

## STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Remember that **learning** words and phrases is an important part of learning a foreign language. Without them you cannot understand, speak, read or write a foreign language. Use some of these strategies to help you to improve your **learning**.

- Go somewhere you can find peace and quiet. Other noises, especially talking, can be very distracting.
- **Look at a word** for 10, 15 or 20 seconds, **memorise** it and then cover it up. Try to **say it aloud** or write it down. Then check it. Do the same with a small number of words.
- **Say aloud** each word or phrase 10 times. Saying a word or phrase aloud means that you are hearing it as well as seeing it, and so it has 2 routes into your brain!
- **Copy out** each word or phrase 10 times. Check it. Writing vocabulary is a 3rd route into the brain!
- Look for resemblances to other words in English, or German.
- Get someone to **test** you - a friend in your class or a member of your family
- Concentrate on learning the **most difficult** words rather than just going over the easy ones.
- Identify 10 words you want to learn. List them allocating a number to each word. Learn the words and the numbers. Get someone to test you by asking you: What is number 7? What is number 9? etc...
- **Write** words or short sentences you are trying to learn on small pieces of card and stick them around your room or around the house. Each time you see them you will be revising! Once you know a word replace it with another one.
- **Use a tape** to record the words or phrases you want to learn. Keep listening to them until you know them. When you listen to yourself make sure that you are pronouncing the words properly. If you make mistakes you can easily tape over them.
- **Chant** words you need to learn until you know them.
- Little and often. Don't try to learn huge amounts in long, intense sessions or your brain will overload.
- Start to **keep a record** of all the words you learn. Perhaps you could list them in your vocabulary book. You will be surprised at how soon you can learn a lot of words if you keep a record.
- **Use your dictionary** to check the spelling of words. Only use the dictionary to look up single words and not for looking up a whole sentence word by word as it will sound very strange and English!
- Pay careful attention to the **presentation** of your work. Underline dates and headings. Always write the date in French and write clearly. It is much easier to revise from neat, well presented work. Carefully check your work with your notes and check your spellings. Get someone to check your finished work. They might spot mistakes that you have missed.