situation in which you first heard or saw the word.</p>	<p><u>How do I make sure that I use new words?</u></p> <p>Challenge yourself to use new words in a variety of contexts.</p> <p>Challenge yourself to use familiar words in new contexts.</p> <p>Initiate conversations</p>	<p><u>How do I expand my vocabulary using what I already know?</u></p> <p>Break words into their component parts and compare them to words with similar meanings and/or similar component parts.</p> <p>Practice forming new words out of words you are already</p>

	<p>speech or by themes that are personally relevant.</p> <p>Make mental images of new words.</p> <p>Write words in meaningful sentences.</p>	<p>Visualize the spelling of the word in your mind as you say it or write it.</p>	<p>with expert speakers and practice your new vocabulary.</p> <p>Play word games.</p> <p>Practice new vocabulary by describing target words to a friend in the target language and having them guess the word you are thinking of.</p>	<p>familiar with by adding suffixes or prefixes.</p> <p>Create semantic maps.</p> <p>Create Frayer models.</p> <p>Practice action words by acting them out.</p>
<p><b>Intercultural</b></p>	<p><u>How do I observe culture and communication?</u></p> <p>In a journal, take notes on behaviors, phrases, and words you overhear and observe while at the store, in a restaurant, at a cultural fair, or in a</p>	<p><u>How do I analyze culture and communication?</u></p> <p>Think about the cultural practices that are bound in language--often found in idioms or common expressions.</p> <p>Compare and contrast how</p>	<p><u>How do I practice communication in a way that demonstrates cultural awareness?</u></p> <p>Practice using the correct terms to address people in a variety of relationships to yourself.</p>	<p><u>How do I extend my intercultural practices?</u></p> <p>Prepare teaching examples that showcase how to argue/apologize/debate and/or engage in target behaviors (e.g., routines around dining).</p>

	<p>family setting.</p> <p>Take photos or videos of products and practices in the target culture that are unfamiliar to you.</p> <p>Record conversations. Use them as references for how to engage in targeted language functions (e.g., apologizing, extending invitations, and giving advice).</p> <p>Notice how language use is different in online contexts vs. spoken face-to-face.</p>	<p>you address people in the target language and in your native language.</p> <p>Compare and contrast how you apologize, make requests, start and end conversations in the target language and in your native language.</p> <p>Engage in research (in L1 or L2) to better understand cultural complexities and meaning beyond what is explicitly said.</p> <p>Use a Venn Diagram or other mental mapping tool to compare and contrast cultural practices and artefacts in the target language/culture and your own.</p> <p>Reflect on your</p>	<p>Practice using idioms to verify that they are appropriate to the context at hand.</p> <p>Talk to a variety of people to practice how the language expected in a particular function (e.g., apologizing) varies depending on who you are talking to and/or what you are talking about.</p> <p>Practice texting with an expert speaker to make sure you understand SMS conventions and the use of emojis, gifs, and the like.</p> <p>Go to a local establishment and practice service encounters (ordering food, buying groceries,</p>	<p>Start a blog that discusses the phenomena you notice about the target culture/language.</p> <p>Participate in an online community (gaming, social media) in which members of the target culture share ideas.</p> <p>Use ideas from reflection to create new activities for yourself to engage in as you explore and participate in the target culture.</p>
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	<p>Notice how language use is different based on who you are talking to--family members, teachers, children, bosses, friends. Take note of these differences to get a better understanding of register and social distance (closeness).</p>	<p>understanding and identify what you still need to know or understand.</p>	<p>etc.) with someone who speaks the target language.</p> <p>Plan an event for community members who speak the target language/are part of the target culture.</p> <p>Create a mural, collage, or other image that showcases both overt and subtle representations of culture.</p> <p>Engage in role plays with an expert speaker/ someone who deeply understands target culture norms.</p>	
<p><b>Process of Learning</b></p>	<p><u>How do I engage with my environment so that</u></p>	<p><u>How do I analyze texts that I encounter?</u></p>	<p><u>How can I participate in a community of members belonging to the target</u></p>	<p><u>Digital Community Participation</u></p>

	<p><u>I can better learn?</u></p> <p>Keep a language journal in which you jot down language and behavior observations as you go about your day. Include any images (e.g. screenshots) that are informative as well.</p> <p>Watch films, listen to music, and read books/magazines/newspapers in the target language. Take notes about what you understand, what you want to understand, and how you might improve your understanding.</p>	<p>Read over texts several times.</p> <p>Try summarizing texts in your own words.</p> <p>Make predictions about what will happen next in a text before reading. While you are reading, verify your predictions.</p> <p>Make educated guesses about the meaning of unfamiliar words or grammatical structures</p>	<p><u>culture?</u></p> <p>Look for opportunities within your own community where you can use the target language.</p> <p>Initiate conversations with expert speakers.</p> <p>Participate in a language club.</p> <p>Participate in a conference or publication.</p> <p>Join a sports team or other group in which many members speak the target language.</p> <p>Find a local community</p>	<p>Participate in international social networks using the target language.</p> <p>Initiate conversations with expert speakers.</p> <p>Exchange emails, text messages, phone calls, etc. with expert speakers.</p> <p>Start a blog about your language learning experience.</p> <p>Join a discussion board on/in the target language.</p> <p>Join an online gaming community that uses the target language to communicate.</p>
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	<p>Organize workspace in a way that allows you to work towards goals without distractions.</p> <p>Plan and create a weekly schedule that balances study and work time with home and free time.</p> <p>Make and keep a daily planner of assignments, project tasks, and goals.</p>		<p>center that is frequented by people who speak the target language.</p>	
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**References**

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