

JUNE 2020 | ISSUE 1

GO2GRAD

TO ENHANCE, TO EMPOWER, TO ENRICH

NEWSLETTER

3 TIPS

TO LEARNING FROM
ONLINE TUTORIAL
VIDEOS

THE TECHNOLOGICAL TAKEOVER

Ever wonder what the future of academia will look like in ten, twenty, fifty years from now? Join us as we unravel the foreseen future with our special guest, Professor Catherine Giroux!

*WORK LESS,
LEARN MORE:*

ADAPTING
TECHNOLOGY
TO YOUR
LEARNING
STYLE

WHO WE ARE

Over the years, I've come to notice that many students were not satisfied with their tutoring experiences. Most times were because the tutor was not able to communicate and present the material in a way that would be easily interpreted and understood by the student. It became very apparent to me that there was not a universal way to teach. You must be willing and able to understand the student's learning style and use that to create motivational study strategies that would allow them to enjoy the process of learning. Thus, with the passion to learn, and devotion to teaching, Graduates Enriching Young Minds was created. We are the only tutoring company with vetted graduate tutors who are best able to help you realize and develop your potential as a student.

Our vision is to foster the next generation of leaders. Through student-student pairings, GEYM enhances the academic and professional endeavors of young minds and university graduates alike.

Whether you're a student, parent, or tutor, I invite you all to be a part of this educational movement!

AHMAD GALUTA, FOUNDER

C O N T E N T S

**ENHANCING MOTIVATION
USING MODERN TOOLS**

**3 TIPS TO LEARNING FROM
ONLINE TUTORIAL VIDEOS**

CAN YOUTUBE TEACH US FRENCH?

**A FLIPPED CLASSROOM:
WHAT 2020/2021 WILL LOOK LIKE**

**THE TECHNOLOGICAL TAKEOVER:
A PROFESSORS PERSPECTIVE**

**WORK LESS, LEARN MORE:
ADAPTING TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR LEARNING STYLE**



ENHANCING MOTIVATION USING MODERN TOOLS

By: Ahmad Galuta

VIDEOS:

our brains use most of its capacity for vision. In fact, there are more brain cells dedicated to vision than all the other 4 senses (hearing, smell, taste, touch) combined. That's why most people are visual learners! So, take advantage of your brain's ability to learn through visual cues and maximize your learning experience. There are plenty of free video tutorials on YouTube. Find your niche and knock yourself out! Just don't get lost in the internet's rabbit hole...

SOCIAL MEDIA:

If you find yourself scrolling through Instagram multiple times a day, why not follow some education, inspirational, and motivational pages? Adding bits of motivation to your day could go a long way! Check out our blog "top 5 social media influencers" for prime examples.

APPS:

There are apps for every purpose you can imagine including educational and motivational apps. Learning language, in particular, can be very stimulating and fun! Check out the following apps to learn a new language or enhance your skills: Babbel, Busuu, and Mondly.

PODCASTS:

If you're looking to preoccupy your mind during monotonous work, podcasts are your go-to source for learning. Like apps, there are podcasts for each and every topic you can imagine! You may already have Spotify or Apple's podcast app on your phone. Dig through the different topics and find something that you fancy.

VIDEO CONFERENCING:

It's never been as easy connecting with people across the globe. If you're looking to learn a language or skill, reach out and find a partner who has something to learn from you! It's always more motivating when you're working on your goals with someone else.

3 TIPS TO LEARNING FROM ONLINE TUTORIAL VIDEOS

By : Ole Krarup



If you're anything like me, you've probably been stuck on an impossible homework problem at some point in your life. The lecture notes are indecipherable and your teacher isn't answering your desperate e-mails. Luckily, the internet is crammed full of helpful people who have created tutorial videos explaining everything from quadratic equations to quantum field theory. Whether you are getting help from giants like Khan Academy or some obscure YouTube channel, here are 3 tips that will help you maximize your learning from online tutorial videos!

NUMBER 1:

Write it down! Whenever you watch an online tutorial, you should always have pen and paper ready. Copying down every single step shown in the guide by hand is extremely important. But why bother with something so tedious? Aren't "education experts" constantly talking about the importance of "creative/intuitive learning" and criticizing repetitive classroom activities? Yes they are, and they're wrong. Professional athletes have managed to become professionals because they have spent countless, gritty hours repeating basic actions. The only way to get good at pole vaulting is to condition your body to copy the motions that expert pole vaulters have developed. In the same sense, painstakingly copying down every equation and diagram you see on the screen helps condition your brain to working with math, manipulating symbols etc. Trust me, it works!



