Some Strategies for Learning French

- Repeat aloud.
- Don’t be afraid to make mistakes.
- Speak to others in French.
- Make flashcards.
- Watch French films on DVD/ at the movies.
- Praise yourself for your efforts.
- Listen to music or tapes from your teacher.
- Don’t wait for the teacher to evaluate your progress.
- Go to an authentic restaurant and order in French.
- Eavesdrop on people speaking French.
- Don’t make excuses.
- Name objects in French.
- Relax before going to class and before studying.

- Read instructions in French when you can.
- Don’t worry about your age or aptitude.
- Talk to yourself in French!
- Try not to translate from French to English in your head.
- Practice speaking French with friends.
- Form a study group with classmates.
- Review class notes.
- Reward your successes.
- Guess when in doubt.
- Re-write class notes.
- Record new vocabulary and grammar in a notebook.
- Make review cards grouping verbs, nouns, etc.
- Don’t pretend to understand when you really don’t. Ask for an explanation.
- Paraphrase when necessary.
- Listen to French radio stations (many are online)
- Stay alert; don’t "zone out" in class.
- Hang in there; be persistent.
- Read ahead in the book.
- Use mime and gestures.
- Write down words that you don’t know, then, find out what they mean.
- Keep a language diary.
- Keep your expectations realistic.
- Practice daily.
- Make corrections in class when reviewing homework.
- Memorize using images, sounds, rhymes (mnemonic devices.)
- Teach someone what you have learned.
- Be assertive in class.
- Participate in group activities in class.
- Use cognates for association with English.
- Have a positive attitude towards class and the language.
- Read French newspapers on the Internet.
- Use what you learn.
- Chat on-line with native speakers
- Make study sheets.
- Review the day’s lesson after class.
- Try not to use the dictionary too much.
- Ask for help when you need it.

- Teach your methods of successful language learning with others!
- Have fun!!

*Adapted from the University of Kansas Spanish Department*