

## **Language learning coaching**

### **No journey without a plan**

Learning a language is an adventure of personal development, changing us in the process while we focus on the targeted skill. On this track we are greatly helped by a coach who provides us with advice, insight and support.

When you embark on this adventure, LTC's coaches will do that for you – in many ways.

No journey without a plan! That is why as soon as you voice your interest in a language-learning experience, we will assist you in drawing up your roadmap – sounding your goals, assessing your skills and designing a learning programme to achieve your aim.

At the arrival, and at all important junctures of the road to it, this roadmap will help you review and assess the journey you have accomplished.

We call this roadmap your Language-Learning Adventure Plot, and we will create it together, designing it at the start and reviewing it whenever it is necessary.

With your Language-Learning Adventure Plot in your hands, so to speak, you then start out on your journey.

### **Listening to your song**

Hundreds of years of combined experience of the coaches allied to our network have brought to light that the first and foremost requirement of learning a language is *sufficient practising opportunity*.

We all know that we can't learn to swim without jumping into the water and actually swimming – ...although closely monitored by a surf lifesaver!

Speaking a language is a skill. And we will not adequately learn this skill unless exercising it is part of the learning process.

All sportsmen and artists know that.

As your coaches we will always see to it that you have the necessary practising opportunity required by your skill level of the moment.

We will imagine with you means to tap this practising resource in your working environment, by helping you negotiate this opportunity with your colleagues.

We will brainstorm with you about how you can enhance your exposure to the language in your private life, your leisure activities, and your family.

We will support you while you are in intensive-training native speaking environment, as in B&B arrangements or when staying with families.

We will ourselves be available to you as sparring partners in your practice – from your first steps, acting as your caring parent, to your longest running-track strides, cheering you on as your demanding sports coach.

But while we do so – we will abide by the first principle of our coaching creed: *we will listen to you – always – and you will speak.*

## **Wiping off your sweat**

The second requirement of progress is that you need to *study*.

Learning a language as an adult requires us to feed our brain with information: what the actual words are that name the components of reality, both things and abstractions, and how those words can be aligned correctly to build meaningful utterances.

Feed your brain with information – in such a way that you retain it and can always resort to it whenever you need.

Our experience has made us experts in choosing learning tools that are both intrinsically state-of-the-art and adjusted to your preferred learning styles.

While excellent tools are intended to be used as stand-alone instruments, we know, as coaches, that the gentle but determined prodding of a coach can help you keep the studying promise you made to yourself.

Schedules are terribly demanding – and yet, as language learners we all need the discipline of confronting ourselves with the facts of the language learnt.

Therefore we take it upon us to tutor you whenever you need – on a regular basis and on call: *we will explain, prompt and support.*

## **Beaming you up**

While we are in the midst of our learning adventure, on our journey through occasionally rugged territory, we regularly want to be pulled up by the helicopter, getting an overview of where we are – how far we have travelled – how far we still have to go.

As language learning coaches we know that this is the part where our expert help is most needed.

We can see where you are with respect to your original destination, whether you are straying a little or progressing on target – as we can both encourage you in the process and keep an eye on your ultimate goal.

That is why we specifically ensure the third key requirement for your success: to *provide you with counsel* on the overall shape of your adventure.

As you imagine and as you may read elsewhere on this site (see Toward Trans-Cultural Excellence) learning a language is also an experience of getting familiar with the culture conveyed by and embodied in the language.

From the helicopter you want to get the wider picture – how you fit into the landscape, the land, the continent.

Therefore an essential part of our “coachship” is to counsel you on the culture of the men and women who speak the language as their native tongue, both embodying and carrying their customs, preferences, interests, expectations, focuses, issues.

As such *we are also cultural consultants* and help you integrate the day-to-day challenge of your learning trip into the aims of a wider adventure of human growth.

## Helping you spiral towards mastery

Listening, Tutoring and Counselling: a process that not only describes the overall macro-components of your learning adventure, but also “microscopic” aspects of it.

It is indeed a continuous process during the whole adventure of our coaching you.

At each of your utterances – from the first tentative sentences of the beginner to the full-fledged presentation or conference of the advanced learner – we will *listen* to what you are saying, *tutor* you by helping you improve the utterance in reference to knowledge acquired through your study, and *counsel* you by making you aware of how this specific improvement can enhance the quality of all your utterances.

In one word: we do not only point out to you the learning point, we help you internalise both its specifics and the generalisations it allows.

By doing so, we almost “fractally” help you build up your skills from the smaller scales of words to the larger scale of heated exchanges and fluent discourse.

*The Listening → Tutoring → Counselling circle thus gradually expands into an ever-larger spiral, spurring you on to **mastery**.*

