

Re: successful language learners -- the little details

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From: Michael (*throw_spam_at_hotmail.com*)

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jpwilso@bgnet.bgsu.edu (Justin Wilson) wrote in message
news:<53b668b5.0410080509.263290c9@posting.google.com>...

> *In the meantime, I carry a pad in my back pocket at all times. When I
> go out to eat, go shopping, etc.. every time I see a sign that seems
> important etc.. that has a word I don't know, I jot it down.*

I would use a pda with a built in camera instead. Take pictures of the signs etc and jot down everything else into jwpce. Put as many pictures from you're Japanese environment into Supermemo as possible.

I try to

> *write a minimum of 10 per day. After I get home and look these up, I
> will add the most useful ones into Supermemo. As for the ones that
> don't seem so important, I may just append a definition to them on my
> pad, and casually review them later. (I'm considering writing these
> with a red pen and then using the red/green clear plastic testers when
> reviewing. Good idea ne ?)*

I have not tried the colored glasses/pen method but don't you think it would be better to put them straight into Supermemo as cloze deletions?

>
> *After I finish with the Oxford, I intend to start with the JLPT 4 list
> and make sure there isn't anything I have missed. Then the JLPT 3,
> then the JLPT 2, and finally the JLPT 1 list. I would guess that my
> vocabulary is around ~1,500 words at this point. I hope that I can
> finish the JLPT 1 list within 4 month's from now, though that may be a
> tad bit optimistic.*
>

I think that's a little too optimistic. Its about 70 new words per day. Perhaps you should aim at finishing level 2 instead? I find 40 new words a day is a good target.

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- > *Overall, I expect that I will need to spend in the neighborhood of 3–4*
- > *hours/day studying vocabulary -- drilling with Supermemo, and looking*
- > *things up that I have written on my pad.*

3–4 hours each day sounds manageable. I'm doing 2–3 hours weekdays and 6–7 hours on Saturday and Sunday. My review takes about 1.5–2 hours and the rest of the time I spend reading and adding new words.

- > *(though it is a lofty goal I admit), reading books ought to do wonders*
- > *for my ability to construct more complex, yet completely grammatically*
- > *accurate sentences.*

Reading books/internet articles and automatically adding example sentences to every vocab item added to Supermemo. I'm speed reading each example sentence as I do my repetitions.

You didn't mention mnemonics. Are you using any? How about writing kanji? I hope you have already done RTK 1 & 2.

- >
- > *Well, what do YOU think !? =)*

I think you're very motivated and sure to do well but 10,000 words in 4 months may be a bit too much.

It's certainly great to hear someone else apart from me and Randy mention Supermemo in slj.

I also think most other responses to your post will be ridicule or jokes (like last time). I think this comes from the fact these people lack motivation, imagination, discipline and good learning software.

Regards

Michael