



THE LANGUAGE COURSE

1.1 REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

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Okay. So you're in session one on Second Language Acquisition and understanding even what that phrase means. And one of the things that we want to address about Second Language Acquisition are outcomes. A lot of times we have misnomers about what realistic outcomes are. So we have to have realistic expectations for the commitment that we can give for a realistic outcome that we might have in language acquisition.

So in myths, we talked about myths in the introduction; we talked about some programs where you can actually study five minutes of language. What you're going to get is an outcome of five minutes worth of study. So what does that mean? Well, I might have some memorized words. I might have some memorized phrases. I might even have some sentences: "Hello. How are you? My name is..." but we know with myths that I cannot study for five minutes and have a general ability in the language to really truly speak the language at a deeper level.

Also, there are a lot of myths surrounding immersion. Now immersion, while nobody will discredit immersion, it's a wonderful thing. It's not a magic pill. So even if you lived in a situation where you were immersed in the language, that does not mean you will automatically absorb that language. What it means is that you will have a higher opportunity for practice. And so we have many, many people who live in our country who've been immersed totally in English settings for 20 and 30 years and only speak words and phrases. So we need to understand that if I'm going to have a realistic expectation for a certain outcome, which is a general ability to use a language in depth well, then I'm going to have to have the realistic time commitments that it's going to require in order to achieve those outcomes.

And that is the purpose of this course is to understand what are the time commitments and the dedication that I need to have. What are those expectations? And then how to make a study plan in order to achieve those expectations.

It's like a journey. It's going to take time, fortitude, and commitment. But, hopefully, with a well thought out plan, you will follow through and learn the language that you want to learn.