

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

How a European-Made App is Teaching Americans New Languages

Millions of people are using Babbel's app — made by 150 language experts — to learn a new language.

For a limited time, readers can get 3 months of Babbel for free.*

How do you create a science backed language-learning app? Babbel's lessons were created by a team of over 150 linguists, language experts and teachers working together in their Berlin office.

It's probably one of the most multilingual places on Earth: Not only does this team cover the 14 Babbel languages, but the experts also speak 20 other languages and dialects, including Thai, Mandarin, Icelandic, and even Tongan. And they're all learning more languages, of course.

These experts know how to get you conversational in a new language as quickly as possible — so quickly, in fact, that a recent study showed that even beginners just starting out in a new language only need an average of 15 hours of study over a two-month period to cover the requirements for one college semester.

So how do they do this? Let's take a look.

1. They Design Courses With Real-World Conversation In Mind

If you think back to your previous language learning experiences, you can probably recall having to construct basically useless sentences, while still struggling to complete basic daily tasks.

Babbel believes the focus of language learning should be on real-life conversations, so they avoid drilling abstract grammar and vocabulary.

After completing the first course you'll be able to introduce yourself, talk about where you're from, how you're doing, and say what you'd like to drink. Just think of what you'll be able to accomplish after a month of studying!

You can also choose topics related to anything that interests you and is relevant to your life. Planning a trip? Skip directly to the sections that cover vacation vocabulary, like asking for directions and checking into your hotel. Working with colleagues overseas? Check out Babbel's business courses that help you participate in meetings in another language.

2. All Lessons Are Voiced By Native Speakers

Because they want you to be able to actually use the language you're studying, Babbel's experts make a point to have all of the dialogues and trainers voiced by native speakers. They know how essential it is to hear the language as it's really spoken.

And their teaching experts and linguists know that you need to practice speaking the language before you get out in the real world. They include voice-recognition software to check your pronunciation. You'll have the opportunity to repeat every new piece of vocabulary that's introduced (and you can turn this feature off, too, so you can practice while on the go).

3. Their Experts Know The Importance Of Review

In an interview with Karoline Schnur, one of Babbel's language experts, she explained why review is an important part of the app.

"We have repetition built into the lessons with different exercises and different contexts so that you make connections in your brain."

While you might first encounter a certain set of vocabulary in the beginner courses, these words will continue to pop up in later dialogue practices.

The Babbel app also has a Review Manager that's designed solely for repeating information and getting it into your long-term memory. The approach comes from psychology and is based on time intervals for repeating information.

When using Babbel, you'll notice that items are available for review in the days and weeks after the initial lesson. The rationale?

"If you keep getting an item correct, the time until you see it again expands. After all those steps are done, we say, 'OK, this is in your long-term memory.'" Karoline explained.

In this way, Babbel isn't just helping you memorize vocabulary, but really learn a language.

4. 15 - Minute Lessons Easily Fit Into Your Schedule

The most common excuse for not learning a new language is: "I just don't have enough time."

People are busy nowadays. Your weekly schedule is undoubtedly filled to the brim, but Babbel's experts have this schedule in mind when they craft courses.

Each lesson is designed to take you only 10-15 minutes, so they're ideal for filling the commute, a quiet lunchtime break, or that well-deserved bit of time to yourself.

And Babbel preaches the little and often approach, with a diverse offering of relevant lessons that keep you engaged and promote your reading, listening, writing and speaking skills. The timely introduction and repetition of new vocabulary and grammar explanations ensures you make sustained, upward progress and never feel overwhelmed.

Proven Effective By Multiple Universities

Babbel prides itself on the fact that universities and researchers have validated their craftsmanship.

A study conducted by researchers at the City University of New York and the University of South Carolina showed that beginners learning Spanish only need an average of 15 hours of study with Babbel to cover the requirements for one college semester.

Another study conducted by researchers at Michigan State University showed that virtually all participants made a measurable gain in their ability to communicate orally in Spanish when studying with Babbel. Now that's a real honor!

*How to get 3 months of Babbel for free

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