

Duolingo!

Learning a new language presents a plethora of benefits, and holds the potential of improving your ability and stance in our increasingly interconnected world and economy. It has been scientifically proven to present multiple cognitive benefits such as improved memory and critical thinking skills, as well as signs of greater creativity and multitasking capabilities. Nevertheless, learning a new language can seem daunting, especially when you are starting from scratch. Contrary to popular belief, you are never too old to learn a new language, especially with the language app Duolingo. Duolingo is an American-based language learning website and mobile app that offers 106 different language courses such as French, English, and Spanish as well as more unique languages such as Hawaiian, Latin, and Scottish Gaelic. Duolingo has over 300 million registered users worldwide and operates under the slogan “Learn a language for free. Forever.”



Advantages of Duolingo

1. Visualization:

- Duolingo uses images, symbols, and characters to help you remember what you have learned. As stated on WordDive.com, a language learning blog, “When the mental image of a study item is triggered by a picture instead of a verbal description in your native language, you are able to concentrate on just one language, and the association formed between the word and the picture becomes strong.”

2. Simplicity:

- Duolingo is very easy to operate. Both mobile and desktop versions of the app provide a clear overview of the content and options for the language you are learning.

3. Explanation and Teaching:

- Vocabulary and expressions during a lesson have the option to display their meaning/translate if you are unsure.
- Each lesson provides an in-depth explanation of the grammatical rules studied in that unit as well as a thorough opportunity for practice and review.

4. Efficiency:

- The app reminds you to redo and review certain exercises that you struggled with in the past, as well as strengthen the skills you have already perfected. This helps to reinforce what you have learned and keeps it fresh in your mind.

5. Audio:

- Phrases and vocabulary in each language can be spoken out loud by your device, to assist with pronunciation.
- There are recording exercises that analyze your pronunciation as well.
- Podcast and story options allow you to explore the auditory aspects of a language by listening to interactive stories and podcasts about the language.

6. Cost:

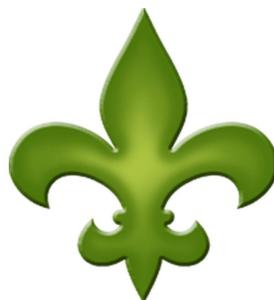
- The app is free of charge.

7. Motivation:

- Duolingo encapsulates a fun game or app that you could download on your device. The app provides incentives and rewards as you achieve your goals, such as lingots and gems like a “funny game that is maybe not as bad as Candy Crush”, as stated by Communications Director Christian Hillemeier.
- Allows you to compete with others learning languages worldwide as well.
- Duolingo sends you post-notifications to remind you to complete your daily goals and complete lessons.

How to use Duolingo

1. Create your profile using your personal or CBE email address, to save your language course progress.
2. Choose the language you would like to learn, and whether or not you are a “beginner” or “not a beginner”. If you are “not a beginner”, the app will provide a quick placement test that will evaluate your language level.
3. Set your daily and weekly goals for your language learning journey. You can choose between “casual, regular, serious, or insane” goals.
4. Pass “checkpoints” to begin activating for lessons and course content. You can do so by completing all of the lessons in a unit.
5. Visit the shop to purchase fun powerups, bonus skills, outfits, etc. with Duolingo's “lingot” and “gem” currency.
6. Explore the benefits and different forms of learning that your specific language offers. For example, if you are learning French on Duolingo, explore the podcast and interactive French stories.
7. Compete and interact with other Duolingo users. You can climb the leagues of learners, earn crowns and XP, and follow your friends' language learning journeys.



Henry Wise Wood Students who use Duolingo

Rebecca D. - HWW Grade 12 student. Rebecca has been using Duolingo since she first started learning French in the fourth grade. In Grade 11, she began using Duolingo daily to begin improving and building on her language skills and working towards complete fluency. She dreams of someday traveling to France and exploring the authentic French culture in which she is so passionate about. Rebecca currently has a 600-day streak on Duolingo. Her favorite things about Duolingo are:

- ***The French Stories:*** *These stories are so helpful in introducing conversational French. They are interactive and interesting stories that help you to work on applying the basic language principles to a real-life situation.*
- ***The Podcasts:*** *Similar to the French stories, the podcast is very useful in helping to solidify the basic grammatical and conversational skills of the French language. The podcast furthermore focuses on improving your pronunciation and has an interactive aspect that processes and corrects your accent.*
- ***The Leaderboard:*** *Rebecca loves competing on the Duolingo leaderboard because it allows you to work on and improve your language skills with other people around the world. The leaderboard encourages you to complete more lessons per day and offers different rewards for achieving a specific placement on the leaderboard. Working towards a goal is so much more enjoyable and doable when you are being held accountable by others with similar aspirations.*

Matt M. - HWW Grade 10 student. Matt has also been a long-time user of Duolingo. Matt currently uses Duolingo to keep his French skills sharp and continue improving upon his understanding of the language. Matt's favorite thing about Duolingo is:

- ***The Reward System:*** *I love the reward system on Duolingo because it not only provides an incentive to continue improving upon your language skills but also allows people to expand the various aspects of their learning by choosing different and enjoyable lessons!*
- *Additionally, Matt feels that by using Duolingo 20 minutes a day supports his in class learning of French.*

Eliza F. - HWW Grade 12 student. Eliza has recently begun using Duolingo to learn Japanese. She aspires to someday travel to Japan in the future due to her fascination with the Japanese culture. Eliza says that she uses Duolingo because of its simple mechanics and goal focused learning programs. It is a great place to start the daunting tasks of learning a new language, and gives you a great foundation and jumping off point. Duolingo is able to break down a completely foreign language in a way that makes sense to a beginner. Eliza's favourite part about Duolingo is:

- ***The Simplicity:*** *I love how it organizes each lesson by common theme, growing more complex as you continue to complete levels. Overall, I have had a great experience with Duolingo because I am able to learn at my own pace and gain confidence and excitement in developing my language skills.*

Try Duolingo Today!

Bibliography

<https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/why-learn-languages/top-ten-reasons-to-learn-languages/>

[Logo-with-duo.png](#)

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