Learning in your 2nd language

Connect with your community

Connect with others who are also learning in a second language. You can share your strategies for success and learn from each other!

The ISS Buddy Program can help with linguistic support, cultural guidance, and information about life at McGill.

McGill International Student Network plans events and trips and offers opportunities for language sharing.

Utilize cooperative learning

Cooperative learning is when you work with others in a collaborative, supportive environment to practice language or other learning activities, give and receive feedback, and problem-solve together.

Peer tutoring: learn with the intent to teach others the material; you will help others with the material and understand it better yourself.

Jigsaw technique: split up into small groups or pairs where each member assumes responsibility for a task, then come back together to share what you have learned.

Practice effective learning strategies

When you study individually, use active learning strategies to engage yourself in your learning process.

Questioning: ask yourself what/how/why questions about the material and answer them to confirm your understanding. Doing this supports your comprehension of the material.

Elaboration: Connect new knowledge to prior knowledge on the subject by talking through the material aloud or in writing; this supports longer-term retention of the material.


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