Language Learning Strategies

This questionnaire is designed to gather information about how you, as a student of a foreign language, go about learning it. On the following pages you will find statements related to learning a new language. React to them using a 1, 2 or 3 in terms of what you actually do when you are learning the new language (not what you think you should do).

Please note that **there are no right or wrong answers**.

1. Never or almost never true of me

2. Somewhat true of me

3. Always or almost always true of me

Part A | Remembering more effectively
1. I think of relationships between what I already know and new things I learn in Spanish.
2. I put the new Spanish word in a sentence so I can remember it.
3. I place the new word in a group with other words that are similar in some way (for example, words related to [category], feminine/masculine nouns, etc).
4. I associate the sound of the new word with the sound of a familiar word.
5. I connect the sound of a new Spanish word and an image or picture of the word to help remember the word.
6. I remember a new Spanish word by making a mental picture of a situation in which the word might be used.
7. I use rhymes to remember it.
8. I use flashcards to remember new Spanish words.
9. I physically act out new Spanish words.
10. I review often.
11. I schedule my reviewing so that review sessions are initially close together and gradually become more widely apart (1 day after the class, 2 days after class, 1 week after class, etc.).

Part B | B - Using your mental processes
12. I say new Spanish words/expressions several times.
13. I write new Spanish words/expressions several times.
14. I try to imitate native Spanish speakers.
15. I use words I already know in different combinations to make new sentences.
16. I write (notes, messages, emails, a journal) in Spanish.
17. I look for words in my own language that are similar to new words in Spanish.
18. I try to find patterns in Spanish.

19. I find the meaning of a Spanish word by dividing it into parts that I understand.
20. I make summaries of information that I hear or read in Spanish.
21. I use apps to learn/practice Spanish.
22. I speak to myself in Spanish

Part C | Using input

READING

23. I read for pleasure in Spanish.
24. I read authentic language articles in Spanish.
25. I read novels in Spanish.
26. I read several times until I can understand what I'm reading.
27. I make inferences from the title and pictures, if any.
28. I first skim a Spanish text (read over it quickly) then go back and read carefully.
29. I use a dictionary to help me.
30. I feel reading in Spanish can help me improve my language skills.

VIDEOS

31. I watch Spanish language TV shows or films spoken in Spanish.
32. I watch films/TV shows more than once.
33. I stop the video to look up for words I don't know.
34. I watch YT videos that cover grammar topics.
35. I write down the words I don't know and look them up in a dictionary later.
36. I use Spanish subtitles for the videos.
37. I think I should be able to understand without using subtitles.
38. I make inferences from what I see, even when I don't understand what's being said.
39. I decrease the playback speed of the videos on YT and Netflix.
40. I feel watching videos can help me improve my language skills.

LISTENING

41. I listen to podcasts in Spanish.
42. I feel listening to podcasts can help me improve my language skills.
43. I listen to music in Spanish.
44. I look up the lyrics for songs I listen to.
45. I feel listening to music in Spanish can help me improve my language skills.

Part D | Compensating for missing knowledge
46. To understand unfamiliar Spanish words, I make guesses by using any clue I can find.
47. When I can't think of a word during a conversation in Spanish, I use gestures.
48. I make up new words if I don't know the right ones in Spanish.
49. I ask the other person to tell me the right word if I don't know it.
50. I try to guess what the other person will say next.

Part E | Organizing and evaluating your learning

51. I try to find as many ways as I can to use my Spanish.

52. I notice my Spanish mistakes and use that information to help me do better.

53. I pay attention when someone is speaking Spanish.

54. I try to find out how to be a better learner of Spanish.

55. I plan my schedule so I will have enough time to study Spanish.

56. I have clear goals for improving my Spanish skills.

57. I think about my progress in learning Spanish.

Part F | Managing your emotions

58. I try to relax whenever I feel afraid of using Spanish.

59. I make encouraging statements to myself.

60. I actively encourage myself to take wise risks in language learning, such as guessing meaning or trying to speak, even though I might make some mistakes.

61. I keep a private diary or journal where I write my feelings about language learning.

62. I talk to someone else about how I feel when I am learning Spanish.

Part G | Learning with others

63. If I do not understand something in Spanish, I ask the other person to slow down or say it again, or clarify what was said.

64. I practice Spanish with other students.

65. I ask for help from Spanish speakers.

66. I feel comfortable asking questions when I don't understand.

67. I try to learn about the culture of Spanish speakers.

Now, go back and add up your answers. What are your averages for each part?
(Fill in with your scores on next page.)

<u>Score</u>

PART A _____ /11=

PART B _____ /11=

PART C

        a. _____ /8=

b. _____ /10=

c. _____ /5=

PART D ____ /5=

PART F ____/7=

PART E ____ /5=

PART G ____ /5=

The overall average indicates how frequently you use language learning strategies in general. The averages for each of the skills show which groups of strategies you tend to use the most in learning a new language.

Optimal use of language learning strategies depends on different factors. Nevertheless, there may be some strategies that you are not using which might be beneficial to you. Take your results as an invitation to explore strategies you've never tried.

Feel invited to do so in class as well.

Key to understanding your averages

Below 0.2: You're not applying these strategies

Between 0.2 – 0.6: You're aware of some of these strategies. Maybe you could explore some of them in more depth.

Over 0.6: You're familiar with these strategies. Keep at them and add some spice from others ou might not be applying as much.