

LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES BY WATCHING MOVIES AND TV

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ABSTRACT: *In this article, we will discuss several tips for learning foreign languages by watching movies and TV. Some successful recommendations and benefits will be given with absorbing ways. These ways are useful for different levels of individuals.*

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There are many advantages to learning a new language, one of which is being able to watch a foreign language show or movie in its truest natural form. But did you know that you can actually learn the foreign language using that show or movie? Here's a guide for improving your language skills through movies and TV to get you started. To keep easing yourself in, I recommend following these four stages of foreign movies and TV shows. Start at the top and work your way down as you progress through the language.

1. Kids' TV Shows and Movies

Start by watching children's shows.

Think about it: most children's programs are educational and serve to teach children basic values and linguistic rules. They provide simple language along with corresponding images, so they are easy to understand. Get in touch with your inner child! If you have kids, you can also sit down with them and watch a show together, like "Dora la Exploradora" (Dora the Explorer).

2. Comedy

Once you are used to kids' movies and shows, you can start watching light comedy.

American sitcoms and cartoons are great. The most popular ones are all dubbed into many languages. They tend to use easy-to-understand slapstick humor where physical gestures and movement complement the language. These include shows like "How I Met Your Mother," "Modern Family," "The Simpsons." Comedies are more likely to feature wordplay than other genres, which can be helpful for advanced learners to really test out their skills. After all, wordplay in your target language often doesn't translate directly or literally, so understanding it is a strong sign that your skills are very advanced.

3. Thrillers/Action

You can then move on to thrillers, horror and action series or movies. Action movies are plot-based and very visual, so they'll often reiterate major plot points to make sure the audience is following. While movies in this genre may feature more specialized, challenging vocabulary, they tend to have more breaks in dialogue to give you time to think about what you've heard. Series such as "CSI" and "Missing" that exist in their own formats in almost every country often use familiar templates. These follow a repeating pattern, helping you get a feel for what is going on quickly.

4. Drama/Dark Humor

When you are ready to turn up the heat, drama and dark humor are perhaps the most difficult to understand for their use of puns, double-meanings and situation- or culture-specific language. Movies and series rooted in underground or minority cultures (think "Breaking Bad" or "The Wire") can also provide a great challenge, as they tend to feature thick accents and lots of slang. They are a great source of cultural knowledge and provide excellent practice with different accents [1].

Besides my own experience, I'd like to show you why you should consider learning languages by watching TV. A survey by the education publisher Pearson English found in 2015 that 58% of English learners used TV shows such as

‘Breaking Bad’ and ‘House of Cards’ to improve their language skills. Even some famous people like the Liverpool manager, Jürgen Klopp, and the member of the Korean boyband BTS, Rap Monster (RM), have learned English by watching the American sitcom ‘Friends.’ If they could learn English by watching TV, you can definitely do it too. In this guide, I’ll show you how I learned multiple languages with the help of movies and TV shows by:

Using a 3-step method to learn the most common words in a language.

Practicing active and passive listening to understand native speakers.

Choosing the right TV show to develop an advanced vocabulary and great pronunciation [4].

By watching movies, videos, or tv in a foreign language, your brain is allowed to learn differently. It has even been proven that subtitles can help students learn a language faster. Several different studies have been done on the effectiveness of learning a language by watching movies. So, if you’re in doubt, take a look yourself! In the meantime, we want to share the top 3 benefits of learning a language by watching movies!

Benefit #1: Increases Phonetic Understanding Of course, if you’re using movies to learn a new language, you need to have the subtitles turned on! Listening to the language and dialogue while reading the subtitles is a great way to connect the way the words sound and how they are written and read.

Benefit #2: Improves Word Recognition

Watching a movie or tv series to learn a new language is a great way to build your vocabulary. Since you’re not in a classroom, you can always hit the pause button and write down what has been said. At the end of the movie, you might find that you have a whole page of new words and phrases that you’ve learned! That way, you can either look it up or practice later on!

Benefit #3: Improves Accent And Speaking Patterns Oftentimes, learning a language in a more formal setting, such as a classroom, means that we will learn a very formal language. This is the opposite case for movies. Movies can teach us authentic, everyday speech patterns and expose us to a more natural way of

speaking. If you keep watching movies to learn a language, your accent should improve because you'll constantly be hearing how native speakers are pronouncing the words! [3].

TV and films help you speak naturally and understand more. If you only listen to those slow and stilted dialogues in textbooks, you'll probably end up speaking in a slow and stilted way. Alternatively, if you listen to lots of realistic conversations in TV series and films, over time, you'll start speaking in a more natural way. The same goes for understanding: if you only listen to learner materials, you'll get used to hearing a version of the language that's been watered down for gringos. You might get a shock when you hear people using it in real life! On the flip side, if you get used to hearing realistic dialogues in TV series and films (even if it's tricky at first!), you'll be much better equipped to follow conversations in the real world. I'm not suggesting you try to learn a language entirely by watching TV and films. Learner materials like textbooks and audio courses have their place in a language learner's toolkit. And speaking practice is essential. Foreign-language TV series and films are like handy supplements that can help you bridge the gap between learner materials and how people actually talk [2].

One of the best ways to learn foreign languages easily is watching movies and TV. Learners of new languages may come across teething problems. Watching movies and TV is very useful for enhancing your creativity, improving critical thinking and other brain processes. It is also recommended by other advanced learners.

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