

TECHNIQUE FOR LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Know What To Speak About

Study the material about dealing with the other people and religions concerned, otherwise learning Bengali still won't help very much.

The Need to Learn Grammar

To grasp a foreign language correctly, this must involve some grammatical explanation. However, this will be kept to the minimum sufficient for effective communication of the message.

Appreciate Proper English Grammar

You won't progress easily at learning a foreign language, unless you have a good understanding of the structure of language. Knowing your English language structure - with its "Parts of Speech", sentence analysis by clauses, tenses, and so forth - your mind will be able to recognize quickly and replicate the equivalent processes at work in the foreign language.

Learning the Script

Generally, Bengali is pronounced the way it is written - apart from a few simple exceptions. A consistent form of imitated pronunciation is given in this course.

Briefly examine the alphabet and understand its logical structure - as to where the sound is produced in the mouth, and how it is produced. (See the Classification of Bengali Sounds table provided. It is good

to learn it straight away, but if you wish, you may work on it a little at a time. It is more important to get quickly into the speech and start becoming fruitful without delay.

Separate sheets with characters in outline are available for you to fill in as writing practice. A version of the sound chart is usable online at www.jaspell.co.uk, and this allows you to play the actual sound of the characters.

Get The Pattern

Try to get the overall idea of the main principles of Bengali. This will give you a pattern on which to build more rapidly with the additional pieces of information, as you meet them - vocabulary, phrases, grammar, - and to learn scriptures. (2 Ti 1:13 - "Keep holding the *pattern* of healthful words that you heard".)

Simple Is Best

It is best to use simple language with short sentences. They are much easier to construct, and more clearly understood. You can join them together with connectives, such as 'and' or 'but', or build conditional logic using 'if' and 'then'.

Small Parcels

The rules are introduced simply and progressively in small parcels. Plenty of practical examples and exercises are provided.

Use It

Put what you have learned into use as soon and often as possible. (Heb. 5:14).

Exercises

Each page of exercises should be done more than once. About an hour should suffice usually, including reading the principles, vocabulary and samples.

You will memorize the subject better, if you write the exercises at least once.

Separate sheets are available for exercises or tests to be marked by the instructor.

Mutual Encouragement

Work with and share experiences others who are pursuing similar goals. We were particularly encouraged twenty years ago to attend assemblies already being held in Gujarati and Punjabi, where many brothers have already worked very hard and borne fine fruit to Jehovah's praise. Now the first Bengali assembly day has been held outside Bengal – in Italy – and may there be more to follow!

Momentum

Enjoy bearing much fruit among our Asian neighbours. If you do, then you'll want to do even more!

John 15:8 My Father is glorified in this, that YOU keep bearing much fruit and prove yourselves my disciples.

John 15:8 ihaate-i aamaar pitaa mahimaanvita han ye, tomaraa pracur phale phalabaan' hao; aar tomaraa aamaar shisya haibe.

Student: _____

Teaching Truth in Bengali