

VAdv Follow-up Activities

Text type: TED talk

Week: 2

Title: The secrets of learning a new language

Author/Speaker: Lydia Machova

Follow-up Writing:

1. Use reported speech to outline what Lydia Machova says are the 4 main principles people should apply to learn a new language. Make sure to paraphrase, not just quote from the text.
2. What type(s) of evidence does Machova use to support her argument? Examples? Anecdotes? Research/statistics? Explain, giving examples from the listening.

Follow-up Discussion:

1. Have you used any of the strategies (or something similar) that Machova talks about? Were they helpful?
2. Do you think learning a new language can give you some insight into the culture associated with that language? Is it possible to learn a language without also learning something about its culture?
3. Do you think foreign languages are worthwhile subjects to be studied in school? What age do you think is best to start learning a foreign language?
4. Do you think a person is ever too old to learn a new language? Do you think language learning becomes more difficult as you get older?
5. Other than English, which language or languages would you like to learn if you have the chance? Why?