

What makes it easier to learn a second language when you are older?

-Jaime Loynds





My Interviewer

Amanda Lemos

- Speaks Fluent Spanish
- Been teaching High School Spanish for 5 years
- Studied Abroad in Seville Spain
- She taught me for 2 years in high school
- Is a spanish translator of Dave's market store as well.





Questions I asked:



Why is it too hard when you are older rather than when you are younger?

What have you see while teaching that students do to help them learn Spanish in high school?

What are some teaching strategies that help and don't help high school students from learning a second language?

Now that you are fluent in one language do you find it easier to pick up others? Why or why not?

What I learned:

Based on the question: Why is it too hard when you are older rather than when you are younger?

-It is much easier to learn in general when you are younger because your brain is absorbing all of the input that they are taking in from the environment around them.

- Children are also more likely to take risks and practice talking rather than adults because we are afraid of failure.

“Our brains adapt to only retain necessary information. If we do not train our brains early on to move our mouths in certain ways to make certain sounds, it makes it much more difficult to train ourselves to do this as an adult. This is why some adults struggle with the pronunciation of a new language, even if they are able to master the vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure.”



What I learned:



Based on the question: What have you see while teaching, that students do to help them learn Spanish in high school?

- Immersing students in the language is the best way to help them learn.
- Speaking in the language, at least 90% of the time during the class period is what is recommended for students to fully immerse themselves in the language.
- Involving real-world situations for students to practice the language through authentic tasks can help make the content more engaging.

“However, it can be difficult to establish class norms and differentiate when speaking in another language, so achieving 90% target language communication in the classroom takes time and discipline from both the teachers and the students.”

What are some teaching strategies that help and don't help high school students from learning a second language?

Helpful:

- Flashcards
- Reading before speaking
- Learning about the culture first
- Talking and engaging the class about the language
- Knowing other languages, because roots of some languages can be similar.

Not Helpful:

- An uncomfortable environment
- Moving to quickly just to get through the content
- Trying to have them speak the language right away

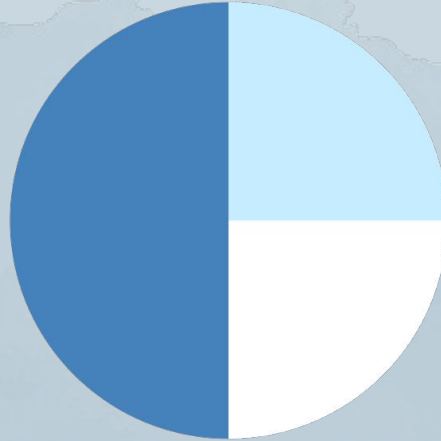
Some other helpful Teaching Strategies:

Helpful:

- Encourage participation even if the students are wrong
- Get hands on with games
- Use multimedia
- Encourage to find the language outside of the classroom
- Generate composition, kids love to compete
- Be Enthusiastic about learning the language
- Show the benefits of learning the language
- Starting before age 10, is beneficial



- 25% of students start learning a second language in high school



- 25% of students start learning a second language in College

Are you ever too old to learn a new language?



Nope!

- With all the technology today it is easier than ever to learn a second language.
- A lot of nursing homes and retirement homes offer new languages to learn because around 50% of retired adults want to learn a second language.
- If you put the time and effort into learning a second language your body will adjust to it, and you can become fluent!

Overall:



What makes it easier to learn a second language when you are older?

- Trying different styles of studying
- Learning about the culture first
- Hearing and listening to the language
- Reading the language before speaking it
- Be in a comfortable environment
- Just try your best and realize it is not natural!

Resources besides my interviewer

- <https://www.telc.net/en/about-telc/news/detail/tips-for-teaching-a-foreign-language.html>
- <https://flashacademy.com/educators/teacher-tips/foreign-language-teaching-strategies/>
- <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/just-20-percent-of-k-12-students-are-learning-a-foreign-language/2017/06#:~:text=State%20officials%20estimate%20that%2025,language%20classes%20in%20high%20school.>
- <https://www.mondly.com/blog/2018/01/30/benefits-learning-new-language-senior-years/#:~:text=Studies%20show%20that%20anyone%20at,technology%20available%20on%20the%20market.&text=It%20can%20also%20help%20you,that%20you%20want%20to%20learn.>
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