
Book Review

HOW TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. Paul Pimsleur. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1980. Pp. 113. \$7.50

This delightful little volume will be a valuable asset to language students everywhere. It embodies the dream of the late Dr. Paul Pimsleur to make language learning easy and enjoyable for all students in secondary schools, junior and four-year colleges, adult evening classes, and for the self-learner. Teachers will appreciate the effectiveness of this book in helping their students. Used as a primer, it will provide assistance and encouragement to anyone who might feel overwhelmed by the complexities of language learning. Used as an adjunct to any foreign language course, it brings simplicity and fun to the learning process.

How to Learn a Foreign Language is divided into two sections covering the "whys" and "hows" of language learning. Each section is filled with short, concise, and often witty chapters relating anecdotes on everyday confrontations with language and advice on how to overcome the various stumbling blocks encountered in learning. The author drew on his own experiences and those of others to illustrate his points, and the situations described are sure to hit home with anyone who has been trapped in an embarrassing or amusing situation involving language. In this book, his primary purpose is not just to emphasize the importance of learning a foreign language, but to make the process of language learning one that can be enjoyed by both student and teacher.