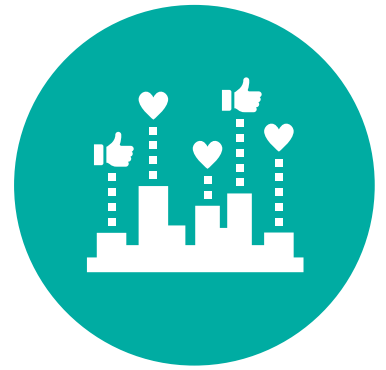


MAINTAINING MOTIVATION

KEEPING YOUR STUDENTS ENGAGED



It can be challenging to maintain students' and teachers' motivation in all kinds of learning environment and there are particular constraints when it comes to online learning. These include lack of in-person contact with teachers and fellow students, lack of visual cues in online classes, technical issues and problems accessing the internet, among others. In this section we will explore self-assessment, language practice and what you can tell your students to increase their motivation.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Design **engaging, relevant** and **doable** activities so that students gain a sense of achievement.
- **Maintain regular contact** (in person in blended learning, or by course forum or email if online only).
- **Encourage students to meet** outside of the regular tutorial times (online or in person if this is possible) and set them some group work relevant to their lives, studies or jobs.
- Encourage students to **form groups and meet socially** to practise the language in an informal setting online or in-person, if possible.

ENCOURAGING SELF-ASSESSMENT

Developing self-assessment skills is key to successful language learning and motivation. Here are some areas that you can focus on:

- Encourage students to **take stock of progress** and to reward themselves when they reach a milestone.
- Encourage students to **identify their goals** and what they need to do to achieve them.
- Encourage students to **keep a log** of activities undertaken each week and reflect on which activities work best for them.
- Encourage students to **identify strengths and weaknesses** and focus on strengths, while using the constructive feedback that is provided by their lecturers and tutors.
- Encourage students to **take an active approach** to their language studies by explaining how they can engage actively with their studies, for example how to read or listen actively and critically.



Checklist for encouraging self-assessment in students

You can encourage self-assessment during classes or through the use of a checklist, which your students can complete. Here are some tips you might give:

- Think about **why** you are learning a language, and **what set of skills** you want to develop and for what **purpose**.
- Set realistic and achievable **goals** for yourself and identify **what you need to do** to achieve those goals.
- Be **honest** with yourself, think about what is likely to keep you motivated.
- **Reward** yourself when you have reached an important milestone.
- Think about what it is that you **like** and **dislike** about online learning and make study plans accordingly.
- Don't compare yourself with fellow students, instead look back regularly at the start of your studies and evaluate what you have achieved so far.



What to tell your students when it comes to...

Working with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You might feel that other students are more fluent than yourself. Remind yourself that you can learn from them rather than feel you need to compete. ○ Identify a student who is a little bit better than yourself and use them as a role model. ○ Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you need it, contact your teacher and your fellow students. ○ Take advantage of every opportunity that is available to you to practise and learn the language, particularly tutorials with your teacher, students who are first language speakers of languages other than English, and the wealth of free resources, tools and materials available for learning a language.
Making mistakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Don't be afraid to make mistakes and don't despair if it takes you time to learn. Performance in tutorials is usually not assessed and it is the place for students to have a go, make mistakes and receive feedback.
Encouraging language practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work on the language little and often. ○ Try to practise the language at any given opportunity (internet: films, radio, books, articles, games, language websites; in-person: next door neighbour, speak to yourself in the house, practise vocabulary to yourself while shopping at the supermarket, attending a medical appointment; blog about your language learning and take part in your course forum).
Reflecting on their own motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acknowledge that you will have good days and bad days. ○ Recognise the signs that indicate you are losing your motivation and act on them. ○ Make note of your progress. Regularly look back at where you were when you started and acknowledge the progress you've made.