

Tandem-Guide

What is Tandem?

A tandem is a cooperative form of autonomous language learning.

Two people with different native languages each decide to learn the other person's language while teaching their own language to the other person.

Who works in a tandem?

The person you work with in a tandem speaks as their native language the language you want to learn and you speak as your native language the language your tandem partner wants to learn.

How and when do you learn?

You and your tandem partner decide how you want to organize your partnership. You determine the time and content conditions such as learning goals, learning strategies, content, time frame and regularity of meetings.

You should meet with your tandem partner at least once a week. Allow enough time, at least 45 minutes for each language. If you only have an hour, it's best to speak one language at one meeting and the other language at the next meeting. Do not mix the two languages.

The two tandem partners should speak the language to be learned during each of these meetings.

It is important that you invest the same amount of time in both languages.

At the first meeting, you as the "learning person" should be aware of what and how you want to learn: Why do you need the language? Do you "only" want to communicate, or do you also want to improve your grammar? Do you want to expand your vocabulary? Do you want to do homework? Do you want to edit texts? Do you want to read a book? Do you want to work with a teaching aid? Are you interested in the foreign culture of your partner(s)*?

As the "teaching person", listen to your partner's wishes and needs.

Discuss at the beginning until when your tandem should last.

Where do you meet?

You and your partner decide where to meet. It is best to choose a neutral place where you can concentrate and work well.

HSLU offers many pleasant places and freely accessible workplaces.

What helps to learn better?

If you have little previous knowledge, then a teaching aid, maybe a grammar book and a dictionary, are certainly helpful.

Otherwise, you and your partner can decide what works best for you: games, pictures, books, newspapers, movies, podcasts...

Please be respectful, interested, disciplined and motivated.

Please arrive on time for appointments.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes!