

6 Hours

Intercultural Understanding

For the Intercultural Understanding Project Madison came over to my house and we cooked food from the culture we were studying. Even though I was born in America, my parents were born in Jamaica and migrated here in 2001, so Madison did Jamaica. Madison's dad is Italian and her mom is Ukrainian, so I had 2 options when it came to doing the project, I ended up choosing her father's side and doing Italian culture. For the project I made lasagna, I didn't end up bringing it to school but I was very good. I learned about the culture, practices, and religion of Italy during this project. Even though the language I want to learn is Spanish, I still learned quite a bit about Italy. I learned about the religion of Italy, the culture, the food, and the different practices they do.



10 Hours

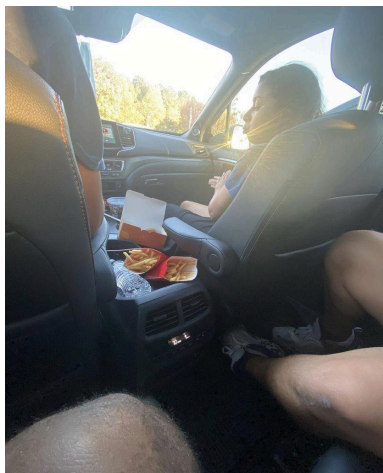
Conversing with co-workers

I did not complete this 5 hours on one shift but rather throughout multiple shifts. During my shifts, I usually speak with the other co-workers and they usually always have something interesting to say, since they're all Hispanic I asked if they could help me with my language development by helping me with a bit of Spanish. So when it was slow at work they spoke to me in Spanish and helped me understand what they were saying. I remember one day I was taking orders during drive-thru hours and a Hispanic man came up to the speaker and started ordering, the only issue was that he didn't speak English. So while I was trying to understand and take his order I had 3 co-workers and a manager help me try to take his order which was very funny. I asked him "Hueso o no hueso", meaning with bone or boneless. Other than that one interaction, It was mostly basic phrases when talking to customers like "What is my name?", "Where is the movie theater?", etc, but it helps quite a bit.

7 Hours

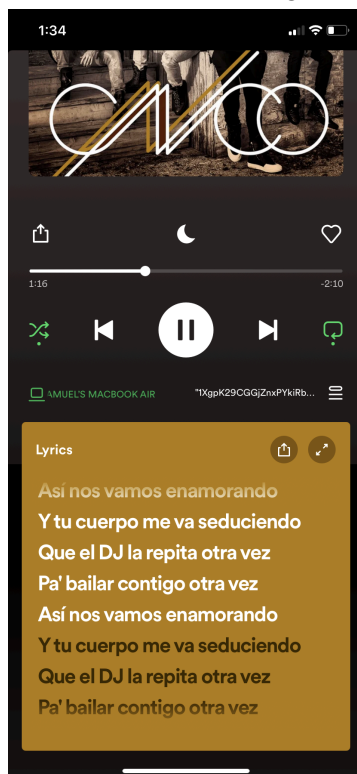
Conversing with friends

After school one day I hung out with some of my friends, they're all Hispanic except for me. When they have conversations they like to speak interchangeably throughout Spanish and English. Whenever they switch to Spanish I ask what they said translated. It may not sound like a lot but It has helped, to the point where they'll say something in Spanish and my mind automatically processes it, such words as, "Mira" meaning look, "Leche" meaning milk, "esta bien" meaning fine, among others. Along with this hangout, my friend group has 13-15 people and only 5 of them (including me) are black with everyone else being Hispanic. I've learned words like "ese", and "vato" when guys are talking to each other.



8 Hours **Music**

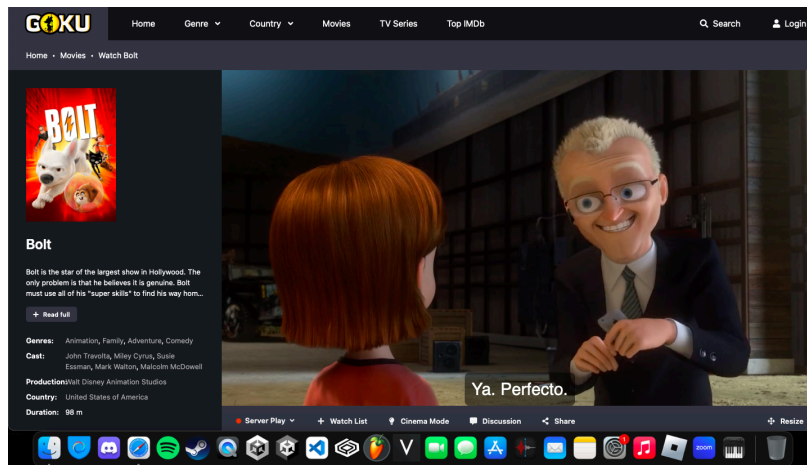
This hasn't been a recent thing but my mother loves to listen to Spanish music, not the real Spanish music that my friends at school would listen to but songs like despacito. She's been playing these songs for years while she cleans but recently I decided to actually sit down and try to understand what they're saying. I looked up the lyrics to whatever song she had on the speaker and put them into a translator to understand what she was saying. This is how I found out that "Despacito" means slowly. I've also been listening to Spanish music occasionally by myself as well.



2 Hours

Bolt

Watching the movie Bolt in Spanish was a very helpful tool for improving my Spanish skills. The movie provided me with a fun and engaging way to practice listening and comprehension skills in something I grew up and are familiar with. Hearing the characters speak Spanish helped me to improve my pronunciation and intonation. For example, I was able to hear how the word "peligroso" was pronounced and used in context. I was able to learn new vocabulary words such as "ladrido" which means bark. Overall, watching Bolt in Spanish not only helped me to improve my Spanish language abilities but also made learning spanish fun and enjoyable.



10 Hours

Overwatch

Overwatch is a video game that I enjoy playing quite a bit, I play it mostly on the weekends. I decided to kill two birds with one stone by changing the in game language to Spanish while keeping subtitles on so I can work on my language development, while also having fun with my friends. By constantly playing this game I trained myself to become familiar with certain words and phrases, along with the intonation of those words. When the character Mercy (which is a character that heals) speaks I realize that she says the words “Curar” and “Proteger” very often. By using context clues and by looking at the subtitles I learned that these are the spanish words for "heal" and "protect,". The character D.V.A is a teenager in the game and she has some interesting voice lines, a phrase she can say after defeating an enemy is “¡Qué chévere!”, this means awesome in spanish. Overwatch has been a very useful asset in my language development while also still partaking in an activity that I enjoy.



9 Hours

Chainsaw Man

I've previously read all of the manga Chainsaw Man in English. I enjoyed the story, I love how dark and interesting the story was, including the different powers of the characters. I enjoyed Chainsaw Man so much I decided to re-read three of the books in Spanish, this was my hardest task. While reading I constantly found myself looking up the definition of some of the words and phrases. I learned that “chainsaw” in Spanish is “motosierra”, and I learned that “kill” in Spanish is “matar”. Up to now I haven't completely mastered reading in Spanish without any English help but I'm getting better. By constantly reading, I've been able to pick up on certain phrases and understand them without having to look them up. One of the phrases is “peleemos” which means to fight in spanish. Reading Chainsaw Man has been my hardest language development task so far, but I believe if I keep up with it, it'll help me the most.

