

“How long will I need?”

A common and interesting question. The quick answer is, it depends.

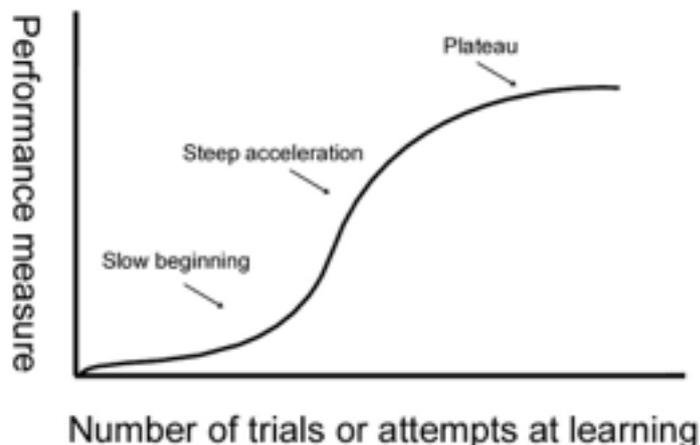
It can be difficult to place an exact figure on the time needed to competently acquire a language. Acquiring a language varies depending on the language being studied and by the origin of the student according to the FSI (REF 1, given below). In brief, a Spanish native may have an easier time learning romance language compared to the time needed to acquire Japanese, due to similarities between the language being acquired and the student’s mother tongue.

There are many contrasting theories from around the World regarding “language learning” - from 360 class hours (English UK, REF 2) to 1200 hours (Cambridge English, REF 3) to 1765 hours according to Philida Schellekens, a language consultant (REF 2)

In our experience there are other intangible and tangible factors that also influence the speed of acquisition, such as full immersion in a native (to the language you are trying to acquire) country, motivation, needs (business or leisure), practice, exposure and commitment, amongst other factors, can and will affect the process. Nevertheless, through our experience, we have built guidelines on the recommended number of hours

Learning Curve

In our experience, as you move up the marco-europeo (REF 4), the longer it will take to notice a marked improvement, as shown by the widely known learning curve, shown below (Graph REF 1).



Hours needed

A summary of hours need to acquire a language, please note the hours include self-study and class time, generally speaking 2 hours of personal study to every 1 hour of class time.

TABLE HERE _____ (DO WE HAVE WHAT WE SENT TO ANGELINI A FEW YEARS AGO?)

Possible quotes

“Philida Schellekens, a language consultant, says that when she researched English language learning in Australia a decade ago the figure of 1,765 hours was used. That could mean four years of classes. It signifies the standard needed to do a clerical job in an office.”

Huan Japes, deputy chief executive of English UK, a trade body for language colleges, says a rule of thumb is 360 hours - 120 hours for each of three stages - to get to the standard the government expects benefit claimants to reach.

REFERENCES (“REF X” Text)

1. <http://www.effectivelanguagelearning.com/language-guide/language-difficulty>
2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-23407265>
3. <https://support.cambridgeenglish.org/hc/en-gb/articles/202838506-Guided-learning-hours>
4. https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marco_Com%C3%BAn_Europeo_de_Referencia_para_las_lenguas

Graph (Graph REF X)

http://www.intropsych.com/ch07_cognition/07learningcurve.jpg