Реформа державної служби – шлях до євроінтеграції

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**WEB APPLICATIONS TO SPEED UP LEARNING LANGUAGES**

The closer Ukraine to Europe is, the higher the demand and need for Ukrainians to learn and speak foreign languages. Every year a number of new applications designed to help study languages appear on the web. Keeping track of all new programs is quite a difficult task. In this article I would like to talk about five excellent web apps for learning languages.

App number one is called Clozemaster [1]. It is a context-based learning game where you have to learn words in context within the context of sentences.

Now they cover 59 different languages to choose from. It is free, although they do have a premium mode and they push you to join that premium mode quite heavily, but paying is not necessary and it is an app that I found pretty fun, although it is more suited to intermediates. Do not use it if you are like a fresh beginner, otherwise you are probably not going to understand why sentences are formed the way they are, but if you do have knowledge of basic grammar in the language that you are studying, I can definitely recommend it for you.

There is also an app called Lingvist. It is again based on context-based learning: fill in the blank of a sentence with whatever word that you are learning. I think it is a more effective way to go about mass memorizing words and building your vocabulary. Lingvist is more or less like Clozemaster without the gamification features.

It is a little bit more professional. The example sentences are curated better and, overall, it is a bit more polished. However, because it lacks those gamification features, it also a little bit dry in comparison to Clozemaster, but either choice is a great one for context-based learning.

App number two is called Pimsleur [2]. It is an amazing app for beginners so as ClozeMaster is for intermediates. Pimsleur is really for beginners.

Each lesson is 30 minutes long. At the beginning of the lesson they show you a conversation between two native speakers and you listen to that conversation and you understand everything and it feels great because you actually have some tangible progress. In addition to that, it is really good for pronunciation skills and I find it is quite helpful to get a pretty decent sounding accent right away from the get-go as opposed to only learning with textbooks and you sound like you know all. They have also evolved – they have added some new features. For example, there are some features to help you with reading comprehension and pronunciation like actually seeing feedback for it, and on top of that there is a review mini game that they have added for beginners. They cover a bunch of languages.

Number three is an app called Tandem [3]. Tandem is a pen pal making app. The app is based on the idea of finding natives of the language you are studying and having a little language exchange.

There are definitely a few pen pal making apps out there, but I feel Tandem is the most refined; it is the best-looking from my point of view. The app is free to use, although there is a premium mode.

At number four is Language Transfer [4].

Basically Language Transfer is a course or a series of courses created by one person and it is absolutely free.

The way this person teaches is like this: he has a student that is learning a language from scratch. The teacher records himself teaching this student and then breaks down systematically the structure of the complete structural overview of a language from A to Z. If you are learning a language, by the end of the course you feel you know almost everything you need to know about how to form sentences in your target language and his method explains the logic behind the grammar and why you know not just the rules about why things actually change the way they do, how they relate to other languages. At the end of the course you could be at an intermediate level.

The fifth and the last app is Mango [5].

It is a newcomer to the scene. It takes you to the basics of grammar and introduces you to a good amount of vocabulary, a little bit of pronunciation, a little bit of sentence building and also gives you some cultural insights as well. Aside from that, it is really easy on the eye. It is quite visually appealing. One feature of this app that really stood out to me was their pronunciation. They match an audio file of your pronunciation with a native speaker doing it. You can hone your pronunciation skills.

These five apps is only the tip of an iceberg – there are a lot more of them. Still, they definitely stand out because of their user-friendly features and great potential.

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