“

Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing!

- Donna J. Abernathy

NUMBER 2:

Say it out loud! So, you're watching a video tutorial and copying down every step. Great! Another helpful tip is to sit down and explain to yourself out loud what is going on: "I am trying to learn how to solve 'quadratic equations'. Basically these are equations where there is an x^2 somewhere (x is multiplied with itself). For example $3x^2 - 16x + 2 = 0$. I have to find some number, like -3 or 2 that I can plug in to x 's place so that adding everything up gives me zero in the end." Talking to yourself may feel a bit strange, but it is an extremely effective way to figure out what exactly it is that you don't understand. If you are at a loss for words then there must be a gap in your understanding. Filling out these gaps is a lot easier, when you know exactly where they are!

NUMBER 3:

Take notes! Have you ever used OneNote before? Well, you better start right now! It's basically a piece of software that allows you to organize notes for all of your courses. You make a notebook, create a tab for each course and pages for each topic. You can insert equations, link to web pages and even link between pages in the notebook. My favorite feature is pressing Windows key + shift + S to take screenshots. By pressing Ctrl+V you can paste these directly into the notebook. This is super helpful when following video tutorials.



CAN YOUTUBE TEACH US FRENCH?

By Slim Essid

Learning a language by yourself is definitely possible, especially nowadays where technology allows access to anything and everything. Of course, the challenge would be to build your plan and program to give structure and organization to your learning process. This is where a tutor comes in handy. However, the information is there, accessible like never before. If you want to learn and improve in anything, all you have to do is search it on the internet!

One resource that I usually use with my students is YouTube. The number of channels that specialize in learning language is incredible and each has its own style of presenting the information. So, you can definitely find a channel that works for you (check out our other blog entitled "Work less, learn more" to figure what kind of learner you are!).

Usually, we can divide these channels into two categories: ones that deal with the grammatical rules and vocabulary, and others that present short stories with subtitles. Both have their pros and cons, but they share a similar benefit. In fact, it has been proven that visual learning is much more effective than any other method (check out our other blog already!). So, let's jump right into it and see the best 5 channels to follow on YouTube if you want to improve your French skills (some of these also have playlists related to English and other languages):

YOULEARNFRENCH

This channel is perfect for complete beginners that would like to learn the basics in French. Everything is covered, from an extended list of vocabulary, organized in categories, to the conjugation. With static images, it's like opening an interactive book. The advantages of this channel:

1. With its wide range of subjects covered, it is perfect for both kids and adults! You get to learn all types of vocabulary, like the ones related to French health, which could be very useful before a trip to France, for example.
2. The lessons are presented in a very clear and simple manner which makes them easy to understand.

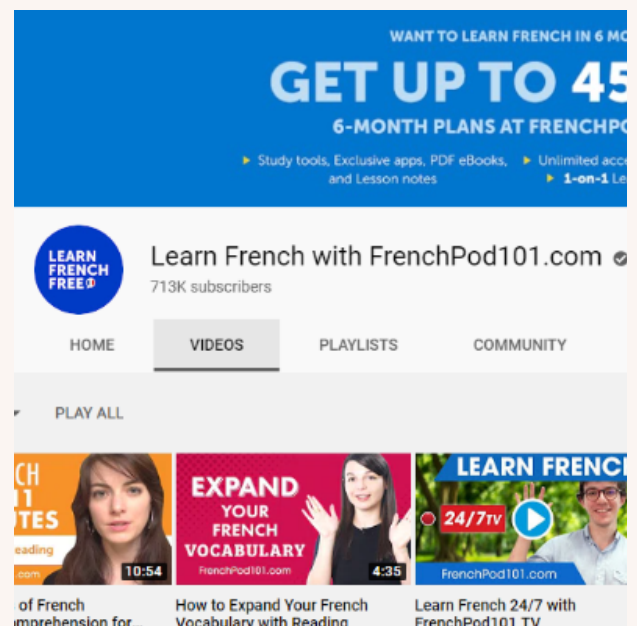
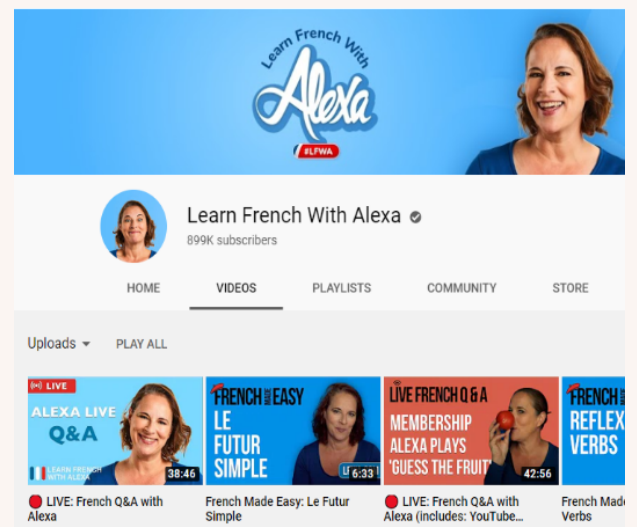
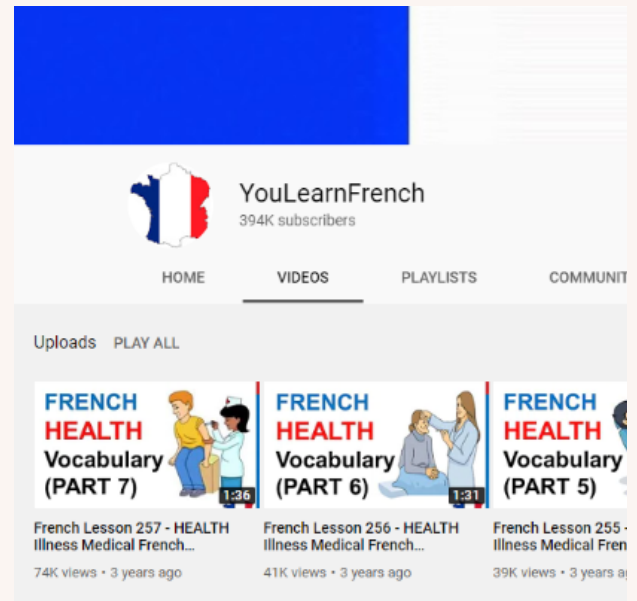
The only con would be that it's not as visually stimulating as the other channels. Visual stimulation has been shown to boost learning as it keeps the reader/watcher engaged and thus, the connections between words and concepts are easily made.

LEARN FRENCH WITH ALEXA

In this channel, lessons are divided into grammar, vocabulary, and commonly used French sentences. The teacher, Alexa, is perfectly bilingual which makes it easier for English speaking folks to transition into French. Having her speak directly facing the audience makes it interactive and her charming personality is definitely a plus! However, there isn't a great deal of visual stimulus. So apart from her writing and talking (occasionally with the use of different objects to illustrate her points), it can get repetitive.

LEARN FRENCH WITH FRENCHPOD101.COM

This channel offers a large diversity of content. You can find the usual grammar lessons, but also many videos that give you tips or insights on how to perfect your French. Also, the person speaking changes, so keeping you interested is certainly not an issue with this kind of content. The only con is that it can get quite confusing if you are trying to learn French with all of these different kinds of videos. The best thing to do is to go to the playlist tab and click on what you are looking for.





BookBox French

39.7K subscribers

HOME

VIDEOS

PLAYLISTS

COMMUNITY

Popular uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



The King's Secret: Learn French with subtitles - Story...

161K views • 2 years ago

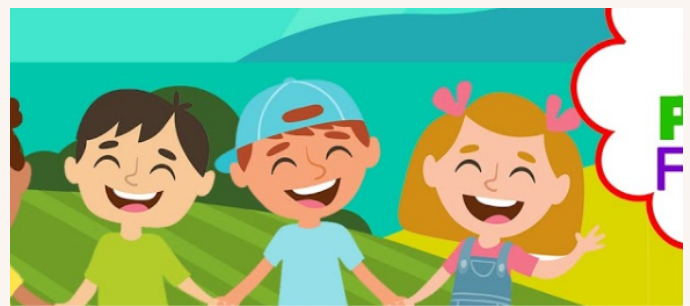
Subtitles



Too Many Bananas: Learn French with subtitles - Story...

123K views • 4 years ago

Subtitles



Kids Planet Français

37.8K subscribers

HOME

VIDEOS

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BOOKBOX FRENCH

As the name indicates, this channel is about different creative stories narrated in simple French with an easy to watch animation. It is like watching a virtual book for kids. The presence of subtitles allows the audience to pay attention to how words are written and so you can be sure your child is working on their listening, comprehension, and spelling skills.

This channel is great to get familiar with the language but lacks the structure and organization of a course. The other disadvantage is that it's hard for an adult to take the videos seriously, so this content is specially tailored for kids.

KIDS PLANET FRANCAIS

The French version (because there is an English version of this) is very appreciated by kids because it is a retelling of famous fairy tales, with a simple and colorful animation that stimulates the brain and makes it more receptive to the language.

The main difference with Bookbox French is the simplistic style of animation and the stories.

As you can see, both types of channels allow you to work on theory (grammar, vocabulary) and practice (comprehension, spelling, pronunciation), which is why they are best used together!



A FLIPPED CLASSROOM:

WHAT 2020/21 MIGHT LOOK LIKE

By: Ahmad Galuta

Distance learning (DL) has become the current and foreseeable future for education, but how can educational systems evolve to improve DL? Many fingers point towards a flipped classroom

WHAT IS IT?

A classroom where students are given roles as teachers, as they do their own research and share their perspective on a certain topic. It incorporates a problem-based learning style that's very different than the traditional learning method.

WHY BOTHER?

Let's face it, traditional lectures can be boring. Case studies are engaging and keep you on your toes. Plus you get to interact with your friends during class!

HOW WOULD IT LOOK LIKE WITH DL?

Breakout sessions! Normally, case study sessions are held in small groups to facilitate discussions. You can expect to be sent into breakout rooms (2-3 people) to discuss questions related to the case study

DOES IT IMPROVE DL?

Compared to traditional classes, case studies have been shown to stimulate one's curiosity, increase the perceived value of what they're learning, and improve overall learning outcomes. Expect to see more of a flipped classroom approach starting Fall of 2020!



The Flipped Classroom is a mindset, not a method.

- Brian Bennett



THE TECHNOLOGICAL TAKEOVER:

A P R O F E S S O R S P E R S P E C T I V E



By: Rozy Abo Mazid

Due to COVID-19, schooling has shifted from the traditional form of teaching and learning to the online form which embraces the technological side of academia. The transition between these two forms of learning has created a divide between students. Some learners are finding the increase in the usage of technology in the classroom beneficial and effective for them, while others are struggling to adapt. I sat down with Professor Catherine Giroux, a member of the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa, who is currently teaching a course titled “The Integration of Technology in Education” to discuss her opinion on the increased use of technology in the classroom. During this interview, I asked Professor Catherine a series of five questions, starting with how important she thinks it is to include technology in the classroom?

“This is a really good question and it’s a tough one to answer! I think the answer has a lot to do with your personal philosophy in teaching and learning or your approach to teaching and learning. Personally, I view teaching and learning as a relational and collaborative process. In my courses, I like to focus on building relationships with my students and to encourage opportunities for students to apply their learning in collaborative ways. So, if you think about including technology in the classroom, I believe that it needs to be progressively done so that it aligns with what you intend to be teaching. Sometimes technology is the most effective way to engage your learners in a concept, but sometimes it might not be, and you are better off going outside and exploring or sticking to scientific methods and experiments. It really depends on what your learning objectives are.”

"I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT RELATIONAL TEACHING, KIND OF USING TECHNOLOGY AS A SPRINGBOARD TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS"

After Professor Catherine broke down why she believes that including technology relies on the philosophy of the educator, I asked her whether or not she believes that a lack of technology in the classroom can hinder a student from reaching their full potential?

"I think that schools provide access to technology and resources that students might not otherwise be able to explore. For example, it is not likely that students have "Ozobots" to learn coding at home, but that is something that they can play around with in school to see that "oh, I'm good at coding and I'd like to continue coding". If we consider urban areas, students' access to technology and reliable internet might be very different than in rural areas. Therefore, being able to try things out in school settings kind of gives everybody a baseline of exposure to what's out there and ideas for what they can explore moving forward."

After discussing the relationship between the presence of technology and a student's potential by providing an example of urban schooling versus rural schooling, I asked the professor if she thought that using too much technology in the classroom could potentially create a disconnect between the students and the teacher?

