

# Foreign Language Study Tools

**“Canst thou translate?”**

**-Mosiah 8:11**



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# LANGUAGE LEARNING TIPS & MOTIVATION

## Why Learn Languages



Joseph Smith: "Heber you learn that Hebrew vowel or I'll whip you!" Heber: "Go ahead and whip"

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."  
(Nelson Mandela)

-D&C 90:15: We are to be familiar with good books, languages, and cultures.

-President Ezra Taft Benson alluded to its (the Adamic language) possible universal reinstatement to resolve linguistic diversity (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [Salt Lake City, 1988], p. 93; cf. Brigham Young JD 3:100).  
([http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic\\_Language](http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic_Language))

-Zephaniah 3:9, possibly referring to the future of the Adamic language, says, "I will turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord." The word pure comes from the Hebrew berurah, from barar, "to cleanse" or purify; also "to choose." ([http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic\\_Language](http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Adamic_Language))

-“At home. Continued my studies. Oh, may God give me learning, even language; and imbue me with qualifications to magnify his name while I live” (Joseph Smith; History of the Church 2:344; )

-“I am determined to pursue the study of languages, until I shall become master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough” (Joseph Smith HC 2:396)

-“My soul delights in reading the word of the Lord in the original, and I am determined to pursue the study of the languages, until I shall become master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough. At any rate, so long as I do live, I am determined to make this my object; and with the blessing of God, I shall succeed to my satisfaction.” (Joseph Smith Journal February 17th, 1836)

-Many of the General Authorities, despite their many other duties, take the time to study foreign languages

-see book Life Everlasting page 210-212 etc. on how we need interpreters in the spirit world, and they are in short supply and high demand, and people can still only speak their native tongue in the spirit world, still having knowledge only from this life. There are accounts which show such in that text

-Joseph Smith said that if he had more time he would learn all the languages on this earth

-Hugh Nibley says we have a full-time job in exploring this world

-when you know nothing of other languages you know nothing of your own

-all are promised to hear the gospel in their own tongue, and we have promised to bring it to them

-there are few ways to express love more for another person than to speak to them in their language

-each nation has its own strengths, and to collect them all in yourself, it would be well to learn their tongue to speak with them

- many early Christian texts and a thousand years of history are kept in Latin
- many bible translations are ambiguous, and translators have chosen what they liked, but if we get acquainted with the gospel we can have even more power to have the spirit guide us in making more perfect translations of the scriptures.
- Brigham Young said that if a person can do so, he is under the obligation to render a more perfect translation of the bible
- Joseph Smith said that the languages in the world today all have fragments of the Adamic or perfect language, since it was split up at the time of the tower of babel.
- As we learn to speak more of the perfect language, we will have power to think in ways as never before, and express ourselves as never before, and without knowledge, no person can be saved, so the more we can speak and understand, the sooner we can get and give knowledge, hence the sooner we can be saved and save others.
- Elder Holland in Preach My Gospel says that missionaries should try to learn all aspects of their mission languages and maintain such throughout their lives
- knowing foreign tongues we can negotiate peace in time of war
- scripture and modern prophets say the times of the gentiles are ending and the times of the Jews are commencing. Who will preach them the gospel in their native tongue?
- Hugh Nibley says we have a full-time job learning about the history of this earth
- see also my missionary work essay “Give an answer to EVERY man”.

## Language Learning: Strategies & Resources

- scriptures** are a great source for learning another language as you can compare verses side by side, and a divine wind will blow behind your back helping you as you make priority on God’s word.
- Interlinear audio** books are excellent but hard to find.
- interlinear text** books are also hard to find but not as hard as finding interlinear audio. You can just buy a book in another language and hold it side to side with the English version, this is particularly accessible via scriptures.
- movies** in foreign languages helps you see the real speed they speak, etc.
- grammar charts** (“Rosetta Stones” I call them; compact guides) posted in the home/school room or laminated for frequent access have always helped me. Memorize these for stage 1 of learning, but practice translating without one after that. Make the grammar chart understandable to you even if that means you recreate it.
- Quizlet** is an electronic flash card program (for free) where you can build decks of your own or use those of others, and even print them in table or flashcard format.
- teach English** to foreigners. You don’t need to be fluent in the foreign language to teach the foreigners your native language. With aids of pictures and gestures you could even get away with knowing nothing of their language but you should be working on learning theirs as you teach them yours.
- Apps:** Duilingo, Mondly, Babel, etc. Comparisons: <https://www.languagecourse.net/mobile/comparison>
- Bahador Alast’s YouTube channel has side by side speaking 2 languages comparing similar ones.  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCupKOOmfBOhdwhBLYjYH4RQ>
- Langfocus is an excellent YouTube channel on history and grammar of languages  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNhX3WQEkraW3VHPyup8jkQ>
- Teen polyglot challenge videos <https://www.youtube.com/user/PolyglotPal/videos>
- Breaking the language barrier | Tim Doner | TEDxTeen 2014; speaks of learning languages not by keeping careful detail of numbers of languages but enjoying studying languages, and they why of learning them, not just as a cheap trick.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNmf-G81Irs>
- Teen (Tim Doner) speaks 20 languages: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km9-DiFaxpU>
- Miles V Van Pelt – language books and flashcards

## Language Learning: Side by Side Scripture Verse

Elder Groberg when on a mission sat and read The Book of Mormon in his native tongue of English with the book of his foreign language mission side by side for several days. After this he was able to speak fluently. He read both texts out loud.

