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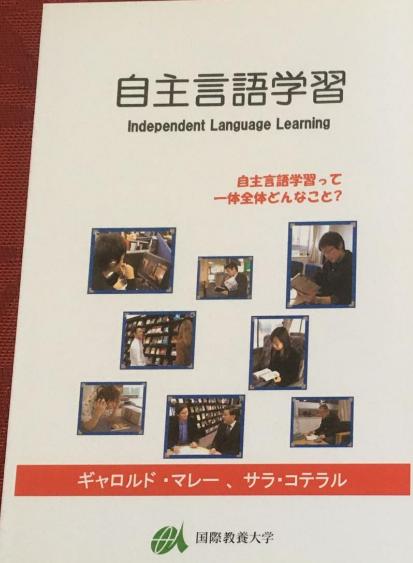
Centre for Independent Language Learning, Akita Japan



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Bilingual book on Independent Language Learning



# Independent Language Learning:

what's it all about?

















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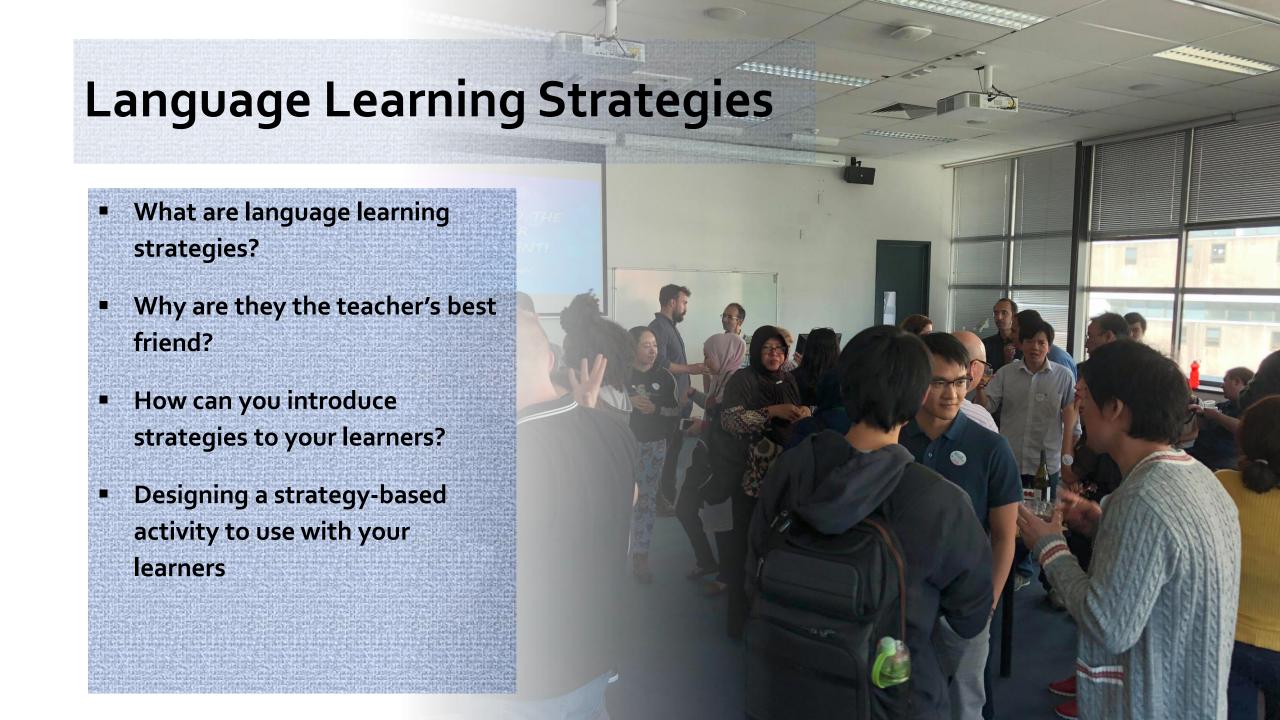


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## What are language learning strategies (LLS)?

" ... specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more enjoyable, more self-directed, more effective, and more transferable to new situations."

