Survival Language and Culture

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Who We Are

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Overview

- The importance of survival language
- How to Focus your Language Learning
- Key Phrases to Learn in Your Target Language
- Tips for Learning a Language
- Resources for Language Learning
- Managing Miscommunication
1. Pair up with a person near you that you don’t know well

2. Introduce yourself to your partner - JUST YOUR NAME!

3. From this point forward, SPEAKING IS NOT ALLOWED! This includes whispering, mouthing words, and making sounds, too!

4. Tell your partner at least 3 things about yourself without speaking. You can act it out or draw if you have pens and paper, but don’t write words!

5. You have 2 minutes each to share and then we will come back together as a larger group.

6. Verbally introduce your partner to the group, as well as the three things that you learned (or think you learned).
Why Learn Before You Go?

Learning a language can be difficult, but it will be helpful in country and at home.

- You probably won’t learn everything, but learning a little will make it easier to navigate the country you are visiting.
- It is respectful to learn at least a little of the language.
- Research shows that speaking another language can make you more open-minded, curious, creative, and able to problem solve.

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.

Nelson Mandela
How Should I Focus My Learning?

- Since you won't be able to learn everything before you go, it is important that you focus your learning.

- One good way to focus your learning is to first think about what you will be doing and what you might need to say.

- When you learn a language to navigate, learn what is important to you and adjust as you go.
What Phrases Should I Learn?

- Food
- Health + Allergies
- Transportation
- Directions
- Greetings
- Weather
- Emergency
- Shopping
- Numbers
- Dates
- Questions
- Time
Activity

- Take 5 sticky notes
- Use your phone or laptop to find some words and phrases in your target language
- Write 5 of those phrases or words on your sticky notes that you can place around your house or apartment
- You have 5 minutes
- Afterwards, share with the group
Non-Verbal Communication

Body Language

- Your body language in different countries can be a great way to communicate
- It can also be a source of miscommunication
- Some gestures and ways of carrying yourself that are completely normal in the US, are very different in other countries

Personal Space

- Personal space is a social construction - this means it’s defined differently in different cultures
- Some cultures may stand closer to you or expect you to stand further away, and others may have different rules for queuing
- The important thing to remember is that it is not wrong, just different. Do what the locals do and try to be open-minded
How Can I Learn Outside the Classroom?

- Write words you want to learn on sticky notes and place them around the house.
- Practice speaking to yourself in the mirror or on your way to class.
- Practice in small ways everyday - don’t overdo it one day and skip the next. Learning a language requires daily practice.
- Find a conversation partner or a tutor.
- Try saying small sentences in your target language at the grocery store, the bank, or school.
What Resources are Available to Me?

*Forvo Travel Guides
*Wiki Voyage - worldwide travel guide, that includes simple phrases
*Word Reference - dictionary, slang

Nemo Language apps
Worldwide tipping etiquette
Allergic Traveler app

*content is crowd sourced, so be aware of quality

LRC Collections: Language kits and more...
Mango Languages (Duolingo)
SCOLA - online television, language exercises
Quizlet - Chinese, Hindi, Hebrew, Italian, Kannada - and more under development.

If you do not see your language, email lrc.contact@umich.edu.

Model phrases/content
Conversation Partners:
  - LRC resources
  - Mixxer
  - local Meetup groups

Google Translate: app, download language, download keyboard!
What Resources are Available to Me?

There are thousands of sites online. Let us know your favorites! Help us build our resources for future travellers.

lrc.contact@umich.edu

How to not be a jerk in Japan - There’s a lot to learn, but maybe the most important lesson is: don’t overthink it. Just be respectful, have fun, and be open to learning new things.
What if I Mess Up?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apologize</th>
<th>Let it Go</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- If you make a mistake and offend somebody - either with body language</td>
<td>- We all make mistakes - especially when we are learning a new language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or words - apologizing is an important first step</td>
<td>Think of what it was like to learn your native language. You probably</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most people will be understanding and will help you learn from your</td>
<td>made mistakes all the time, but you kept trying.</td>
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<tr>
<td>mistake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask for Help</td>
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<tr>
<td>- If you use the wrong word or say the wrong phrase, it’s always a good</td>
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<tr>
<td>idea to ask for help</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Many people will be excited that you are learning their language and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>will be happy to help you out</td>
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Upcoming Events
Exploring Culture & Respectful Community Engagement

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
LSA, ROOM 2001

Food provided!
Friday, March 29
5 PM - 6 PM
International House Ann Arbor
Community Room

Thursday, April 18
4 PM - 5 PM
International House Ann Arbor
Community Room

International Coffee Hour is a great place for international and U.S. students, scholars, faculty and staff to socialize with each other and meet new people from around the world.
Contact info:

UM International Center:

icenter@umich.edu
734.764.9310

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