

Basic Language Learning

(Adapted from www.thenextmile.org)

While some of you are already bilingual or trilingual, the majority of Americans only know one language. The negative stereotypes of the “ugly American” and our aversion to languages has given the American public quite a reputation. You may be able to “find your way” using English. But, if you have a willingness to *learn* some of the language and to make genuine attempts to speak the language, you will open many doors to relationships and to the Gospel. Regardless of your ability, mastering common greetings, names, and key words will give you greater access to the culture and will win the hearts of those you spend time with wherever you are.

Music and Songs—Learn simple songs in the local language

Online Language Programs—Many great options from free apps to extensive immersion programs. One option you might want to check out are the free language programs on Udemy.com. If you use one of these programs you might be surprised how much of the language you can pick up in only a few minutes per day!

Notepad Technique—Carry a small notepad and write down words and phrases that you learn along the way. You will begin building your notepad list through your weekly language assignments. One team decided to share some of the new words that they learned each day during their daily team debriefing time. This encouraged the team to practice in a safe environment and was also a form of accountability.

A key to the heart Language-learning is far more than mastering good techniques or using the right tools. It is an issue of the heart. Language-learning sends the message to the receiving location that you care enough about them and their culture that you have attempted to learn some of their language.

Language Lessons Assignments

One thing we continually hear from returning mission team members is that they wish they would have had a better grasp on the local language before their trip. We have selected a few basic vocabulary words and phrases that you will lookup and learn each week. Really try to commit this vocabulary to memory, you'll be glad you did!

If you are already fluent in the local language, research if there are any pronunciation, vocabulary or other differences in the region where you will be. Depending on which part of the United States you live in you might refer to a carbonated beverage as soda, pop, or Coke!

Week 1—March 25-31: Basics

Yes _____ No _____

Please _____ Thank you _____

Week 2—April 1-7: Greetings

Hello _____ Goodbye _____

What is your name? _____

My name is _____

Week 3—April 8-14: Beverages

Coffee _____ Tea _____

Milk _____ Juice _____

Water _____ (tap, still, carbonated)

Week 4—April 15-21: Religion/Salvation Army

Church _____ God _____

Pray _____ Jesus _____

Jesus loves you _____

God bless you _____

The Salvation Army _____

Week 5—April 22-28: Questions

How are you? _____

Can you help me? _____

How do you say? _____

How much is this? _____

Where's the bathroom? _____

Week 6—April 29-May 5: People

Friend _____ Family _____

Mother _____ Father _____

Sister _____ Brother _____

Husband _____ Wife _____

Son _____ Daughter _____

Man _____ Woman _____

*Idea: Make a photo book of your family's photos & label using the local language. Great way to share your family with your new friends!

Week 7—May 6-12: Meals

Breakfast _____ Lunch _____

Dinner _____ Snack _____

Week 8—May 13-19: Numbers

0 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____

8 _____ 9 _____

Week 9—May 20-26: Places

Hospital _____ House _____

Restaurant _____ Street _____

Week 10—May 27-June 2: Other

Follow _____ Smile _____

Sit _____ Stand _____

I _____ You _____

We _____ Team _____