Rebecca Oxford (1990, p. 8)

# Why are language learning strategies the teacher's best friend?

#### Why are LLS the teacher's best friend?

Because when learners use them, "these strategies have the power to:

- Increase attention essential for learning a language
- Enhance rehearsal that allows linkages to be strongly forged
- Improve the encoding and integration of language material
- Increase retrieval of information when needed for use."

#### **Key characteristics of LLS**

#### Language learning strategies are:

- active they make learning faster, easier, more fun
- chosen by learners give learners some responsibility for their learning
- goal-oriented and purposeful they address learners' problems and boost motivation

## **Activity One**

- 1. Think about your own language learning experiences.
- 2. What was one of your biggest difficulties (remembering vocabulary? pronouncing sounds? overcoming shyness? ...)
- 3. What action did you take to overcome this difficulty?
- 4. Share your experience with your group members.
- 5. Choose someone to report back on your group's discussion.



Your language learning strategies ....

## Different types of LLS

- Cognitive strategies (for learning and using the target language)
  - → e.g. bridging "gaps" by creating new words
- Metacognitive strategies (for managing and monitoring learning)
  - -> e.g. preparing an outline before you start writing
- Social/Affective strategies (for managing your feelings or interaction)
  - → e.g. working together to solve a problem

#### **Benefits of LLS**

- they place the learner at the centre of the learning
- they make learning more effective
- they help learners experience success which boosts their motivation
- they enable learners to continue learning independently outside of class

## **Activity Two**

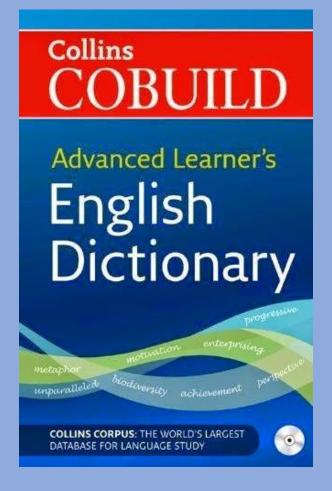
- Look at the four benefits listed on the previous slide.
- Rank order them according to which is <u>most</u> persuasive for you, and which is <u>least</u> persuasive.
- Share your ranking with others in your group. Be prepared to justify your choices.
- Choose someone from your group to report back on your discussion.

# How can you introduce strategies to your learners?

## Options for introducing LLS

- awareness-raising e.g. discuss a task and how to approach it. For example, how do you watch movies in English – why? any other ways?
- try out strategies that you have "embedded" in language tasks e.g. a
   listening task which activates background knowledge before listening
- practise using a strategy (e.g. check how frequent a word is <u>before</u> deciding to learn it, using the COBUILD dictionary), then reflect how useful was this? why is it useful? when should I use it?

