

Best to learn a new language before age of 10

Sources:http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2018/05/critical_period_for_learning_1.html?cmp=RSSFEEED<http://www.euronews.com/2018/05/01/-critical-period-for-learning-new-language-says-study><https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6190032/kids-aged-ten-can-learn-languages-fluently/>

New research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) suggests that if people want to achieve native-like proficiency in a new language, they should start learning that language before the age of ten. The researchers added that children up to the age of 17 or 18 remain adept at learning grammar. There is bad news for those who want to pick up a new language beyond their late teens. The researchers say this is past the "critical period" when language-learning ability starts to decline. Researcher Joshua Hartshorne said: "As far as a child is concerned, it's quite easy to become bilingual....That's when you're best at learning languages. It's not really something that you can make up later. "The research was based on an analysis of results from a 10-minute online grammar quiz. Over 670,000 language learners of all ages participated in the test. Researchers measured the grammatical ability of people who started learning a language at different points in their life. Professor Hartshorne focused on grammar rules that were most likely to confuse a non-native speaker as a gauge of that person's proficiency. MIT researcher Josh Tenenbaum suggested people simply might be too busy to learn a language later in life. He said: "After 17 or 18, you leave home, you work full time, or you become a specialized university student. All of these might impact your learning rate for any language."

ENGLISH: What is the best way to learn English? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	THE BEST WAY TO LEARN	WHY?
GRAMMAR		
PRONUNCIATION		
SPELLING		
WRITING		
SPEAKING		
VOCABULARY		

LANGUAGE:

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest reasons for learning a Language at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- speak to foreigners
- intellectual stimulation
- to pass exams
- to live overseas
- job prospects
- to watch movies
- to read
- as a hobby

TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The research came from an institute of linguistics. T / F
- b. The researchers said people aren't adept at learning grammar after 10. T / F
- c. Language-learning ability declines after we reach late teens. T / F
- d. Researchers said it's not easy for children to become bilingual. T / F
- e. Over half-a-million people took an online grammar quiz. T / F
- f. Quiz questions were designed to confuse non-native speakers. T / F
- g. A researcher said adults are never too busy to learn a language. T / F
- h. Leaving home at 18 might affect your language-learning rate. T / F

PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- 1. if people want to achieve native-
- 2. remain adept
- 3. past the critical
- 4. As far as a
- 5. It's not really something that you
- 6. The research was based on an analysis
- 7. Over 670,000 language learners
- 8. at different points
- 9. most likely to confuse a
- 10. impact your learning

- a. of results
- b. can make up later
- c. in their life
- d. like proficiency
- e. of all ages
- f. period
- g. non-native speaker
- h. child is concerned
- i. rate
- j. at learning grammar

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

New research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) suggests that if people (1)_____ native-like proficiency in a new language, they should start learning that language before the age of ten. The researchers added that children up to the age of 17 or 18 (2)_____ learning grammar. There is bad news for those who want to pick up a new language beyond (3)_____. The researchers say this is past the "critical period" when language-learning ability (4)_____. Researcher Joshua Hartshorne said: "As far as a child is concerned, it's quite easy (5)_____.That's when you're best at learning languages. It's not really something that you can (6)_____." The research was based on an (7)_____ from a 10-minute online grammar quiz. Over

670,000 language learners of all ages (8)_____ test. Researchers measured the grammatical ability of people who started learning a language (9)_____ in their life. Professor Hartshorne focused on grammar rules that were most likely to confuse a non-native speaker (10)_____ of that person's proficiency. MIT researcher Josh Tenenbaum suggested people simply might be too busy to learn a language (11)_____. He said: "After 17 or 18, you leave home, you work full time, or you become a specialized university student. All of these (12)_____ learning rate for any language."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the abbreviation of the university that conducted the research?
2. Until what age do children remain adept at learning grammar?
3. What kind of news did the researchers have for adults?
4. What kind of point did researchers describe?
5. For whom did researchers say it was easy to become bilingual?
6. How long was the grammar quiz that people took?
7. How many people took a grammar quiz?
8. What did the article say was likely to confuse non-native speakers?
9. What reason did a researcher give for adults not learning a language?
10. What might leaving home or starting work impact?

ACADEMIC WRITING

It's never too late to learn a language. Discuss. /100-150 words/

ANSWERS

TRUE/FALSE

A F

B F

C T

D F

E T

F T

G F

H T

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. MIT

2. 17 or 18

3. Bad news

4. A critical point

5. Children

6. 10 minutes

7. over 670,000

8. grammar rules

9. they are too busy

10. a language-learning rate

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