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Language Learner Profile

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Hello ESL 4100 Students!

Nice to Meet you.





About me

I am originally from Guadalajara, Mexico, a city full of life and colors. Tequila, mariachi and charrería all come from this beautiful city and I am proud to say I was born there. Since I was a little girl I have always been interested in sports, languages, culture and meeting new people. I am a very loyal person, and I try to give as much love as I can to other people. I believe in being kind to others but most importantly to yourself, to always remember where you come from, and to be proud of your past.

Right now, I am studying International Studies and Modern Languages specialising in Italian (as my fourth language). I really like my program because it's really open to diverse fields of study and it gives me the chance to know a little bit about everything. But dance will always be my passion, because it's part of who I am today.

My plans for the future or my dream would be to represent Mexico abroad, to help to find solutions to diverse international problems and, of course, to keep dancing.

My biggest achievement so far I think it was to somehow making it into this university by learning French in just one year.

The Past: Language Learning History

I started to learn English when I was in 3rd year of elementary school. It was a very small class of approximately 28 students but if I remember well, I used to love it. My teacher knew I was her only student that didn't know a word of English, and I guess that created an interest of her own!

Every class she asked me questions in front of everybody, she corrected my Spanish accent, and of course I didn't like that but somehow I knew that English was important and that I NEEDED to learn the language, and so I did! I don't remember at what moment, I just started to understand everything she asked me and to understand : music and movies (without subtitles). My dad always encouraged me to learn English. He said it was very important for my future and it did turn out to be important. Now, I can say the context of where I learned English was very good and it helped me develop my language skills.

The reason why I wanted to learn English wasn't only because of my future, but because I'm kind of a perfectionist (when I want to). It was hard at the beginning, harder than what I would've liked it to be, but when I found myself interested in the language, I started to pay more attention in class, and to listen mostly everything in English! Movies, music, the radio, and I even read dictionaries for children. In a few words, I was an intense little kid.

I never felt self-conscious of my English because I've always been very confident, but I do know that I became fully comfortable with the language when I went to Los Angeles, California in 2009. That, was the first time I found myself in an English environment. I had to talk to everyone in English and to practice what I've learned. I went to Disneyland and to many other touristic places in the city and I tried to speak English every time I had the chance. I guess those questions in front of everybody where useful after all.

When I was in Mexico, I only used English at school, or when I listened to music or movies. I used it to do my homework or for my own interest, but that was it. Here in Canada, things changed drastically! Now, I use english every day! I talk with everybody in English, my friends (except my best friends, speak Spanish), my boyfriend, the bus driver, the cashier of a store. Now, English is a basic and essential part of my life.

But I do know other languages than English: Spanish as my first language, English as my second, French as my third, Italian (which I don't speak fluently yet but I will soon) as my

fourth, and Russian or Mandarin (one of both) will be my fifth language. I want to know 5 languages by the time I graduate so I need to hurry up!

For now, I just hope for the best. The best for my studies, and the best for my future.

The Present: My Current Needs and Goals

Even though I know English I know I still make some mistakes. I'm continuing to learn English because I want to improve and because I know that English can open a lot of doors everywhere, so I do give the language its importance. Also in my program languages are very important and English counts as an obligatory course.

I interact with English speakers all the time. In Canada most of its population would speak English in a social context rather than French, which makes me speak more English than French. I speak English all the time, university classes or francophone people are the only exceptions, but I've always seen English as a fun and direct language.

I read books mostly in Spanish and French, because my program is in French but also I enjoy reading in Spanish because I find it touches me most (it's hard to explain). But everything that involves technology, like my phone, texting, watching movies, or listening to music, English is mostly involved.

My strongest language currently is definitely Spanish. It's the language I feel most comfortable with, my writing skills are good and I've been speaking this language since I was a little baby, so no matter what I do I think it will always be my best language. On the contrary, English is the language I feel mostly comfortable when I speak, but when I write I feel more comfortable with French. As for Italian, I am able to understand everything that's oral, but talking it's the next part I have to work with.

Luckily, if I found myself speaking a language I feel comfortable enough to maintain the same language throughout a conversation. But when I want to sound inspirational or wiser if I can choose, I think Spanish would be my choice. I could do it with the other languages too, it's just that I've only been in Canada for a year and a half, and it takes more than that to take away 16 and a half years of only speaking Spanish!

I hope this course will help me to improve my English, that I will enjoy my volunteer placement, and if it's not too much to ask to also grab some experience in the field of my interest. I think this class has a lot to give and can help all its students to improve even just a little bit. Also we get a certificate at the end of the semester, and I think that is amazing!

The Future: How Will I Continue to Use English

When I finish taking English courses I will still practice the language everyday. From my point of view, here in Canada people have the chance to practice English and French on a daily basis, also watching movies, listening to music and reading different sources are really good ways to practice. As for Italian I would do the same thing, and if I have the enough resources I will travel.

For my future I hope languages to be an essential part of my life, maybe to keep learning other languages with the time and to be able to communicate with many different people with different cultures than mine.

I hope my passion for languages will be part of my professional life and that I can travel to different parts of the world and be able to communicate with them in their local language.