#### **Check word frequency**



right track and I think in the fir		an ces tor /ansester/ (ancestors) 1 Your an-	N-COUNT:
und		ors are the people from whom you are de-	usu pl, with poss
The state of the s		our daily lives, so different from those of our an He could trace his ancestors back seven	≠descendant
analyst /@nolist/ (analysts) 1 An analyst	N.COUNT	hundred 2 An ancestor of something	N-COUNT:
is a person whose job is to analyse a subject and give opinions about it. \( \square\)a political analyst.		modern is arlier thing from which it devel-	usu N of n
2 An analyst is someone, usually a doctor, who	NICOUNT	oped. The a ancestor of the modern cat was the	≠ descendant
examines and treats people who are emotionally	= psycho-	Kaffir cat of and Egypt.	
disturbed.	analyst	an ces trainsestral / You use ancestral to	ADI: - '
analytic /enəlitik/ Analytic means the	ADI	refer to a persuas family in former times, espe-	usu ADJ n
same as analytical. [mainly AM]	,	cially when the mily is important and has prop-	
ana lyti cal /@nəlɪtɪkəl/ 1 An analytical	ADI	erty or land the they have had for a long time.	
way of doing something involves the use of logi-	,	ancestral home in southern Germany.	
cal reasoning. a I have an analytical approach to		an ce // /ænsestri/ (ancestries) Your an-	N-COUNT: usu with supp
every survey. • ana lyti cal ly /@nəlitikli/ A	ADV:	the fact that you are descended from	usu wiui supp
teacher can encourage children to think analytically.	ADV with v, ADV adj	people a family who could trace their an- back to the sixteenth century.	
2 Analytical research involves using chemical	ADJ: ADJ n		
analysis.   All raw materials are subjected to our lat-		chored 1 An anchor is a heavy hooked object	N COUNT
est analytical techniques.		that is dropped from a boat into the water at the	N-COUNT
alyze /ænəlaiz/ → see analyse.		end of a chain in order to make the boat stay in	
one or see a language of	ADJ: usu ADJ n	one place. 2 When a boat anchors or when you	VERB
them because they do not recognize or obey any	disapproval	anchor it, its anchor is dropped into the water in	
rules or laws anarchic attitudes and complete		order to make it stay in one place.   We could an-	v
disrespect for authority.		chor off the pier They anchored the boat. 3 If you	V n VERB
an ar chism /enarkizam/ Anarchism is the	N-UNCOUNT	anchor an object somewhere, you fix it to some-	= tether
belief that the laws and power of governments		thing to prevent it moving from that place. $\Box$ The roots anchor the plant in the earth The child seat belt	V n prep
should be replaced by people working together		was not properly anchored to the car. 4 The person	
freely.		who <b>anchors</b> a television or radio programme,	VERD
an ar chist /enarkist/ (anarchists) 1 An an-	N-COUNT:	especially a news programme, is the person who	
archist is a person who believes in anarchism.		presents it and acts as a link between interviews	
a well-known anarchist poet. 2 If someone has	ADJ: ADJ n	and reports which come from other places or stu-	100
anarchist beliefs or views, they believe in anar- chism.   He was apparently quite converted from his		dios. [mainly AM] Uiewers saw him anchoring a five-	
anarchist views. 3 If you say that someone is an	NI COUNT	minute summary of regional newsa series of cas-	V-ed
anarchist, you disapprove of them because they	N-COUNT disapproval	settes on the Vietnam War, anchored by Mr. Cronkite.  The anchor on a television or radio pro-	
seem to pay no attention to the rules or laws that		gramme, especially a news programme, is the per-	N-COUNT
everyone else obeys.   He was a social anarchist.		son who presents it. [mainly AM] \(\sigma\) He worked in the	- 1
an ar chis tic /enarkistik/ 1 An anar-	ADI:	news division of ABC - he was the anchor of its 15-	4
chistic person believes in anarchism. Anarchistic	usu ADJ n	minute evening newscast. 6 If a boat is at anchor,	PHRASE
activity or literature promotes anarchism.  an		it is floating in a particular place and is prevented	
anarchistic revolutionary movement. 2 If you de-	ADJ:	from moving by its anchor.	4.4
scribe someone as anarchistic, you disapprove of	disapproval	an chor age /æŋkərɪdʒ/ (anchorages) An an-	N-VAR
them because they pay no attention to the rules	3.0	chorage is a place where a boat can anchor safe-	e de la
or laws that everyone else obeys.   The Hell's Angels were once the most notorious and anarchistic of		ly.   The nearest safe anchorage was in Halifax, Nova	
motorbike gangs.		Scotia The vessel yesterday reached anchorage off Dubai.	
anarcho- /ænarkou-/ Anarcho- combines	COMB in ADI	anchor man /æŋkərmæn/ (anchormen) also	10.00
with nouns and adjectives to form words indicat-		anchor man. The anchorman on a television	N-COUNT
ing that something is both anarchistic and the		or radio programme, especially a news pro-	.,
other thing that is mentioned. In France there		gramme, is the person who presents it.	
was a long tradition of anarcho-syndicalism.		anchor woman /æŋkəˈwumən/ (anchor-	100
an ar chy /ænə ki/ If you describe a situation		women) The anchorwoman on a television or ra-	N-COUNT
as anarchy, you mean that nobody seems to be paying any attention to rules or laws.   Civil war	= chaos	dio programme, especially a news programme, is	and the second
and famine sent the nation plunging into anarchy.		the woman who presents it.	100
anathema /ənæθəmə/ If something is	ALTINICOUNT	an cho vy /æntʃəvi, AM -tʃouvi/ (anchovies)	
anathema to you, you strongly dislike it. \(\sigma\) Vio-		Anchovies are small fish that live in the sea. They are often eaten salted.	ar ivii
lence was anathema to them.			N. CINIC
ana tomi cal /ænətomikəl/ Anatomical	ADI:	an cien re gime /aːnsjon reɪʒiːm/ 1 The	N-SING; usu the N
means relating to the structure of the bodies of	usu ADJ n	- Color	
people and animals. \(\sigma\)minute anatomical differ-		country has had the same political system	
ences between insects. • ana tomi cal ly		long time and you disapprove of it, you can refer	Strong of the
/ <u>æ</u> nət <u>p</u> mɪkli/ / need my pictures to be anatomically		to it as the ancien regime.	7
correct.	CO. II. II.	an cient /eɪnʃənt/ 1 Ancient means be-	♦♦♦♦
anato mist /ənætəmist/ (anatomists) Ai anatomist is an expert in anatomy.	COUNT	longing to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Em	vini: vini u
anatomist is an expert in anatomy.  anatomize /ənætəmaiz/ (anatomizes, anato-		od in history before the end of the Roman Em- pire.   They believed ancient Greece and Rome were	100
mizing, anatomized)		vital sources of learning. A an cient ly Salisbury	ADV
☑ in BRIT, also use anatomise		vital sources of learning. ♦ an cient ly Salisbury Plain was known anciently as Ellendune. 2 Ancient	ADJ:
		eans very old, or having existed for a long time.	usu ADJ n
If you anatomise a subject or an issue, you ex-	VERB .	cient Jewish tradition.	
amine it in great detail if or MALI Of The magazine is TOUS Photo by Junking win Authoris	licensed	history is the	N AT
			4.
anato my /ənætəmi/ (anatomies) 1 Anato-	N-UNCOUNT	and Rome.	11117
my is the study of the structure of the bodies of	u double	1 The ancillary workers in an institution are the	
people or animals. 2 You can refer to your body as your anatomy. [HUMOROUS] 3 An animal's	N-COUNT: usu poss N	people such as cleaners and cooks whose work	ADJ: ADJ n = auxiliary
anatomy is the structure of its body.			
	oft with poss	supports the main work of the institutionan-	

