Learners of French,

So there is no summer work this year. That means you have no minimum amount of stuff you need to do to get a decent grade on your first assignment of the fall.   But it also means there is no limit to how much you can grow in your ability to communicate in French and grasp the nuances of French culture.

This is the perfect time to dive in.

Whether you are just starting out or you are going into your fourth year of French, I suggest 1-3 hours of French a day. Vary what you do. Stay engaged.

I am learning Italian. The following is what I do while learning Italian.

You can use this example for learning FRENCH.

Every day:

1-2 hours: Read, watch or listen

 I am always watching a series on Netflix. I like it better than films, because I get used to the characters and how they speak. I am still new to the language, so I have Italian subtitles on. When there is an expression or word that I want to know, I look it up on Word Reference or Reverso. I then add it to a flashcard app to study later. The two I like best are AnkiApp and AnkiDroid.   It is fun to follow Italian youtubers and there are some incredible instructors, too. In French, I recommend starting with innerFrench. The host explains tons of culture stuff in simple French. Use French subtitles at first, too. If you are willing to spend a little bit of money, I recommend Lingq. It will give you tons of stuff to read and listen to, and will help you give you access to translations whenever you need it. You can also import any books, news articles, Youtube videos, Netflix movies, etc. I have learned almost 17,000 words using Linq in the past 6 months.

30 minutes: Study

Many people think that studying a language is the way to learn a language. Others say that studying is not necessary, that you should just hear it and then speak it, like a baby does. I say do it all. I finished Duolingo in Italian in about 5 months, and it set an excellent foundation for grammatical stuff. Then I moved to Busuu, where I have learned a bunch of vocab. There are a ton of language learning apps that each have their strengths and weaknesses. Click here to see a breakdown of some of them. Most are free or cheap. To find grade level specific things to study, Mrs. Gatlin and I have compiled some things for you. Click here and scroll to French 1, 2, or 3.

Every week: 1 hour of speaking

I do not know anyone near me who speaks Italian. And even if I did, we are in lock down and I wouldn't be able to visit him or her. So instead I spend one hour a week speaking with a native speaker via Skype. Speaking helps me to remember what I have been learning and it also clarifies what I don't know, which helps me to set goals for the next week.   This is the scariest,

most intimidating part of learning a language. But it is the most rewarding. Besides, you can't say you speak a language unless you speak it.

The two apps I use to find my tutors are [italki](#) and [Preply](#). I prefer italki. For French, you can find tutors from all over the French speaking world, and you won't be paying much. If you choose a conversation over a lesson, it should be cheaper. If you like the tutor and you sign up for 10 weeks, it will be even cheaper, around $5 a lesson. You can do 30 or 60 minute lessons, at your convenience.

Between weekly italki conversations and 2 months of Lingq, you could get way better at French for about $70.

Every week: 1 hour of miscellaneous

I like finding Italian songs I like and putting them into a playlist. I then study the lyrics and I am starting to learn to play them, and memorize the lyrics. You could do the same or just about anything, as long as it is in French.

Every day: ?

I started dreaming in Italian about a month ago. And I talk to myself in Italian, too. I do not keep track of how much time I am learning the language subconsciously.

M. Bougie (aka Mr. Tietz)