"I think that depends on how the technology is used, and what expectations are in place in the classroom. So, technology can certainly be a distraction for learners and on the flip side it can also provide learners the opportunity to extend their learning in a self-directed way. As a teacher, I like to model appropriate technological behaviors to set expectations and boundaries for my students, especially in younger grade level classes. After I have demonstrated how to use these technological features, then from there we can start implementing more extensions of self-directed learning activities. I also want to emphasize the importance of that relational teaching, kind of using technology as a springboard to learn more about your students like "oh what are your interests? What are you researching?" and ask questions and be curious more about your students."



Due to her extensive experience in teaching both online and in person courses, I asked Professor Catherine if she found having to teach an online course more demanding than an in-person course?

“That’s a really tough question to answer just because they’re so different. Within person courses, you are teaching synchronously, and everyone is in the same room at the same time. You automatically have a community feel because you can have a group discussion, but there is the expectation that everyone is partaking in the discussion at the same time. Online, on the other hand, tends to be more asynchronous. I know that we can log in and have a video conference but depending on the class and the learners in the class, it might make more sense to have the class set up so that people can log in and complete the activities whenever they are able to do so. This makes it hard to create a community in that kind of environment. Being mindful of your course design, as an instructor you must really intentionally design your course to draw out that community feeling and also being aware of the impact of a teacher’s presence in an online course. Responding to comments on the discussion board, having videos of where to find things and what to expect from a week, or that I am available to help makes the learners more aware that I am there and that I am present even though it is online.”

After having a thorough discussion about this form of education, I decided to conclude the interview by asking the professor what she believes the future of education will look like? Does she believe that technology will continue to reshape the way we teach and learn?

“That’s a really good question that I don’t have a good answer for! Everything is so rapidly changing and evolving and right now we don’t even know what school will look like in September, whether kids from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be physically attending school full time. We know that university students will continue to attend online courses for the fall semester, but beyond that we are still figuring it out as we go. I certainly feel like it is a good time for research and I think it is a good time to really reflect on our skills and abilities as educators and see that maybe we need to learn more about teaching online or maybe we need to learn more from people who are already teaching online just to see how we can improve our practices.”

It is always important to understand the different perspectives that people have on a topic. As students, we are divided between loving the online transition and wanting to go back to the traditional form of education. However, education is not student-oriented. In order to learn, one must be taught, and it is important to hear what the teachers think of this change and perhaps their perspective might resemble our own making us feel less alone in this situation.





WORK LESS, LEARN MORE:

ADAPTING TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR LEARNING STYLE

By: Ahmad Galuta

There is no magic pill for learning. You have to exercise your brain. But is there a way to learn more efficiently? To learn better and faster without putting in as much effort?

There is, but the answer is up to you to discover. Ultimately, you need to know your strengths and weaknesses. Doing so will allow you to direct your focus on your strengths and maximize the output of your efforts. After all, learning is most effective when your brain is being used most effectively.

But how do I discover my brain's strengths and weaknesses!?

First, you must understand that there are different ways of receiving information, or learning, and each person will prefer one (or more) ways of learning. These are called "learning styles" and can be categorized as visual, auditory, verbal (reading/writing), and kinesthetic.

VISUAL LEARNERS:

learn best when information is presented in a visual manner using images, videos, graphs, and diagrams. It's approximated 70% of people are visual learners (the brain uses most of its resources for vision!). Graphic organizers such as mind maps are tools that can be used to help organize information in a visual format.

AUDITORY LEARNERS:

process information through speaking and listening. So lectures are best for presenting information to an auditory learner who prefers hearing information. If you're an auditory learner, listening to recorded notes or presenting to a third party can help to encode new information. Don't forget to include a couple podcast episodes on your playlists!

VERBAL LEARNERS:

prefer to receive information through reading and writing notes. No technology needed here but books, pen, and paper. Although, an e-reader or tablet might be preferred for some.

KINESTHETIC LEARNERS:

learn best through tactile experiences. Although considered to be more prevalent in young children who may prefer to learn through hands-on activities, it is also used by adults when engaging in physical activities like swimming, dancing, and tennis. Skits and games are examples of tools that can be used to help kinesthetic learners.

Keep in mind that it's normal to have more than one learning style. When you learn and study using methods that are best suited to your learning style, information will be better processed and retained. Classes are often taught using a variety of ways but adapting study tools to your learning style can help tremendously to learn better and faster.

A young man with a backpack is looking out a window. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor scene with trees and a building. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box on the right side of the image.

**A SPECIAL THANKS
TO OUR AMAZING
WRITERS**

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