

Re: Can't walk and chew gum at the same time.

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John Reeves wrote:

On Feb 23, 1:25 am, "Paul Blay" <blay.p...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

"John Reeves" <johny...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote ...

Worked for me anyway.

I think that's the main point. ;-)

Actually this method worked really well for me for a period of about two years, after I had already been studying Japanese for about five years. Maybe I might have benefited from trying this method earlier, but I think that I needed a certain amount of vocab before it would work (and easy texts).

I'm sure people learning a language welcome suggestions on ways to do things
and I encourage them to try them out to see if they do the trick.

And I think different techniques are better suited to different stages of the learning process. Don't feel like you're getting anyway? Try a different approach. A particular technique doesn't really work for you? Try it again a year or two later.

On the other hand "one true way" disciples and those endless arguments over which methods are better are best dealt with by that oriental^W eastern^W Japanese wisdom expressed by the word 'ëü.

Too true :-)

A technique I'd really like to try is listening to audio books in

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Japanese – assuming that such things exist. I've looked for them a couple of times in the past, but with no success. Anyone?

There IS a book called Breaking into Japanese Literature that has online audio of each short story so you can read along.

A long time ago I used dub the audio from video tapes of Japanese movies onto audio tape (obviously we're talking ancient history here) and listen to the tape maybe 20 or 30 times. Each time I would understand a little bit more, and when I eventually watched the video again, I would be pleased to find that my comprehension had jumped enormously... from maybe 1% to about 5%. Still, this was a good way (for me at that stage of my learning) to get my ears used Japanese spoken at natural speed.

I'm convinced that simple animations with written scripts are going to be the wave of the future for language instruction, even from the very start of the very first day of class:

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oX ~Wf

complete with simple animations of cartoon figures of people greeting each other get the point across, I think. New animation software tools are being produced, as we speak, for non-professionals to be able to compose animations at that level with little more difficulty than an iMovie.