ancillary

an ces tor /ensester/ (ancestors) 1 Your an- N-COUNT

analyst

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#### **Activity Three**

Given the context you teach in, which option for introducing strategies would you use, and why?

- a. Have a discussion about the importance of language learning strategies.
- b. Adminster a language learning strategies questionnaire.
- c. Model a useful strategy to the class, then give learners the opportunity to try it out, and later discuss their experience of using the strategy.
- d. Ask learners to complete a task in which you have "embedded" a strategy in the task instructions. After they finish, ask them to reflect on <u>if</u> and <u>how</u> it helped them.

# Designing strategy-based materials

There are a range of different materials you can design to highlight strategy use for your learners e.g.

- Strategy guides advice and examples (e.g. Vocab SAC guide)
- Strategy questionnaires (to raise awareness)
- Tasks with strategies embedded in the instructions
- Videos with successful language learners asking them about the strategies they use

#### **Activity Four**

Work in pairs or as a group to design ONE strategy-based resource to use with your students on Monday. Possibilities include:

- 1. Design a short language learning questionnaire.
- 2. Design a strategy guide (e.g. Guessing from context) explaining how and when to use the strategy, explaining why it is important, and providing examples.
- 3. Design the instructions for a common language activity e.g. reading a text in English, and revise the instructions, embedding one or more useful strategies.
- 4. Anything else you would like to do!



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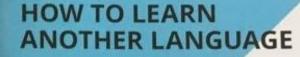
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#### Learner Strategies Il Buide for Teachers

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INSIGHTS FOR SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE LEARNING



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