

LANGUAGE TRAINING

Priority for the provision of second language training and language upgrading courses in the first language for employees must be determined as per the Language Training Policy.

If you are participating in language training, you should make every effort to improve and maintain your skills. Here are some useful information:

Ten benefits of Learning and Using Another Language:

Source: Canada Public Service Agency

1. Catch untranslatable humour. (Laughing is a stress reliever—no kidding!)
2. Increase your employability.
3. Open a door to another culture.
4. Stimulate the brain, preserve memory, and help protect from memory loss. (What was I saying?)
5. Widen your perspective.
6. Develop a new self.
7. Become a bridge between speakers of the two different languages.
8. Perhaps go back to your roots, a voyage of re-discovery.
9. Acquire a better appreciation of the subtleties of words and their origins.
10. Show respect for those who speak the other language.

Maintaining your new language skills (Tips)

Source: Canada Public Service Agency

At Work:

- Use your new language with people who speak that language, starting with simple conversations if you're uncomfortable. You may find that native speakers of your new language respond in your first language. Explain that you need to practice and would appreciate their help.
- Read departmental messages and consult Web sites in your new language.
- Write a memo or other documents in your new language.
- Compose and send bilingual e-mails. Ask for feedback on grammar from recipients who speak the new language.
- Develop and deliver your next presentation in a bilingual format. Do a trial run with a colleague who is fluently bilingual.
- Change the voice mail message on your telephone and use a detailed bilingual message.
- Find a language buddy—someone who speaks your new language or a fellow learner in your department or elsewhere. Together, agree to communicate only in this new language and to do so regularly—in person, on the telephone, and by e-mail.
- When you enroll in your next professional development course, consider selecting a session given in your new language.
- Organize a weekly lunchtime discussion group in your new language.
- If you're really adventurous and your personal situation allows it, seek out a short-term assignment in a region where the new language predominates or get involved in a project in your unit where the work is mostly done in your new language.

Getting to Work:

- The daily commute offers many possibilities. You could listen to the radio or a book on tape or CD in your new language while driving. If you're a passenger, read a book, newspaper, or magazine in that language or try some word games.

At home:

- Watch the news in your new language.
- Subscribe to a news magazine or read news on-line in that language.
- Watch a movie in your new language. Movies in DVD format often offer viewing choices in different languages. You can also watch a translated version of a movie you really liked.
- Look for local cultural events in your new language. Many communities have a vibrant cultural scene in that language.
- Surf Web pages in your new language.
- Pursue your hobbies in your new language by looking at books, magazines, and Web sites on subjects that are of interest to you.
- Set up a social group, with monthly activities like reading and discussing a book, going to or renting a movie, or attending a cultural event in your new language. If possible, include in the group some native speakers of the new language.
- Plan a vacation to an area where your new language is predominantly spoken. Choose a guide that speaks this language.
- If your kids are in language immersion, here are some suggestions: help them with their homework; pick one day a week to speak the new language in the house; take the family to the library or bookstore and let everyone pick out a book or magazine in that language; or find a television channel in the new language and watch it one night a week.
- Check out your local university, college, or school for specialized courses in your new language.