

## Learning to Speak Harrison's 7th Week

This week, I just wanted to share a little update on how my progress is going and share a couple tips for all you language learners out there! Specifically about one of the more challenging aspects of language learning: actually speaking it.

Right now, things are going pretty well. I'm at the point where I have most of the basic vocabulary down. (La cerveza es buena!) I can also read simple sentences. I'll practice my reading by going on a Spanish subreddit, or reading a Wikipedia article in Spanish. However, I still struggle to think of the words fast enough to speak it. This is mostly because I've really been focusing on my vocab flash cards and the Duolingo lessons. Those are great to build vocab, but there are many other aspects of learning a language. You can't do something if you never try it-and that goes for speaking a language!

So, what can you do about it? This series is assuming you are not able to take classes, where it would be easier to practice speaking with someone, after all. Well, if you have a friend that speaks the language, that would be a great first place to start! Ask them if they want to have a conversation in whatever language you're learning. Sure, you'll probably suck at it, but don't worry, they're your friend! They would *neeeever* judge you or laugh at you. If you don't have any multi-lingual friends, or at least not any in your target language, then the internet is a great place to look. Tandem especially is one of my favorite apps for this purpose. Tandem is for language learners across the globe. When you're signing up, it asks you what language you're learning and what level you're so far. Then it gives you lists of people from all over the world who speak your that language and are trying to learn English. The goal is that you connect with them and have a conversation, with both of you learning each other's languages along the way. I

haven't had a chance to use Tandem for Spanish yet, but I used it when I was learning German. It's definitely worth checking out-not to mention, it's free!

Finally, audio intake is important when it comes to speaking-you have to know what the language sounds like. Every language has its subtleties and nuances that you can't get from simply reading a textbook. Netflix has plenty of good Spanish shows and movies to choose from. Dive in! Watching movies is just another way to make your language learning more fun.

Well, that's where I'm at right now. I would say I'm definitely at the advanced beginner stage (aside from speaking, which is still early beginner I'd say). If anyone has suggestions of shows to watch or books to read in Spanish, let me know on our Facebook or Instagram! See you all next week.