I believe God gives the gift of tongues, particularly when we use The Book of Mormon. This book is for our day! Doing this with the bible is also an amazing experience. Reading scripture verses side by side helps the reader to become familiar with language in action, rather than just obscure words, phrases, and rules.

You can get the gist of how to use and speak a language even before you understand all of how to write it, or how all of the grammar rules work. This is like how we learn to speak before we learn to read and write. A fixation on rules can be frustrating, and this verse by verse approach

## Language Learning: Audio Tools

Audio interlinears are hard to find, but worth their weight in gold. Usually all that is available in this venue are audio recordings repeating a few words over and again. They don't hold water compared to an audio interlinear book.

If you have a working knowledge of how to pronounce words in the new language, you can record your own interlinear materials. Repetition and auditorily so are key.

## Book Description: Accelerated Fluency - Polygot Practice: using the methods of hyper-polygots to learn a language

Rick Dearman: Accelerated Fluency - Polygot Practice: using the methods of hyper-polygots to learn a language:

The Amazon description:

methodologies recommended by polyglots, and hyper-polyglots world-wide, which are: 1. Intensive Reading 2. Shadowing 3. Transcription.

In order to gain advanced fluency in a language you need to train the muscle memory of your speaking organs. To be fluent in another language you need exposure to the word patterns of that language. Finally you need to become comfortable with the pattern of sentences. Fluent speakers don't think about the grammar rules whenever they talk, they just mimic the countless correct sentences they have encountered and spoken before. All of these things are accomplished by constant exposure and repetition and all of them are included in the principles of this book.

## Language Apps

Anki flashcards are still around, there is an app. free. I've used them before and quite liked it, but it's been a long time. If they've stayed the same, it's very plain format, minimal distractions and nonsense.

Quizlet. Free, but about 1/mo gets rid of ads, adds night mode, and ability to put pictures into your cards. Used to be able to print these cards but that feature is apparently discontinued.

I'm not a fan of Quizzez or Kahoot, they are too flashy and noisy and gameshow-like. Kahoot does have a good multiplayer feature however.

I've heard of one called TinyCards but haven't used it.

Beelingua uses audiobooks and texts to learn, but no Hebrew. Does have Arabic, Hindi, etc.

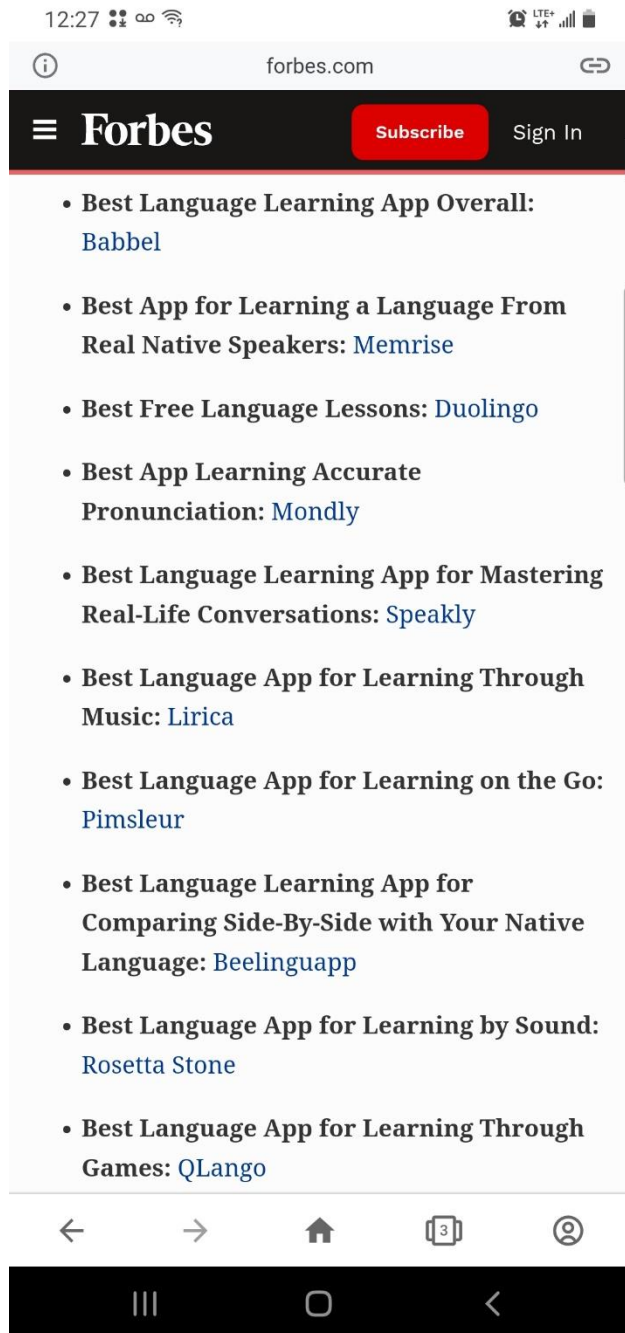
Babbel app has no Hebrew, but is highly rated.

free ones <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/free-language-apps/>

Good review of many, shows prices, methods, etc. <https://www.langoly.com/language-learning-apps/>

Netflix chrome browser extension for language learning including side dictionary of unfamiliar terms

I'm not a fan of DuoLingo's "inclusive" philosophy of promoting homosexuality in their program, so I avoid that program.



ENGLISH GRAMMAR TERMS pending

Tenses:  
Declensions:  
Dangling Participle:





